

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025: This Sunday, 19 January, there is to be a service for all Christians at St Anne's Church, Market Place, DL14 7NJ. The service will be at 3.00pm. We are all invited to this. Do come along.

White Flower appeal : We had this collection last weekend. Total £143.70 (£83 St Mary's and £60.70 St Wilfrid's). Thank you for this.

Jubilee 2025: In 2025 we are celebrating the 'Jubilee Year' or 'Holy Year'. With its Old Testament roots it is a special time of debt cancellation, forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The theme of our Jubilee Year is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Documents from Rome are usually for world-wide encouragement and so the original texts are issued in Latin. The Papal document announcing the Jubilee is entitled 'Spes non confundit' ('*Hope does not disappoint*'). This encouraging document urges us to look for, and be, signs of hope in the world around us and to work for peace and justice at home and across our world. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

'Northern Catholic Calendar' 2025 : This book offers (**almost**) up-to-date information about parishes, schools, convents and clergy across our diocese. There are still a few copies available at £3.50

Finding out more: One or two people who are not Catholic have recently asked the possibility of finding out a bit more about what Catholics believe. I'm just wondering if anyone else might be interested. – DC

Bible Alive: January copies of Bible Alive are available at the back of church for those on the list. Price £1.50.

Foodbank: Thank you for what you feel able to bring in for our food bank, week after week. If you are able to bring anything at all, it is always much appreciated. As the weather gets cooler it really can be a choice between food or heating. **This week we are again hoping for small tins of meat, tinned tomatoes and bags for life.**

Parish Pastoral Council : Next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be at 5.30pm on Tuesday 21 January at St Mary's.

St Mary's Piety Shop: 'Not an onerous task' and 'no experience is necessary' always sounds encouraging for a little job! Might you be willing to look after the piety shop at St Mary's? If you have any questions at all, please speak to Zita White after 11am Mass.

Please pray for the health of:

*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
Mary Curry
Adam Quarmby
Eileen Kelly
John Green
Lynette Stott
Brenda Dawes
Jayne Littlefair*



Schools: We are truly blessed with our schools: St Chad's, St Wilfrid's and St John's. There is a tremendous atmosphere in each of them. St Wilfrid's had an OFSTED inspection this past week, though the result won't be available for a while. We have some information leaflets about St Chad's school at the back of church. Do take one for prospective parents.

Northern Cross: The January edition of the 'Northern Cross' is available at the back of church this weekend at £1.50 with news from around the diocese.

Thoughts from a newcomer: Whenever I arrive new to a parish I think it is courtesy to observe and to learn. However, after four months with you, might I suggest a few things for our masses? First, I never think it to be a good idea for people to be 'moving' during prayers so perhaps those who are readers could wait till the opening prayer is finished before leaving their seats to go up to the lectern. Similarly, maybe those people leading the intercessions could wait until we have finished the creed before going to the lectern - and then wait until after the priest's conclusion before returning to their seat. It is also good during the intercessions to give us the 10 seconds of silence since it is actually during the silence that we do our praying. The reader's part in the intercessions is simply to offer us the theme for which we are to pray! Then, our Holy Communion ministers: rather than approach the altar while a prayer is being said, perhaps come forward during the sign of peace when there is already movement in the body of the church. Then, a hygiene point: while ministers do already sanitise their hands when they arrive on the sanctuary, it can be good practice to sanitise hands again before distributing the hosts to others. Finally, other priests may not do this but I always tend to hold up the Book of Gospels to say 'The Gospel of the Lord'. Perhaps remain standing until I lower the book? Thank you very much. - David Coxon

Spirituality Group : Next meeting on Wednesday, 29 January 5.00pm at St Mary's.

Baby pram/pushchair: we recently had an 'InfaBaby 3 in 1' travel system (child's buggy) left in the meeting room at St Mary's. If this is yours could you please come and collect it or let us know if we can give it to a good home. It comes as a car seat and cosy toes, pram, pushchair. Please see Fr Coxon for details.

Holy Communion to the sick : SVP members have kindly let me know the housebound parishioners that they visit. I wonder if Holy Communion ministers might let me know details of those to whom they take the sacrament? Names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and how frequently they visit with Holy Communion. Thank you. - DC

Thank you to all who set up the cribs and decorated our two churches for Christmas, and to those who took down all the decorations this past week.

Next Sunday : Next Sunday has been designated the 'Sunday of the Word of God'. It invites us to reflect on the importance of the bible, and our interpreting of its message for our daily lives. It's worth reading next week's passages in advance if you can: Nehemiah 8: 2-4, 5- 10; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30; Luke 1: 1-4, + 4: 14-21.

This week

Services & meetings

Saturday 18 January	<p>10.00am mass : <i>Holy Souls</i></p> <p>5.30pm mass : <i>For everyone in our parish.</i></p>
Sunday, 19 January 2nd Sunday of the Year	<p>9.30am mass at St Wilfrid's : <i>Holy Souls</i></p> <p>11.00am mass at St Mary's : <i>Jonathan Beddard</i></p>
Monday 20 January	<p>No Mass today</p> <p>10.00 am: <i>Holy Communion Service at St Wilfrid's</i></p> <p>1.00pm: <i>Craft Club in St Mary's meeting room</i></p>
Tuesday 21 January	<p>10.00am Mass : <i>For the people of Los Angeles</i></p>
Wednesday 22 January	<p>10.00am Mass (at St Wilfrid's) : <i>Holy Souls</i></p>
Thursday 23 January	<p>10.00am mass : <i>For healing</i></p>
Friday 24 January	<p>- No mass today at St John's school -</p>
Saturday 25 January	<p>10.00am mass : <i>Agnes & Michael Coleman</i></p> <p>5.30pm mass : <i>Theresa Watson</i></p>
Sunday, 26 January 3rd Sunday of the Year 'Sunday of the Word of God'	<p>9.30am mass at St Wilfrid's : <i>Matthew Hampton</i></p> <p>11.00am mass at St Mary's : <i>For everyone in our parish.</i></p>

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 [19 January 2025](#)

2ND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Weddings

The theme of today's bible readings at mass is 'weddings'. As ever, there is a common thread running through the first reading and also the gospel. So, at the end of today's first reading: we read "... as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you". The gospel reading tells the story of a wedding reception in the village of Cana to which Jesus, his mother and his friends had all been invited.

And today? Where either the bride or the bridegroom is Catholic then we rather hope that they will choose to get married in church. By this we mean primarily 'within the life and community of the Church' rather than just in a church building as a venue.

Couples thinking about a wedding are invited to speak to their priest who can offer information about what is needed from the registrar. From the Church's point of view both parties need to be 'free to marry'. There is a certain amount of paperwork to be completed and couples are required to attend a day for engaged couples. These are offered to couples from all over the north but, as it happens, these are often here at St Mary's in Bishop Auckland. The next is to be in March.

One of the main reasons for the couple meeting with the priest on several occasions is simply to get to know one another. That's really important! Any couples considering marriage are very welcome to come long for an informal chat over a cuppa.

David Coxon

Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and the Diocese's policies and procedures at all times.

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Jeannie Hardy for St Mary's and Fiona Ottewell for St Wilfrid's or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

Confession Times

St Mary's

**Saturdays at
10.30-11.00
and by request.**

**St Wilfrid's
before
Sunday
Mass**