

This week

| | Services & meetings |
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| Saturday 20 March ST CUTHBERT | 10.00 am Mass: Fr Tom Cunningham 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: Agnes and Lenny Strong |
| Sunday 21 March 5th Sunday of Lent | 9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: People of the parish 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: Ian Lloyd |
| Monday 22 March | No Mass 11.00 - 1.00 - St Mary's open for private prayer |
| Tuesday 23 March | 10.00 am Mass: Fr David Milburn 11.00 - 2.00 - St Mary's open for private prayer. 12.30 pm Funeral Service for GEOFF THOMPSON at Wear Valley Crematorium |
| Wednesday 24 March | 10.00 am Mass: John Pallister 11.00 - 1.00 - St Mary's open for private prayer |
| Thursday 25 March ANNUNCIATION of the LORD | 10.00 am Mass: Ida Herbert |
| Friday 26 March | 10.00 am Mass: Holy Souls 11.00 - 1.00 - St Mary's open for private prayer |
| Saturday 27 March | 10.00 am Mass: Peter and Agnes Hall 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: Frank and Robbie Lowe |
| Sunday 28 March PALM SUNDAY | 9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: People of the parish 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: Patricia Brodie 5.00 pm: Service for Forgiveness and Reconciliation at St Mary's |

Quote:

"Wise men talk because they have something to say;
fools, because they have to say something"
- Plato

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 [21 March 2021](#)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE CANDLE I LIGHT

May the candle I light
be more than itself.
May it be for you:
the touch of a lover,
the smile of a child,
a drench of fresh rain,
a garden of sunflowers,
a good meal,
a dog to stroke,
a cup of clear water
flowers for a friend,
a yes of breath,
a seed of hope,
A given moment

May it be:
healing for your sickness;
closeness in your loneliness;
comfort in your mourning;
self-respect when you are rejected;
love to share.

May it be a moment
of shining in a tiny bit
of the darkness:
a hope,
a prayer,
a blessing.

- Joy Mead

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

By request and by simple arrangement.

The CAFOD Walk for Water has so far raised more than £2000 through the generosity of our walkers and the kindness of the sponsors who have supported the walks. Enormous thanks for the sensitivity we all feel towards families who have to search every day for water - and water that is not always healthy. We take so much for granted that millions in our world are unable to rely on.

Tuesday: Day of Reflection on COVID 19 this Tuesday 23 March, has been named by our Bishops as National Day of Reflection and Prayer to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown because of the virus. They ask for a minute's silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8pm. We'll have St Mary's open from 11am to 2pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during that time. You may wish to light a candle in your window or porch at home at 8pm.

Our Bishops invite everyone to enter a church on this day, to reflect and pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We know this will involve an extra effort, but this can be part of our important contribution to a significant moment in the life of our country. Indeed, we ask that you might invite a friend, neighbour or colleague to come to church with you as you make this visit. There is so much on which to reflect and include in our prayers. We reflect in sorrow on all those who have died, whether family members, friends or those unknown to us personally. We pray for them, asking our Father to welcome them into their heavenly home, the destiny for which God first gave us the gift of life. We reflect with compassion on all those who have suffered during this last year, whether through illness, stress, financial disaster or family tensions. We pray for their ongoing resilience, courage and capacity to forgive. We reflect with thanksgiving for the generosity, inventiveness, self-sacrifice and determination shown by so many in this most difficult of times. We pray for them, thanking God for their gifts and dedication, whether they are scientists, politicians, health workers, public servants of every kind, community leaders or steadfast family members and friends who continue to show such love and compassion. We reflect in hope that, as the pandemic is controlled and we open up our lives again, we will gather in the lessons we have learned and build our society into a better shape, more compassionate, less marked by inequalities, more responsive to needs and deprivation. We ask for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us in this endeavour, whether we are focussing on overcoming family breakdowns, economic recovery, or building political consensus.

The Foodbank - If you are able to consider helping the foodbank or our crisis fund as a Lenten exercise, this is a direct answer to the Lord's command to feed the hungry and care for those in any kind of need. Believe me, the difference it makes is so obvious I wonder why we don't have more contributions to help people get through the week. The foodbank is now needing

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)
Kathy Lloyd
Roman Banks
Jane Hardy (Kirby)

**Please pray for
GEOFFREY THOMPSON
(75)
who has died.**

May he rest in peace



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

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|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Sun | Jeremiah 31: 31-34 | Ps 50 | Hebrews 5: 7-9 | John 12: 20-30 |
| Mon | Daniel 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 | Ps 22 | John 8: 1-11 | |
| Tues | Numbers 21: 4-9 | Ps 101 | John 8: 21-30 | |
| Wed | Daniel 3: 14-20, 24-25, 28 | Daniel 3: 52-56 | John 8: 31-42 | |
| Thurs | Isaiah 7: 10-14, 8:10 | Ps 39 | Hebrews 10: 4-10 | Luke 1: 26-38 |
| Fri | Jeremiah 20: 10-13 | Ps 17 | John 10: 31-42 | |
| Sat | Ezekiel 37: 21-28 | Jeremiah 31: 10-13 | John 11: 45-56 | |
| Sun | Isaiah 50: 4-7 | Ps 21 | Philippians 2: 6-11 | Mark 15: 1-39 |

your help with food for distribution. Please note the new hours for the foodbank operating back at Woodhouse Close Church Centre. **Opening hours are 9.00 am to 3 pm Monday to Thursday.** The Centre will not be operating on Fridays or across weekends. I keep emergency supplies at St. Mary's. **Could we request the following for the foodbank please: hot dogs, tinned or packet potatoes, tinned carrots and UHT milk and we also need carrier bags. In the meantime, any money to help with gas and electric needs continues to be invaluable.** You can put anything in an envelope marked Foodbank or Crisis and post it through the letterbox at St Mary's and we'll pass it on. **Jeannie and Mike Hardy** have been participating in the Global Catholic Movement addressing the environmental crisis affecting the whole world. Have a word with them about it. Lets see if we can start a parish group.

Parish finances - Please remember to use your yellow 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.

Northern Cross - thank you all for your prayers and support for our editor, Emma and her family. They are progressing well. Pick up your copy of the March issue of the paper, available now.

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday - Palms will be given to you as you leave Mass this year. It's another COVID change. At 5pm at St Mary's we will have our Lenten Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation. Please ring to book in for this so that we can ensure safe numbers. Thank you.

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

PLEASE KEEP SAFE AND SAVE LIVES.