

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 18 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>People of the parish</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Deceased of the Tucker and Kellett Family</i>
Sunday 19 December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Arnold Smith</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Mick and Shirley Degnan</i>
Monday 20 December	No Mass 9.30 am <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 11-1 pm <i>St Mary's open for private prayer</i>
Tuesday 21 December	10.00 at Mass: <i>Elaine Miller</i>
Wednesday 22 December	10.00 am Requiem Mass @ St Wilfrid's for KATHLEEN KELLETT
Thursday 23 December	No Mass
Friday 24 December CHRISTMAS EVE	<i>No Morning Mass</i> 5.30 pm St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i> 7.30 pm St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i>
Saturday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY	9.30 am Mass: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass: <i>People of the parish</i> <i>No evening Mass</i>
Sunday 26 December FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Margery Harrop</i>

Quote:

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving".

- Mother Teresa

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle

Fr Dennis Tindall, St Mary's, Vart Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6PQ: (01388) 603431

website: Parish of St Mary and St Wilfrid : Bulletin e-mail: office@stmaryandstwilfrid.org.uk

To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube [19 December 2021](#)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Let us pray

Lord help me to go deeper into what is really real until I am brought to the wonder of your birth amongst us and realise afresh your faithful, wonderful and deeply passionate love for me, for all whom I love and everyone I meet today.

Come today, Lord, to those whose lives are empty and who long to find meaning. Come, Lord Jesus, to those who are overlooked and long to know their worth.

Come, Lord Jesus, to those who are seeking and do not know what they search for. I pray for my home, make it a place of peace and light.

Come, Lord Jesus, with love and mercy. I pray for those I love who have died and share the company of the saints. May they enjoy the greatest happiness in the presence of the living God and may I one day be united with them.

Come, Lord Jesus and pray with me.

Amen

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.

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.

A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOURS. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU ARE AND DO

This is usually a time when we come together - family members and friends and we're naturally saddened by the measures we need to take to prevent further spread of the Omicron virus. We mustn't lose the truth of this feast. It's the time when our God came together with us. What we've learnt from his company we express in the ways we live and care for others - doing our best to love one another as the Lord has loved us. Welcome him wholeheartedly. May the restrictions we experience help us to appreciate people even more.

Christmas Masses will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 5.30pm at St Mary's and 7.30pm at St Wilfrid's. Christmas morning Masses will be at 9.30am at St Wilfrid's and 11am at St Mary's. You will understand I'm sure, that spaces are limited because of Covid safe distancing and booking in is essential. Bookings will commence from this Sunday. When we reach our safety limit we will be unable to accept more people. Turning up without a booking is not advisable and may cause disappointment if we have no safe space available. The Masses from St Mary's will be streamed on St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube as usual.

Our Christmas collections will be given to our usual charities - The Foodbank, the Woman's Refuge, Butterwick Hospice and The Diocesan Justice & Peace Refugee Project. Thank you always for your generosity to help the great work done in these groups.

Synod discussion will resume in January. In the meantime please keep reflecting on the purpose of the Church and how you express it in your faith. Seek the Holy Spirit's help. Thank you.

Thank You - to all who have sent in suggestions and ideas to help in our Care for our Common Home - the Earth. Please continue to send in any suggestions you may have for looking after our ecology and reducing our carbon footprint. Others may be helped by your suggestions. Many thanks.

The Foodbank now has an urgent need for food of all kinds mainly tinned vegetables, fruit, rice pudding, tomatoes, dried rice, carrier bags and for help with funds for assisting with gas and electricity needs. In this winter weather anything you can do to help people with food, heating and lighting is a most practical way of showing love and humanity.

If you have a mind to check the posters at the back of St Mary's church detailing the amount of food allotted to a family

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford
Michael Dowson
Mrs Aitken
Val Mundell
Joan Lightfoot
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
Brian Gilpatrick*

*Please pray for
KATHLEEN KELLETT (84)
who has died.*

May she rest in peace.



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Micah 5: 1-4	Ps 79	Hebrews 10: 5-10	Luke 1: 39-44
Mon	Isaiah 7: 10-14	Ps 23	Luke 1: 26-38	
Tues	Song of Songs 2: 8-14	Ps 32	Luke 1: 39-45	
Wed	1 Samuel 1: 24-28	1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-8	Luke 1: 46-56	
Thurs	Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24	Ps 24	Luke 1: 57-66	
Fri	Isaiah 9: 1-7	Ps 95	Titus 2: 11-14	Luke 2: 1-14
Sat	Isaiah 52: 7-10	Ps 97	Hebrews 1: 1-6	John 1: 1-18
Sun	Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14	Ps 127	Colossians 3: 12-21	Luke 2: 41-52

or an individual to get them through a few days, you'll appreciate how much food is needed for those seeking help. You may never have been in critical need, or you may have been helped by someone at a difficult time. As followers of our God who came to us at this time and didn't ask but commanded us to love one another, we can't just do nothing. I thank God for our generous people. Please help now to help some of our neighbours. We do have plenty of tinned beans, spaghetti, soup and dried pasta. Help us make a nutritious balance in the food we give. Thank you.

The Foodbank and crisis work done jointly by ourselves and Woodhouse Close Church Centre are saying a big thank you to all who have supported this work by giving in food and other necessities and money to help with gas and electricity emergencies. You have donated over £9000 this year so far. It's hugely appreciated.

The Northern Cross Calendar is the Directory and reference book for our Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Copies are available at the back of church, price £3. it's a great mine of valuable information.

Used postage stamps and foreign money can be brought in to church and we'll pass them onto provide funds for the work of the Little Sister of the Poor who care for elderly people.

Today is a day of special prayer for expectant mothers. Please give them your prayerful support then and at any time. Thank you.

Ushaw Illuminations - (events@ushaw.org) This weekend Ushaw will be lit up with many exciting features and trails. Booking is essential via the website above.

The Woman's Refuge Centre will not be taking any more items of clothing for the moment. Thanks to all who have helped. Your thoughtfulness is wonderful.

SVP Christmas Appeal the appeal for funds to help the SVP has very generously totalled £890 so far. This sum, and any others received, will be divided between the two SVP conferences and will be of great help in enabling us to help needy families and provide parcels for those that we visit in local Care Homes and other needs where we try and assist. Thanks to all who have helped us to help others in your name.

Samaritans Purse - Total collected for donations re transporting shoe boxes is £114. Many thanks