

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 20 May	10.30 am Mass: 1st Communion Mass (3) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: Maureen Nicholson
Sunday 21 May <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: Mary Curry's recovery 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: People of the parish
Monday 22 May	No Mass 10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 1.00 pm Craft Club
Tuesday 23 May	No Mass
Wednesday 24 May	No Mass 6.30 pm Laudato Si meeting
Thursday 25 May <i>ST BEDE</i>	10.00 am Mass at Our Lady & St Thomas, Willington 2.00 pm Mass in St Chad's School 5.30 pm Finance Committee
Friday 26 May <i>St Philip Neri</i>	10.00 am Mass: Ann and Joe Tindall
Saturday 27 May <i>ST AUGUSTINE of CANTERBURY</i>	10.00 am Mass: Fiona Bentley's birthday 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: People of the parish
Sunday 28 May <i>PENTECOST SUNDAY</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: Ann Francis 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: Health of Breda Sheridan

Quote:

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor".

- Desmond Tutu

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 May, 2023](#)

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Do we avoid prayer?

If God is so real and prayer is such a privilege, whatever stops us? The answer is easy: we don't want to start. Something in us naturally recoils from prayer. The presence and peace and power of God in our lives is a lovely thought, but we don't want to spend time on it now. It's not half as exciting as the soap opera on television, and by no means as urgent as the call we plan to make at the end of the programme.

But beneath the surface of these immediate excuses, there is a vast reservoir of self-centeredness and hostility to God. The early chapters of the Bible tell how the very first man and woman disobeyed God and started to avoid him,

We can't in any way claim to be open to God while at the same time nursing resentments, bearing grudges and generally insisting on running our own show.

The Galilean fishermen, Simon Peter, had it right. He fell on his knees in front of Jesus and said, "Go away from me, Lord! I am a sinful man!"

Why don't we pray? Are we on the run from God? We've a hundred and one things we want to get on with, and we're scared he'll call for a change in our priorities. We have guilty secrets we want to hide, and we know he'll see right through us.

In the face of all this, there is only one thing to do. We have to put on the brakes, step out in the open, and say, "Lord, help me to want to pray".



Confession Times
St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.

Holy Island - Our outing to Holy Island will be on Thursday 22 June, leaving St Mary's at 8.30 and returning by 6.30. The cost will be £20. As things stand, the bus is already full - if you signed up but now find you can't go, please let Michael Broadbent know (01388 488569). Further details nearer the time!

Wild Life Garden.- Fr. Dennis has kindly offered a section of the back lawn to be planted to enhance nature. Anyone wishing to be involved in planning or planting contact Jeannie on 07708108119 or Ernie 07864807529. All ages are welcome. All you need is enthusiasm for nature. Our next meeting is Wednesday 24th May 6.30 pm at St. Mary's.

LOOKING FOR MUSCLE - Any strong gardeners are invited (begged) to help in the preparation of the new wild life garden at St. Mary's. We are hoping to remove a patch of the turf to enable seed sowing. Simple but heavy going. Text Ernie on 07864807529 or erniew49@gmail.com

Plant Swap - Now is the time for splitting overgrown plants, dividing clumps of bulbs and taking cuttings. Anyone with plants to spare please leave on the stone bench outside St. Mary's meeting room to share for free with parishioners. Plant pots always needed please 3" to 10" - simply leave on the bench-thank you.

Diocesan Environmental Group - The Diocesan Environmental Group invite you to a series of events marking Laudato Si' week Sunday 21 – Sunday 28 May 2023. The week will begin with a special Mass on Saturday 20 May 2023 at The Cathedral Church of St Mary, Newcastle at 10.00am. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate creation and to reflect on how to protect it. Throughout the week we will be presenting special screenings of the film, 'The Letter'. For details please see the Diocesan website <https://diocesahn.org.uk/news/a-series-of-special-events-mark-laudato-si-week-across-our-diocese/>

Details of the screenings: Monday 22 May: at Cardinal Hume Catholic School, Old Durham Road, Gateshead NE9 6RZ with doors opening at 6.30pm and film showing at 7.00pm.

Tuesday 23 May: at St Wilfrid's, Waterloo Road, Blyth NE24 1EA at 7.00pm.

Wednesday 24 May: at Carmel College, The Headlands, Darlington DL3 8RW with doors opening at 6.30pm and film showing at 7.00pm.

Saturday 27 May: at St Cuthbert's Church, Albion Road West, North Shields NE29 0JB at 7.00pm.

The Letter is a powerful film produced by the team that made the Oscar-winning film My Octopus Teacher. It brings the message of Pope Francis's Laudato Si' to life through the stories of the people representing the voices of the poor, the youth, indigenous peoples and the natural world. This is a film that everyone should see and talk about in their families and communities, definitely not to be missed!

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
Eileen Kelly*

Please pray for
MARY BATES
who has died.
May she rest in
peace



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Acts 1: 12-14	Ps 26	1 Peter 4: 13-16	John 17: 1-11
Mon	Acts 19: 1-8	Ps 67	John 16: 29-33	
Tues	Acts 20: 17-27	Ps 67	John 17: 1-11	
Wed	Acts 20: 28-38	Ps 67	John 17: 11-19	
Thurs	Ecclesiasticus 39: 6-10	Ps 36	Matthew 5: 13-16	
Fri	Acts 25: 13-21	Ps 102	John 21: 15-19	
Sat	1 Thessalonians 2: 2-8	Ps 116	Luke 10: 1-9	
Sun	Acts 2: 1-11	Ps 103	1 Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13	John 20: 19-23

Marie Curie Group - welcomes new members! Since 2013 we have raised over £156,000 for Macmillan Nurses, over £2,000 raised during April.

The Family Contact Centre provides contact with children for separated parents/grand parents. It takes place on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. Volunteers only attend for 8 Saturdays across the year. This takes place at the Methodist Church Hall. Please book through 4 Clocks.

As the year moves on could we be thinking about social and spiritual events and services to express what we want to say to God and to each other. If you don't say, we don't know!

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.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, rice pudding, tinned vegetables, toilet rolls, hot dogs, custard, pasta sauce and tinned fruit.** Help with funds for 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.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR FR DERMOTT DONNELLY—Mass celebrated by Bishop Seamus Cunningham and a Barbecue will be held at the Emmaus Village on **Saturday 1st July** beginning at 3pm. Young people will share the impact of Fr Dermott's ministry on the first Anniversary of his death, plus we will have an opportunity to hear about redevelopment of the Youth Village and new initiatives that are underway. Come along and support Fr Dermott's charity "Significance" so that the work can continue. Barbecue tickets cost £10 per person (children under 16 are free). Please RSVP if you are coming to the Mass and/or want Barbecue tickets. Accommodation can also be booked. admin@ymt.org or Tel 01207 592244