

This week

Day/Date	Services & meetings
Saturday 18 March <i>ST JOSEPH</i>	Morning Mass at 8.30 am: <i>Holy Souls</i> 9.30 and 10.30 am: First Confessions 5.30 pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's: <i>Fr Paddy McMahon</i>
Sunday 19 March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: <i>Margery Harrop</i>
Monday 20 March <i>ST CUTHBERT</i>	No Mass 10.00 am <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 1.00 pm <i>Craft Group at St Mary's</i>
Tuesday 21 March	No Mass 2.00 pm <i>Holy Hour at St Wilfrid's</i>
Wednesday 22 March	10.00 am Mass: <i>Deceased parishioners</i> 12.30 pm Funeral Service at St Mary's for JOHN DUNN 6.00 pm <i>St John's School: Performing Arts Prize</i>
Thursday 23 March	No Mass
Friday 24 March	8.15 Mass in St John's School Chapel 10.00 am Mass: <i>Sick parishioners</i> 6.30 pm <i>Stations of the Cross at St Helen's church</i>
Saturday 25 March <i>ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>	Morning Mass at 8.30 am: <i>Maureen Nicholson</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 26 March <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Margaret Jane McIntyre</i> 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: <i>Dave Fleming</i>

Quote

"Humour is a great thing, the saving thing. The minute it crops up, all our irritations and resentments slip away and a sunny spirit takes their place."

- Mark Twain (1835-1910)

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 [19March, 2023](#)

4th SUNDAY OF LENT

This work continues

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.'

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of the former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, knowing that we will be free one day.

- Martin Luther King



LENT

Confession Times

St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.

Survey - The investigation continuing into various matters in the Diocese has been commissioned by the Vatican Office (known as Dicastery) for Bishops. A survey has been issued for parishioners to complete. You may wish to access this and choose to respond. This is an anonymous survey, all answers are provided in complete confidence, and you are asked to give your own individual views. The survey will run until Monday 27 March 2023 and can be accessed at <https://forms.gle/wevQ6zrj1t85CxNg5> or through the Diocesan website. Please complete the survey only once, even if you hold more than one role in the Diocese.

Cost of living - There's shocking new research about Bishop Auckland. Funded by the 38 Degrees community, it reveals how the cost of living crisis is affecting every single constituency in Britain - including ours. From missing rent payments to being unable to afford heating, it tells a bleak story. **Here's how people are struggling in Bishop Auckland: 36% couldn't afford to turn the heating on when cold in the past month, 17% missed a rent payment in the last six months, 31% are worried about having to use a food bank in the next year and 44% of people's mental health has worsened due to the cost of living crisis. This is us. We must continue to help.**

Passover Meal - We plan to celebrate the Passover Meal again this year at St Wilfrid's on Thursday 30th March, 7.00pm. It's a great way of reminding ourselves of the way In which God has saved us and set us free - a unique mixture of the spiritual and the social. Space is limited, so we need to operate a ticket system - a donation of £6 is asked to cover costs. Tickets are at St Wilfrid's, or phone Michael Broadbent (01388 488569).

St Mary's Church Cleaning - As Easter is quite early this year we have decided to combine the March clean (Group 1 due to clean on 20th) to a joint clean on Monday April 3rd. If anyone not on our regular rota would like to come along and help it would make for much lighter work. We will then have a lovely clean church for the Holy Week ahead of us. All welcome - if your children are off school we have plenty of dusters and benches to polish. Many thanks.

Turkey-Syria Earthquake - We're all shocked by the devastation and loss of life, homes and livelihoods in Turkey and Syria through the earthquakes. The issues and needs are enormous and CAFOD's Emergency Response Teams are there assessing needs on the ground. CAFOD has already been working in Syria for years providing humanitarian support to the millions of needy people caught up in the conflict there for the last 12 years. This tragedy adds to an already desperate crisis. If you would like to donate, we'll send on any funds in your name to help with emergency food, water, shelter and winter kits such as blankets and heating materials. Thank you.

Let's get together for lunch - come and enjoy a simple meal, in the company of friends, every Wednesday 12 - 1.30 on:

Wednesday 22 March at Dene Valley Methodist Church DL14 8UB

Wednesday 29 March at St Anne's Anglican Church DL14 7NJ

The Journey of Faith - many people do not join the Church because no one ever asks them. Is there anyone in your family or acquaintances to whom

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
Alan Harrison
Eileen Kelly*

Please pray for

JOHN DUNN (85)
JOSEPH McENTAGGART (81)
MAUREEN COGLAN (85)

who have died.

May they rest in peace.



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	1 Samuel 16: 6-7, 10-13	Ps 22	Ephesians 5: 8-14	John 9: 1-41
Mon	Ezekiel 34: 11-16	Ps 96	John 10: 11-16	
Tues	Ezekiel 47: 1-9,12	Ps 45	John 5: 1-3, 5-16	
Wed	Isaiah 49: 8-15	Ps 144	John 5: 17-30	
Thurs	Exodus 32: 7-14	Ps 105	John 5: 31-47	
Fri	Wisdom 2: 1, 12-22	Ps 33	John 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30	
Sat	Isaiah 7: 10-14, 8:10	Ps 39	Hebrews 10: 4-10	Luke 1: 26-38
Sun	Ezekiel 37: 12-14	Ps 129	Romans 8: 8-11	John 11: 1-45

you might raise a question about whether they may be interested in learning more about faith, about God, about the Church? You could be a great help in making an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to enter and initiate a journey of faith in an individual's life. I'm always happy to help and to answer any questions.

The Big Cafod Walk - This year Cafod has set the Lent challenge of a walk, 200km over 40 days, to raise money to fight global poverty. As a parish we are frequently asking for support for local causes and other urgent needs of people. We appreciate the generosity of everyone, but if you feel you could support this appeal with whatever you could manage that would be great.

Easter Eggs - Along with St Wilfrid's we will be selling "The Real Easter Egg" made by The Meaningful Chocolate Company. Supermarkets are not allowing this egg to be sold in any stores this year, so as not to offer other competition to their main suppliers. Around 80 million eggs will be sold in this part of the world - yet this is the only egg that tells the Easter Story. By using Fairtrade chocolate they ensure producers get a fair price allowing them to improve their communities. The chocolate is palm oil free and no plastic used in the packaging. They are more expensive than many you can buy in a supermarket at £3.99 each - but in buying them we help others. Stock is limited so if you would like one please ask. Many thanks.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, UHT milk, pasta sauce and tinned tomatoes. Help with funds for as 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.

St. Mary's Easter Windowsills - Would you like to take a windowsill and decorate it using the Easter theme? You could do this on your own or with the family, a friend or a group. You could think of something along the many readings of Lent or theme it over the major Easter celebrations. You can produce your arrangement using recycled goods, hand made items or flowers. There are lots of ideas to be found online. We have sixteen spaces to fill, so put your name down on the list at the back of church. We will open the church 11am - 1pm on Easter Saturday for you to bring your contributions. Give it a try it's fun and makes our church look even more beautiful. Many thanks.