

**Lent Extra** - copies of Lent Extra are on sale at the back of church at £2.50 each.

**Bible Alive** - February's issue is available now.

**The Faith Museum visit** - we have arranged a visit for Thursday 7th March. The Curator will give us a talk at 11.30 in the library and we'll then have lunch there and head into the museum after that. Cost of the talk and lunch will be £15 - entry to the museum is £9.50, but free if you have an Auckland Project Annual Pass (worth getting!). There's a list at the back of each church - please sign up if you are interested as numbers are limited. Please note that today is the last day to add your name and details.

**Fashion Show** - St John's sixth form students are holding a charity fashion show raising money for Cancer research. They would like as many people as possible from the St John's community to come and watch the show on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30 - 8:30**, the price is £5 a ticket including a meal. If you would like to attend, you can purchase a ticket at main reception with cash or email [stjohns.bhcet.org.uk](mailto:stjohns.bhcet.org.uk) and reserve your seat and pay on the night.

**The Northern Cross** for February is on sale today. £1.50. What a bargain!

**Pope Francis** recognises 2025 as a year of Jubilee and asks that 2024 be a Year of Prayer leading up to it.

**LOUDfence** - St. Mary's Cathedral and Newcastle Cathedral 3rd-6th March. Welcome to all. Together with the Diocese of Newcastle, our diocesan family is privileged to be hosting a LOUDfence at St. Mary's Cathedral and at Newcastle Cathedral. It will begin at the 11.30 Sunday Mass on the 3rd March at St. Mary's Cathedral and end with a Service of the Word at Newcastle Cathedral on the 6th March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to these liturgies and to visit both Cathedrals during the days to offer their prayers and support for all who have suffered abuse within church communities and all contexts. We are invited to leave prayers and messages together with provided items like the prayer ribbons presented to Bishop Stephen at his Installation Mass, which are still tied to his Bishop's Chair. People can leave their prayers and messages within or outside of the Cathedrals, recognising some people would rather not enter a place of worship. There will be people

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford  
Mrs Aitken  
Joan Lightfoot  
Michael Nicholson  
Adam Hudspeth  
Christopher Browne  
Tyler Quinn  
Robin Davis  
Angela Graham  
Frank Ridley  
Jacob Thomas  
Charlotte Thomas  
Teresa Brown  
Christina Marsh  
Kathy Lloyd  
Roman Banks  
Jane Hardy (Kirby)  
Margaret Pattenden  
Mary Curry  
Adam Quarmby  
Eileen Kelly  
Senara Wilton  
Joan Vasey  
Patrick Fogarty  
John Green*

**Please pray for  
LENA READER (78)  
who has died .**

**May she rest in  
peace**



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46	Ps 31	1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1	Mark 1:40-45
Mon	Leviticus 19: 1-2, 11-18	Ps 18	Matthew 25: 21-46	
Tues	Isaiah 55: 10-11	Ps 33	Matthew 6: 7-15	
Wed	Jonah 3: 1-10	Ps 50	Luke 11: 29-32	
Thurs	1 Peter 5: 1-4	Ps 22	Matthew 16: 13-19	
Fri	Ezekiel 18: 21-28	Ps 129	Matthew 5: 20-26	
Sat	Deuteronomy 26: 16-19	Ps 118	Matthew 5: 43-48	
Sun	Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18	Ps 115	Romans 8: 31-34	Mark 9: 2-10

available for pastoral accompaniment if that is requested. As a diocesan family we pray for all who have suffered abuse and recognise our shared duty to safeguard the vulnerable.

**The Foodbank** - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, pasta sauce, jam, small tins of meat and more bags for life. Help with funds for assisting with gas and electricity needs.** Anything you can do to help people with food, heating and lighting is a most practical way of showing love and humanity. Funds to help folks with fuel costs are already urgent. Your help is invaluable. No one should be living in a house with no heating or be unable to put a light on, boil a kettle or warm up food.

**The newly built store room** for the foodbank at Woodhouse Close Church Centre (our distribution point) was formally opened this week and has been rightly named the David Fleming room in memory of the sterling work at Dave did to get the project started.

**World Peace** - please have a space in your personal prayer for peace in the war zones of the world and for the plight of innocent children and civilians. Thank you.

**Pope Francis'** brilliant document on caring for creation (Laudato Si) is now 8 years old! Not enough has happened over this time so he has written a further document called Laudate Deum (meaning 'Praise God') about the climate crisis. We have some copies at £4.95 at the back of church.

**Saving food from Landfill - The Bread and Butter thing (charity).** Go on their website and it will explain about being a member. It's free to join. It isn't about benefits, it's about saving food wastage. Anyone can join. 3 bags of food for £8.50.

**Big Chef Little Chef** - run by volunteers, again it's about saving food from landfill. The Community Hub, LCBC, 11 Selby Close, Bishop Auckland DL14 9ED opens Monday to Thursday. Telephone 07507 666805 for more information.

**St Mary's church cleaning** - Tuesday February 27 after morning Mass (Group 3). If you would like to join our church cleaning group - please have a word - we always need more people.

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 17 February</b>	No morning Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Sunday 18 February</b> <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Arthur Oldfield and Wilfred Teesdale</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Private Intention</i>
<b>Monday 19 February</b>	No Mass 10.00 am <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 1.00 pm: <i>Craft Group at St Mary's</i>
<b>Tuesday 20 February</b>	No Mass
<b>Wednesday 21 February</b>	No Mass 6.30 pm <i>Laudato Si Meeting at St Mary's</i>
<b>Thursday 22 February</b> <i>CHAIR OF ST PETER</i>	No Mass
<b>Friday 23 February</b>	No Mass 6.30 pm <i>Stations of the Cross at St Helen's Church</i>
<b>Saturday 24 February</b>	No morning Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Sunday 25 February</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Mark Docherty</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Private Intention</i>

**Quote:**

*"The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing"*  
- **Albert Einstein**

## The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle  
Fr Dennis Tindall, St Mary's, Vart Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6PQ Tel: (01388) 603431  
website: Parish of St Mary and St Wilfrid : Bulletin e-mail: office@stmaryandstwilfrid.org.uk  
To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube **18 February, 2024**

# 1st SUNDAY OF LENT

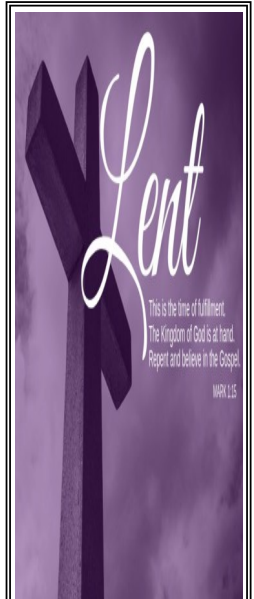
## LENT

In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptised by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves. If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?

When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore? If you had only one message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less? Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?

Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for? If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it? To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sack-cloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.

- **Frederick Buechner**



**Confession Times**  
St Mary's

**Saturdays at  
10.45-11.30  
and by request.**