

This week

Day/Date	Services & meetings
Saturday 17 December	10.00 am Mass: Holy Souls 10.30 am - 5 pm Advent Reflection Day at St Mary's
Sunday 18 December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: Arnold Smith 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: Vasey, Hogg and Cruddace Families
Monday 19 December	No Mass 10.00 am - Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 1.00 pm - Craft Group in St Mary's meeting room 2.00 pm - Holy Hour at St Wilfrid's
Tuesday 20 December	10.00 am Mass: Margery Harrop
Wednesday 21 December	9.30 am Funeral Service at St Mary's for MICHAEL DOWSON
Thursday 22 December	10.00 am Mass: Elaine Miller
Friday 23 December	10.00 am Mass: Derek Taylor
Saturday 24 December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	No Morning Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's: People of the parish/World Peace 7.30 pm Vigil Mass at St Wilfrid's: People of the parish/World Peace
Sunday 25 December <i>Christmas Day</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: People of the parish/World Peace 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: People of the parish/World Peace

Quote

"The food you eat can be the safest form of medicine or the slowest form of poison"
- Dr Ann Wigmore

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 December, 2022](#)

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

CHRISTMAS

The feast day of your birth resembles you, Lord,
Because it brings joy to all humanity.
Old people and infants alike enjoy your day.
Your day is celebrated from generation to generation.

Kings and emperors may pass away, and the festivals to
commemorate them soon lapse. But your festival will be
remembered till the end of time.

Your day is a means and a pledge of peace.
At your birth heaven and earth were reconciled,
since you came from heaven to earth on that day, you
forgave our sins and wiped away our guilt.

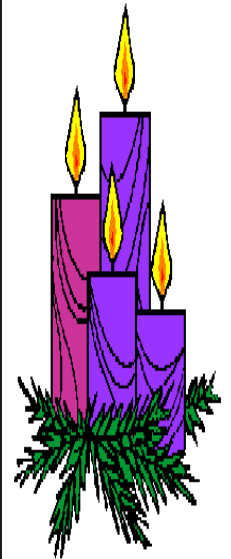
You gave us so many gifts on your birthday:
A treasure chest of spiritual medicines for the sick;
Spiritual light for those that are blind;
The cup of salvation for the thirsty;
The bread of life for the hungry.

In the winter when trees are bare, you give us the most
succulent spiritual fruit.

In the frost when the earth is barren, you bring new
hope to our souls.

In December when seeds are hidden in the soil, the
staff of life springs forth from the virgin womb.

- Ephraim the Syrian, c. 306-373



Confession Times

St Mary's

By request and by
simple arrangement.

Advent Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation - our usual service this year is slightly later - primarily to avoid World Cup football fixtures! If you're able to join us we'll meet at 7pm on **Tuesday 20 December** at St Mary's. Bring someone else with you - as many as you wish. Thank you.

Christmas Masses - will be as last year:

Christmas Eve: No morning Mass, 5.30 pm St Mary's and 7.30 pm St Wilfrid's.

Christmas Day: 9.30 am St Wilfrid's, and 11.00 am St Mary's.

All Christmas Masses will be offered for the People of the parish and world peace.

St Mary's Piety Shop - We have a few cards and inexpensive "Wee Gifts" left for sale - why not pop in and have a look. We are also looking for a new home for a much loved set of Nativity Figures - could you house these figures this Christmas and give them another loving home for many years?

Churches with warm spaces during winter - The Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches have made arrangements to have safe and warm places where individuals can come to socialize over a cuppa and biscuits.

Woodhouse Close Church, Proudfoot Drive, DL14 6PD - open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.30 am to 2.30pm.

The Parish Centre, Middlewood Avenue, St Helen's, DL14 9DJ - the lounge is open on Tuesdays from 10am - 3pm and Thursdays from 11am - 2pm.

The Ark - at the back of St Helen's Church DL14 9DN—open on a Wednesday from 10.30am to 4pm.

Bishop Auckland Baptist Church, Cockton Hill Road, DL14 6AH, from week beginning 31st October their Church will be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am - 3pm, Thursdays—Wellbeing Café, from 9.30am including a light lunch from 12.30pm.

St Mary's Catholic Church, Vart Road, DL14 6PQ—Thursdays and Fridays 11am to 2 pm.

Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, Cockton Hill Road, DL14 6DN, Monday and Fridays 10—3 pm.

