

This week

Day/Date	Services & meetings
Saturday 20 August <i>St Bernard</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Private Intention</i> 2.00 pm <i>Wedding of Rehanna Shields and Benjamin Teasdale</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Jim Arthurs and Christine Bestford</i>
Sunday 21 August <i>21st Sunday of the Year</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Chris Bartley</i>
Monday 22 August	No Mass 10.00 am - Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 2.00 pm - Holy Hour at St Wilfrid's
Tuesday 23 August	10.00 am Mass: <i>Devasia Mathew</i>
Wednesday 24 August	10.00 am Mass: <i>for Kier Starmer</i>
Thursday 25 August <i>ST BARTHOLOMEW Apostle</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Peace in the family</i>
Friday 26 August <i>St Ninian</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>In thanksgiving</i>
Saturday 27 August <i>St Monica</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 28 August <i>22nd Sunday of the Year</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Fr Dermot Donnelly</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Shirley Wallis birthday intentions</i>

Quote

"Miracles do not happen in contradiction to nature but in contradiction with what we know about nature".

- St Augustine

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

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To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube **21 August, 2022**

21st SUNDAY of the YEAR

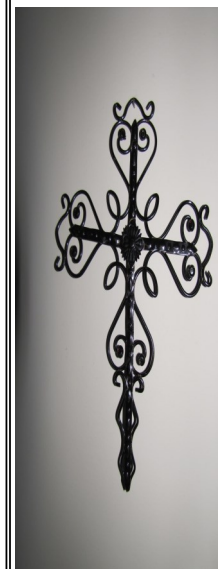
FORGIVEN

We find it hard to apologise because we are our own best counsel for the defence. We rationalise, justify, make excuses, and are generally willing to blame anyone but ourselves. It wasn't me, or if it was, I couldn't help it, or I didn't mean it. Yet although we think we can persuade the jury, deep down we know we can't convince ourselves. Self-deception always carries too high a price.

One of the odd things about the Hebrew Bible is its devastating honesty. The Israelites blame no one but themselves. 'We sinned', they said. 'We drifted, worshipped strange gods, we were ungrateful, disloyal, we dishonoured God'. The prophets never blamed other nations, other people or God. They were the polar opposite of the culture of victimhood that has become so popular in recent years. They absorbed all the guilt and turned it into the positive energy of repentance and renewal.

They were able to be honest because they knew that God forgives. In a wholly secular culture, forgiveness is either absent or, at best, some vague indifference to morality altogether. Forgiveness is not indifference. Apologising is not making excuses. The power of simply being able to say, 'I was wrong, I hurt you, I am truly sorry, forgive me,' is that it allows honesty to purge our lives of self-righteousness, the most toxic of all emotions.

- Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



Confession Times

St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.

Changes to meetings – apologies if this upsets anyone’s plans, but we need to re-arrange the dates of our Parish Finance Committee and our Parish Council meeting. The new dates are:

Finance meeting now is 5pm on 1st September

Parish Council meeting is now 5pm on 8th September. Thanks to you all.

SVP National Summer Raffle - 1st prize—£5000, 2nd prize £1000 plus 15 prizes of £100. You can buy tickets after Mass.

CAFOD—thank you so much for putting your small change in the CAFOD boxes. Every little bit counts and £200 has been sent for people who are struggling to survive. Boxes available at the back of church.

Trip to Hexham Abbey - On Wednesday 21st September - we are all set for what promises to be an enjoyable and interesting day. The cost will be £25, including lunch at the abbey. If you signed the list but now can't go, please let Michael know (01388 488569). As things stand, there are a couple of places left - again, please contact Michael if you would like one of them. Money payable to Michael at St Wilfrid's or to Jeanette at St Mary's.

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal - The Ukraine collection box will remain at the back of Church for some time. Please also pray for this cruel situation and the implications of this invasion. **Your donations over recent weeks have enabled us to send £626.60 to CAFOD for the Ukraine Appeal.**

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. The following items are needed this week, tinned spaghetti, packet soup, sweets and toothpaste. **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.

