

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 17 April	10.30 am First Communion (Group 1) Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 18 April 3rd Sunday of Easter	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Margaret Jane McIntyre</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Special Birthday</i>
Monday 19 April	No Mass: 11.00 - 1.00 - <i>St Mary's open for private prayer</i>
Tuesday 20 April	10.00 am Mass: <i>A sick person</i>
Wednesday 21 April	10.00 am Mass: <i>Fr Wilf Elkin</i> 11.00 - 1.00 - <i>St Mary's open for private prayer</i>
Thursday 22 April	10.00am Mass: <i>For David Relton in thanksgiving</i>
Friday 23 April	10.00 am Mass: <i>Thanksgiving</i> 11.00 - 1.00 - <i>St Mary's open for private prayer</i>
Saturday 24 April	10.30 am First Communion (Group II) Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Denis Jackson</i>
Sunday 25 April 4th Sunday of Easter	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>For Exam Success</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i>

Quote:

"Forgiveness is unlocking the door to set someone free and realising you were the prisoner"
- *Max Lucado*

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle

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To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube [18 April 2021](#)

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

A LOT TO THINK ABOUT

Pervading materialism imposes its dominion on man today in many different forms and with an aggressiveness that spares no one. The most sacred principles, which were the sure guides for the behaviour of individuals, and society, are being hollowed out by false pretences concerning freedom, the sacredness of life, the indissolubility of marriage, the true sense of human sexuality, the right attitude towards the material goods that progress has to offer.

Many people now are tempted to self-indulgence and consumerism, and human identity is often defined by what one owns. Prosperity and affluence, even when they are only beginning to be available to larger strata of society, tend to make people assume that they have a right to all that prosperity can bring, and thus they can become more selfish in their demands.

Everybody wants a full freedom in all the areas of human behaviour and new models of morality are being proposed in the name of would-be freedom. When the moral fibre of a nation is weakened, when the sense of personal responsibility is diminished, then the door is open for the justification of injustice, for violence in all its forms, and for the manipulation of the many by the few. The challenge that is already with us is the temptation to accept as true freedom what in reality is only a new form of slavery.

Pope John Paul II

Following government advice, and that from our Bishops, church will be open for private prayer and for Mass. See this bulletin for details. We continue to take the safest measures we can. Please do your best to stay safe.

Confession Times

St Mary

By request and by simple arrangement.

Copies of the weekly bulletin, the Partnership Note and any other handouts are available in a plastic storage box at the door of St Mary's and St Wilfrid's presbyteries. Please take what you need.

Eastertide - just like Lent prepared us for celebrating the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, Eastertide is like a twinned time for focussing on what it has brought us. We can choose to make it a time to think.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes the apostles - to their faces - as witnesses. What are they witnessing - and, by implication, what are we, as their followers, witnessing to also? We're all asked to understand better the link between repentance and the forgiveness of sin.

We rejoice in having our sins forgiven, quite rightly. Connected with that is the requirement to change the aspects of our lives that have been forgiven. Having the weight of our sins and faults forgiven is like a load of baggage being taken off us. Repentance means we make every effort not to pick the baggage up again. It's a lifetime's task.

This is not new to us. But if we don't stop and think about it all, we become somewhat casual about the forgiveness for which Jesus gave his life. That's not our intention, I'm sure, but this time after Easter, we have to work out like the apostles, how to witness to all this.

Take five minutes a day to mull over the gift of forgiveness given to us. We cannot earn it or make any repayment except to amend our lives, bit by bit, attempt by attempt, failing, succeeding and failing again - but making the effort. Spending a few minutes a day during Eastertide to think about all this, making Jesus' death and resurrection personal to you and each of us, would be a worthy way of celebrating Easter. Thanks.

Next Sunday - is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Parish Weekly Envelopes are available at the back of each church. Please collect yours or perhaps arrange for us to deliver. Could all who helpfully donate by standing order please collect your box of envelopes so that you have the white envelopes for the monthly second collections? Enormous thanks.

