

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 18 September</b>	<b>10 am Mass:</b> <i>Private Intention</i> <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>Tony Dolan</i>
<b>Sunday 19 September</b> <i>25th Sunday of the Year</i>	<b>9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>Eileen Stockton</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>People of the parish</i>
<b>Monday 20 September</b> <i>The Korean Martyrs</i>	<b>No Mass</b> <b>10.00 am</b> Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's <b>11.00 - 1.00 -</b> <i>St Mary's open for private prayer</i>
<b>Tuesday 21 September</b> <i>ST MATTHEW</i>	<b>7 pm Mass:</b> <i>Thanksgiving</i>
<b>Wednesday 22 September</b>	<b>10 am Mass:</b> <i>The Ottewell Family</i> <b>12.30 pm Funeral Service at St Wilfrid's for ANNE MORRIS</b>
<b>Thursday 23 September</b> <i>St Pius (Padre Pio)</i>	<b>9.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Friday 24 September</b> <i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Fr Bill O'Gorman</i>
<b>Saturday 25 September</b>	<b>No morning Mass</b> <b>10am - 2 pm -</b> Creation Prayer and Reflection at St Mary's <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>People of the parish</i>
<b>Sunday 26 September</b> <i>26th Sunday of the Year</i>	<b>9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>Special Intention (B)</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>Private Intention</i>

Quote:

“Only in the darkness can you see the stars”  
- *Martin Luther King*

## 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 September 2021](#)

# TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY of the YEAR

### WHAT GOD IS UP TO

What God is up to in the world and what goes on in the world because of it has now been revealed to us in a succession of stunning images. God creates in ways past finding out, with energy and in beauty exceeding anything that we have eyes and ears for. Nothing that we encounter from birth to burial merely *is*. It is the marvellous result of God's making. There is a verb behind every noun, the first verb in cosmos and scripture: create. God saves in ways past finding out, with a persistence and wisdom exceeding anything we can will or understand. No person we meet from the moment we open our eyes in the morning till we shut them in sleep at night is *finished*.

- *Eugene H. Peterson*

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.

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's

By request and by simple arrangement.

**Latest news on COVID arrangements** - We've received news from the Bishop that we maintain the practice of sanitising on entering and leaving church and cleaning the church after use. Masks should continue to be worn.

We can now operate at one metre distance rather than two, which gives us more space to accommodate some extra people in our church buildings. We can also now use books and will make Parish Mass Books available at St Wilfrid's and at St Mary's we'll continue to use the overhead screen for the Mass texts. If attending at St Mary's you need a book, please ask.

The overall message continues to be about safety of course. The daily numbers of infections, hospitalisations and deaths are still serious and the virus is very active in the north east.

Thank you for all your help and cooperation in these arrangements so far. Please continue to book in for Mass. It's a great help. Thanks.

**Caring for our Common Home** - on Saturday 25th September, St Mary's will be open from 10 am to 2 pm for a day of reflection about Caring for the Earth. There will be displays of the 4 seasons of the year, prayers and reflections. Come for a while and enter a prayerful space to give thanks for creation and our responsibility to care for our corner of it. Thank you. Refreshments will be available throughout.

**Also** on Sunday 10th October, starting from St Wilfrid's at 2 pm, Melvyn will lead a Creation Walk to help us connect with nature and appreciate what we have all over again. Refreshments at St Wilfrid's afterwards. Make a note of the dates please folks. Thanks.

**Sunday Mass obligation** - when Covid and lockdowns came, churches were closed, individuals vulnerable by health or age were cautioned to stay indoors, remain safe and protect themselves from possible exposure to the virus which was spreading dangerously. Sunday Mass obligation, our expression of the 3rd Commandment about keeping the Sabbath day holy, the backbone of Catholic worship, was suspended. Sundays have been radically changed by commercialism and other factors but the obligation remained. In fact, in an increasingly secular world it's more relevant and important than ever.

Our Bishops intend to restore the Sunday Mass obligation from this coming Advent - the end of November onwards. Many have got out of our Sunday (or Saturday vigil) Mass

Please pray for the health of:

*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  
Jacob Thomas  
Charlotte Thomas  
Teresa Brown  
Joan Hannon  
Christina Marsh  
Kathy Lloyd  
Roman Banks  
Jane Hardy (Kirby)  
Margaret Pattenden*

Please pray for

**ANNE MORRIS (75) and  
JOHN Wm DAVISON  
who have died.**

**May they rest in peace.**



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20	Ps 53	James 3: 16-4: 3	Mark 9: 30-37
Mon	Ezra 1: 1-6	Ps 125	Luke 8: 16-18	
Tues	Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-13	Ps 18	Matthew 9: 9-13	
Wed	Ezra 9: 5-9	Tobit 13: 2,4, 6-8	Luke 9: 1-6	
Thurs	Haggai 1: 1-8	Ps 149	Luke 9: 7-9	
Fri	Haggai 1: 15-2:9	Ps 42	Luke 9: 18-22	
Sat	Zechariah 2: 5-9, 14-15	Jeremiah 31: 10-13	Luke 9: 43-45	
Sun	Numbers 11: 25-29	Ps 18	James 5: 1-6	Mark 9: 38,43,45,47-48

habit, and, sadly many no longer give it the seriousness which it has never lost. To give God an hour or so of worship once a week is not asking much for most people and should be considered as a basic requirement.

Streaming of Masses has been a great help for many and will continue, but it's no substitute for expressing Communion with the Lord and communion with the living community of the Church and the parish.

I mention the restart of the obligation now so that we can begin to prepare for attending Mass again. Vaccinations have helped greatly but have not dismissed the possibility of infection. The layout of our churches may change again and we'll let you know. I'll give you more information when we have it. In the meantime, let's give thought to what Communion and community means as we prepare carefully to celebrate more together again - as safely as possible. Covid has affected us all and we'll have to live with it wisely and carefully from here onwards. I'll keep you posted.

**Foodbank** - Your help is urgently needed. We'd love you to help with: **tinned fruit, packet mash, pasta sauce and rice pudding**. Food can still be handed in at St Mary's and St Wilfrid's. As always, money to help with gas and electricity need is a godsend. The ending of furlough and the end of the £20 addition to Universal Credit will cause severe problems. Enormous thanks. Please help us.

**Parish finances** - Please remember to use your green 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.