We're looking for more Eucharistic Ministers and Readers and the return of any of our helpful folks who have served us in these ways previously. Singers, musicians, flower arrangers, CAFOD, SVP members all do great work for us. How can you help? Please have a chat. Thank you.

Relics of St Bernadette - will be touring England, Scotland and Wales during September and October this year. They will be coming to St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle on Sunday 1 October at 11am and leaving at 11am the next day. Please let me know today or certainly this week if there is any interest in a group from the parish going to the cathedral. We're asked to register attendance so we can have a timeslot to secure the safety and comfort of pilgrims. Sign the sheet at the back of church.

A RELIC IS A PART OF THE PHYSICAL REMAINS OF A SAINT AFTER THEIR DEATH, OR AN OBJECT WHICH HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THEM. The veneration of relics is rooted in the natural human instinct to treat anything connected with those we love, who have died, with care and reverence. From the earliest days of the Church, the bodies of saints were held in special veneration, and in Rome, prayers were said and Masses celebrated in the catacombs, the burial places of saints and martyrs.

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford
Michael Dawson
Mrs Aitken
Val Mundell
Joan Lightfoot
Michael Nicholson
Adam Hudspeth
Christopher Browne
Tyler Quinn
Maureen Nicholson
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*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Isaiah 36: 18-21	Ps 116	Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13	Luke 13: 22-30
Mon	2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12	Ps 95	Matthew 23: 13-22	
Tues	2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17	Ps 95	Matthew 23: 23-26	
Wed	Apocalypse 21: 9-14	Ps 144	John 1: 45-51	
Thurs	1 Corinthians 1: 1-9	Ps 144	Matthew 24: 42-51	
Fri	1 Corinthians 1: 17-25	Ps 32	Matthew 25: 1-13	
Sat	1 Corinthians 1: 26-31	Ps 32	Matthew 25: 14-30	
Sun	Ecclesiasticus 3: 17-20, 28-29	Ps 67	Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24	Luke 14: 1, 7-14

Simply put, relics help us feel close to a holy person, making the communion of saints more real and fostering in each of us a desire to be like them - to be holy.

Holy Hour - is from 2.00 till 3.00 every Monday afternoon in St Wilfrid's Presbytery. It's a valuable chance to spend some time with the Lord, present in the Blessed Sacrament - silence interspersed with music, prayers and readings. You don't need to come for the whole hour - just look in when you can, for as long as you can. Many of us have busy lives - and it's all the more reason to step aside for a while and 'touch base'.

St Mary's Cleaning Rota - a rota is now on the notice board on the left hand side as you enter church. We will always take more volunteers if anyone else would like to join our small band!

The Passion Play - in the Market Place was professionally filmed. The quality of the film is outstanding, using four different cameras. We are conscious this could be a great resource for local churches. If you would like to purchase a copy of the film this is available as either a download (£10), DVD with a commemorative cover (£15) or Blue Ray DVD with a commemorative cover (£25). If you or anyone in your church would like to purchase a copy, please order using the link: <https://aegies.com/shop/> The Passion Play is to be performed again next year. We're hoping that more Christians will take part. There will be two drop-in sessions in early September where you can attend, ask questions and sign up. The Passion Play will be yet better if more Christians are in the cast. This year's Passion Play had about 60% of the cast and crew from communities with no involvement in church. There is a sign-up link on the Passion Play website. Passionplaybishopauckland.org. DL14 OEZ. **We'll show the film here soon.**

Recipes - During the covid pandemic we received recipes from parishioners and have been planning to put them together into a booklet to be shared. We would also like people to send in and share any recipes which they have that would include 'cheap and nutritional' ingredients. We are aware that many people are struggling with money worries and it would be good to offer ideas that may help stretch family budgets.

Old Spectacles - please consider donating old/unwanted spectacles to Vision Express (Tindale Crescent branch) who will recycle by sending them to those in need abroad.

Holy Island Children's Vinnies Camp 2022 - There are still some places at this year's Holy Island Children's Camp, particularly in the last week of the School Summer Holiday. If you have a child/children in school years 5-7 who would like a week's residential holiday on Holy Island or you know of any children who would benefit from going to Camp this year please email christinej@svp.org.uk for further information.