CAFOD Gift Aid forms are available in church for all who can gift aid their CAFOD donations. Sponsor money can be gift aided too.

The CAFOD Walk for Water has so far raised more than £4000 through the generosity of our walkers and the kindness of the sponsors who have supported the walks. Enormous thanks for the sensitivity we all feel towards families who have to search every day for water - and water that is not always healthy. We take so much for granted that millions in our world are unable to rely on.

The Foodbank - is a direct answer to the Lord's command to feed the hungry and care for those in any kind of need. The difference it makes helps people get through the week. **Opening hours are 9.00 am to 3 pm Monday to Thursday.** The Centre will not be operating on Fridays or across weekends. I keep emergency supplies at St. Mary's. **Could we request the following for the foodbank please: toothpaste, shower gel,**

Please pray for the health of:

*Betty Shoulder
Irene Welford
Michael Dowson
Mrs Aitken
Val Mundell
Joan Lightfoot
Monica Fuller
Michael Nicholson
Adam Hudspeth
Christopher Browne
Tyler Quinn
Maureen Nicholson
Norah Hutchinson
Robin Davis
Angela Graham
Stephen Gregory
Frank Ridley
Jack Tobin
Jacob Thomas
Charlotte Thomas
Sheila Campbell
John Boyle
Teresa Brown
Joan Hannon
Christina Marsh (3)
Kathy Lloyd
Roman Banks
Jane Hardy (Kirby)
Margaret Pattenden*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19	Ps 4	1 John 2: 1-5	Luke 24: 35-48
Mon	Acts 6: 8-15	Ps 118	John 6: 22-29	
Tues	Acts 7: 51-8:1	Ps 30	John 6: 30-35	
Wed	Acts 8: 1-8	Ps 65	John 6: 35-40	
Thurs	Acts 8: 26-40	Ps 65	John 6: 44-51	
Fri	Apocalypse 12: 10-12	Ps 125	John 15: 18-21	
Sat	Acts 9: 31-42	Ps 115	John 6: 60-69	
Sun	Acts 4: 8-12	Ps 117	1 John 3: 1-2	John 10: 11-18

tooth brushes, shampoo, tinned meat pies, rice pudding and packet soup. We have sufficient beans and soup at the moment. In the meantime, any money to help with gas and electric needs continues to be invaluable. You can put anything in an envelope marked Foodbank or Crisis and post it through the letterbox at St Mary's and we'll pass it on.

Jeannie and Mike Hardy have been participating in the Global Catholic Movement addressing the environmental crisis affecting the whole world. Have a word with them about it. Lets see if we can start a parish group. More information later.

Parish finances - Please remember to use your yellow envelopes, not forgetting the white second collection envelope also. The envelopes are important as it enables us to identify offerings that are Gift Aided. The tax recovered from HMRC is an important amount which requires us to use the envelopes as part of our recording systems. No envelope, no gift aid reclaimed.

Payment of Offerings by Bank Transfer - Any parishioner who wishes to stop paying their offerings in cash, can arrange to pay direct from their bank account into the church account. See copies in the plastic box on the presbytery doorstep. Thank you.

Used stamps - can be brought to church for helping the work of the Little Sisters of the poor. Thanks.

Northern Cross - Pick up your copy of the April issue of the paper, available now.

Woman's Refuge - are only accepting woman's, children's and baby clothes. Unfortunately no toys or games can be accepted at present.

Father Barry Matthews - Some of us will remember from his earlier visits Fr Barry Matthews, who is retiring from his work in South Africa and returning to England. He has a house to go to but it has nothing in it at the moment. If anyone has any spare household items (small enough to go in a car), they would be very welcome - please bring them to church, or phone Michael Broadbent (01388 488569) and he will be happy to collect them.'

Please continue to send us your email addresses and telephone numbers. Thank you.

PLEASE KEEP SAFE AND SAVE LIVES.