Coffee morning/Warm Space - Thursdays and Fridays in St Mary's Meeting Room 11am—2pm. Please see the helpers rota at the back of church. Any problems ring Zita on 01388 604926 or 07722219173.

SVP - St Wilfrid's SVP intend, as in previous years, to provide a small gift to those in Care Homes and Housebound. We are finding it difficult to get names from the Care Homes and feel that we may have lost touch with some who are housebound or elderly.

There is a list at the back of St Wilfrid's and we would ask if parishioners would put down names/contacts of anyone from the parish who may be in a care home or in poor health/housebound.

SVP 200 CLUB - we are advised by SVP that the 200 club will restart in 2023 after a 3 year break due to Covid. Is anyone interested in dealing with this for the Parish. The club arrangements are simple. Each member pays £12 in advance for a years membership. The club organiser collects the money and passes this on to a contact in Durham. There is a monthly draw and the contact will ensure that the prize winners list is circulated to all parishes. The proceeds of this venture go to help feed the homeless at Vinnies Cafe in Newcastle. The 200 club coordinator is at the end of a telephone and will help and advise as necessary. Anyone interested please contact Fr Dennis or John Stockton.

Christmas Quiz - a total of £333 was raised. This was a very successful evening with a great number of people attending. £25 was also collected from both parishes towards transport costs for the Shoe Box Appeal. This has been forwarded to local organiser in Co Durham.

St. Mary's Christmas Church Clean and Decoration - We will be doing our church clean on Wednesday 21st December after the 10am morning Mass. If you have a

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford
Mrs Aitken
Val Mundell
Joan Lightfoot
Michael Nicholson
Adam Hudspeth
Christopher Browne
Tyler Quinn
Norah Hutchinson
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*

Please pray for

MICHAEL DOWSON (70)

and

JASON KING (51)

who have died.

May they rest in

peace.



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Isaiah 7: 10-14	Ps 23	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1: 18-24
Mon	Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25	Ps 70	Luke 1: 5-25	
Tues	Isaiah 7: 10-14	Ps 23	Luke 1: 26-38	
Wed	Song of Songs 2: 8-14	Ps 32	Luke 1: 39-45	
Thurs	1 Samuel 1: 24-28	1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-8	Luke 1: 46-56	
Fri	Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24	Ps 24	Luke 1: 57-66	
Sat	Isaiah 9: 1-7	Ps 95	Titus 2: 11-14	Luke 2: 1-14
Sun	Isaiah 52: 7-10	Ps 97	Hebrews 1: 1-6	John 1: 1-18

spare hour or two please come along and help clean and decorate our beautiful church for the celebration of Christmas. If the children are off school they can dust and polish with the reward of something sweet at the end. Hope to see some of you there - many hands make like work. Thank you.

Care for Creation - the wonder and drama of space, galaxies, planets and stars is mind-bending. We may be fascinated by the sheer numbers and dimensions of what's going on in our own galaxy and beyond in the whole cosmos - it's all God's creation. Our part is to look after and responsibly protect our Earth. We've damaged it severely and it needs our deliberate intervention.

The Laudato Si group are planning to hold a food/cookery event as part of this year's Season of creation. If anyone has any expertise in cookery or recipe ideas and would like to be involved in a small group of us, please get in touch via email - jeanniemariehardy@gmail.com/mobile Tel: 07708108119, or with Eileen Thornton at St Mary's.

From the Parish Laudato Si Group (Care of Our Common Home)

As we are now moving into the season of Advent and preparation for Christmas, we would like to ask parishioners to consider your purchases and if possible reduce buying plastic packaging.

The Facts about plastic:

- 1 Plastic pollution is a huge problem and made worse by excess consumption
- 2 Microplastics are being found in food and have been detected in human blood.
- 3 A truck load of plastic enters the ocean every single minute and the UK produces more waste per person than almost any other country. Also, Christian Aid is campaigning to support the funding for countries devastated by the climate changes. We will be placing a small Christmas tree (and poster) at the back of each church and a prayer person template to write on. We would like to ask people to write a prayer supporting this work and place it on the tree during the season of Advent.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, UHT milk, rice and packet custard. 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 heating 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. Thank you.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023 Can you help the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes next year? We need nurses, healthcare assistants, doctors and volunteers to provide care to the assisted pilgrims who travel with us. Previous helpers have found it is a rewarding and spiritually uplifting week. We plan to travel on Friday 28th July. If you would like to find out more information please email or look at our website <https://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk/> or email lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk