

This week

	Services & meetings	Location
Saturday 19 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Bob Ireland</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Elaine Miller</i>	
Sunday 20 December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's <i>Veronica Simpson</i> 11.00 am Mass: <i>People of the parish</i> 6 pm: <i>Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation</i>	
Monday 21 December	No Mass 11.00 - 1.00 - <i>St Mary's open for private prayer</i>	
Tuesday 22 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Margery Harrop</i>	
Wednesday 23 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Joan and Dennis Carr</i> 11.00 - 1.00 - <i>St Mary's open for private prayer</i>	
Thursday 24 December <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Special Intention (P)</i> 5.30 pm Mass: <i>St Mary's - People of the parish</i> 7.30 pm Mass: <i>St Wilfrid's - People of the parish</i>	
Friday 25 December <i>CHRISTMAS DAY</i>	9.30 am Mass: <i>St Wilfrid's - People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass: <i>St Mary's - People of the parish</i>	
Saturday 26 December <i>ST STEPHEN</i>	No Masses	
Sunday 27 December <i>THE HOLY FAMILY</i>	No Masses	

Quote:

*"Don't take life too seriously, you'll never get out alive" -
Elbert Hubbard*

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
Sunday, 20 December 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ALIVE

*Think freely; practice patience; smile often;
Savour special moments; live God's message
Make new friends; discover old ones;
Tell those you love that you do; feel deeply.*

*Forget troubles; forgive an enemy;
Pick snowdrops; keep a promise;
Look for rainbows; gaze at stars;
See beauty everywhere; work hard, be wise;
Try to understand; take time for others;
Make time for yourself.*

*Laugh heartily; spread joy; take a chance;
Reach out; let someone in;
Try something new; slow down;
Be soft sometimes; believe in yourself;
Trust others; see a sunrise; listen to rain;
Reminisce; cry when you need to.*

- Source unknown

A very happy and blessed
Christmas to you and yours with
enormous thanks for who you are and
what you do. Fr Dennis

Copies of the weekly bulletin, the Partnership Note
and any other handouts will be available in a plastic
storage box at the door of St Mary's and St Wilfrid's
presbyteries. Please take what you need.

Following the most recent government advice, and that from our Bishops, church will be open for private prayer. See the note inside this bulletin for details. We continue to take the safest measures we can. Please do your best to stay safe.

Confession Times

St Mary

By request and by simple arrangement.
More details very soon.

Message from Bishop Robert

As we approach Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work for your parish and the diocese in this time of pandemic. To those who have helped to keep our churches open for Mass and those who have reached out to the less fortunate I want to say a big thank you. It is by faith and unity that we can be a sign to the world of the love Christ showed us in becoming one of us in the holy season. I would like to wish you and your family a happy and peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Masses

- Church is now open for Mass with a congregation. Please ring to book for Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. Masks are required.
- St Mary's is open for private prayer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11am to 1.00pm.
- We are streaming Mass each weekday at 10am, except for Mondays, (access via St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube).
- Funeral services can go ahead with 30 people in church and or at the Crematorium or graveside. Any additional attendees at funerals will sadly need to remain outside.

Please note that Sunday's Mass at St Mary's will be back to its old time of 11am and will be streamed.

We are back celebrating **Mass at St Wilfrid's on Sunday's at 9.30am**. Masks are required. Booking is essential because social distancing has reduced spaces available. Please ring 01388 603431. Thank you. **Please ring** to book a place for this Sunday's Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation at 6pm in St Mary's. Thank you.

The Foodbank - needs you. Big thanks for what you donate and for money donations. Items needed are **sugar, jam, potatoes-tinned or packet, rice pudding, toothpaste, toothbrushes and shower gel**. At the moment we have plenty of pasta, beans and soup. Lets see what we can do to help. **Opening hours this week Mon-Wed only 10am -1pm from St Mary's.**

Food and crisis help - Money donations are especially welcome to help those with gas and electricity needs. Your generosity is wonderful.

December's Northern Cross is now here at £1.50 . Get yours now!

CAFOD's World Gifts - brochures are available at church. A brilliant solution to what to give instead of unnecessary material gifts.

SVP Christmas Appeal - we asked for your support and the response was far beyond our expectations. The funds received from parishioners, their friends and relatives totalled £1860. We wish you to know that both St Mary's and St Wilfrid's SVP Conferences will ensure that the sum will be spent on supporting those in need in our local community. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity and compassion. God bless you all.

Please pray for the health of:

*Betty Shoulder
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
Jack Tobin
Jacob Thomas
Charlotte Thomas
Sheila Campbell
John Boyle
Teresa Brown
Joan Hannon
Christina Marsh (3)
Ian & Kathy Lloyd
Roman Banks
Jane Hardy (Kirby)
Wilf Teesdale*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12,14-16	Ps 88	Romans 16: 25-27	Luke 1: 26-38
Mon	Song of Songs 2: 8-14	Ps 32	Luke 1: 39-45	
Tues	1 Samuel 1: 24-28	1 Samuel 2: 4-8	Luke 1: 46-56	
Wed	Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24	Ps 24	Luke 7: 57-66	
Thurs	2 Samuel 7: 1-5,8-12,16	Ps 88	Luke 1: 67-79	
Fri	Isaiah 9: 1-7	Ps 95	Titus 2: 11-14	Luke 2: 1-14
Sat	Acts 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59	Ps 30	Matthew 10: 17-22	
Sun	Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6,12-14	Ps 127	Colossians 3: 12-21	Matthew 2: 13-15,19-23

Parish Finances - please remember to use your yellow envelopes, not forgetting the white 2nd 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 of Standing Order forms in the plastic box on the presbytery doorstep. Thank you.

Thinking of becoming a Catholic? If you are new to the Catholic faith and would like to know more, you are invited to join a weekly online programme arranged by the Diocese. It's called RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) and registration is now open - Tuesday evenings 6.30 to 7.30pm. The hour long online meetings will enable you to meet others who are also beginning the programme. You can also get in touch, please with Father Dennis. To register or find out more, email: adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk. Thanks.

Sincere thanks to all who helped clean St Wilfrid's last Monday and get it ready for re-opening, a great job, very well done.

Christmas collections - we will dispense our Christmas collections across our local charities as we have done in other years. Thank you all.

Used stamps - can be brought to church for helping the work of the Little Sisters of the poor. Used Christmas cards are not accepted this year. Please dispose of them at home if you would. Thanks.

Please continue to send us your email addresses and telephone numbers. Thank you.

THE VIRUS IS STILL VERY ACTIVE PLEASE STAY SAFE