

**This is PALM SUNDAY** we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, distribute palms and listen to St Mark's Gospel account of Jesus' Passion and death. We welcome you to our Service of Forgiveness & Reconciliation at St Mary's at 6pm. Bring others with you.

**HOLY WEEK** - Every Catholic should consider participating in the Holy Week Services. On **Maundy Thursday** we meet for the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm at St Wilfrid's. During the Mass we celebrate the gift of the Eucharist given to us at the Last Supper. We also symbolically wash the feet of at least 12 people and we celebrate the gift of priesthood. There will be an opportunity after the Mass to watch at the Altar of Repose some time before 9pm.

On **Good Friday** this year there will be no Walk of Witness in the town. We meet at St Mary's at 3pm to celebrate the Passion of the Lord, following the account in St John's Gospel. We venerate the Cross, pray for a number of significant groups of people across the Church and the world and we receive Holy Communion.

On **Holy Saturday**, like Good Friday, there is no Mass. During that day Jesus was in the tomb. We gather in the evening at 8.30pm to celebrate the Easter Vigil - the most powerful liturgy of the Year. We listen to readings, celebrate water and the power of light and new life signified by the lighting of the paschal fire and candle and the blessing of baptismal water. We will also receive a new member into full communion of the Church.

On **Easter Sunday** morning our Sunday Mass times to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection are as usual.

**St Mary's Easter church cleaning** - Tuesday March 26th after morning Mass. Could you please help us with this task and make our beautiful church look its best for Easter. All welcome. Plenty of dusters to clean the benches, bring the children. See you there.

**St Wilfrid's Church cleaning** will be after Mass on Monday. Yes, you'll be very welcome to help!

**St Mary's and St Wilfrid's** - Fairtrade chocolate Easter Eggs on sale. £3.99, yes they are more expensive than many others, however they allow for farmers in developing countries to make a living for their families. All packaging is also recyclable.

**Laudato Si Group: Dates for your diary** - today Sunday 24th March come and take part in a walk and enjoy refreshments afterwards. Meet at St Wilfrid's church at 2 pm. Route will be fairly flat and suitable for casual walkers. Raise money to support CAFOD. Everyone is welcome. Why not consider taking part in the UK wide 'Big Plastic Count' between 11th- 17th March. Sign up to take part via the internet with the Big Plastic Count team by searching 'bigplasticcount'. You will be sent information to take part prior to the week.

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford  
Mrs Aitken  
Joan Lightfoot  
Michael Nicholson  
Adam Hudspeth  
Christopher Browne  
Tyler Quinn  
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*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Isaiah 50: 4-7	Ps 21	Philippians 2: 6-11	Mark 14: 1-55: 47
Mon	Isaiah 42: 1-7	Ps 26	John 12: 1-11	
Tues	Isaiah 49: 1-6	Ps 70	John 13: 21-33, 36-38	
Wed	Isaiah 50: 4-9	Ps 68	Matthew 26: 14-25	
Thurs	Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14	Ps 115	John 13: 1-15	
Fri	Isaiah 52: 13-53:12	Ps 30	Hebrews 4: 14-16, 5: 7-9	John 18: 1-19: 42
Sat	Genesis 1:1-2:2	Ps 103	Romans 6: 3-11	Mark 16: 1-7
Sun	Acts 10: 34, 37-43	Ps 117	Colossians 3: 1-4	John 20: 1-9

**The Jaquie Holloway Prize for Performing Arts** - on Wednesday 27 March at 6pm, St John's invite you to their annual Performing Arts competition featuring instrumental soloists, singers, dancers and actors. Also featuring performances from our fantastic ensembles. Admission £3 adults £2 concessions. All proceeds fund Performing Arts opportunities and equipment for students.

**Pope Francis** recognises 2025 as a year of Jubilee and asks that 2024 be a Year of Prayer leading up to it.

**Quiz night** - make a note in your diary - Thursday 18 April for our next quiz night.

**The Foodbank** - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, tinned tomatoes, rice pudding, bars of soap and toilet rolls. 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 fuel costs 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.

**World Peace** - please have a space in your personal prayer for peace in the war zones of the world and for the plight of innocent children and civilians. Thank you.

**Pope Francis'** brilliant document on caring for creation (Laudato Si) is now 8 years old! Not enough has happened over this time so he has written a further document called Laudate Deum (meaning 'Praise God') about the climate crisis. We have some copies at £4.95 at the back of church.

**Environmental Survey** - our annual environmental survey has come around again. This is the 3rd year for this. If possible we would like to invite as many people as possible to complete it and return it within 4 weeks. Following last years' survey we provided battery recycling boxes which have proved to be popular. As a parish community we are trying to implement small steps which help care for the earth and our local community. Thank you.

**Parish Website** - we have had a Parish Website for a number of years now. Here you can find the weekly newsletter and other information. Or if you would like to receive a regular email with the newsletter attached, please send your email address to : [office@stmaryandstwilfrid.org.uk](mailto:office@stmaryandstwilfrid.org.uk)

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 23 March</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Fr Paddy Kennedy</i> <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>Maureen and John Nicholson</i>
<b>Sunday 24 March</b> <i>PALM SUNDAY</i>	<b>09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>People of the parish</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>Ida Herbert</i> <b>6.00 pm Service of Forgiveness &amp; Reconciliation at St Mary's</b>
<b>Monday 25 March</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass: at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>Holy Souls</i> <b>1.00 pm Craft Club at St Mary's</b>
<b>Tuesday 26 March</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Thanksgiving (P)</i>
<b>Wednesday 27 March</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Ian Lloyd</i>
<b>Thursday 28 March</b> <i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i>	<b>7.00 pm EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER at St Wilfrid's</b>
<b>Friday 29 March</b> <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>	<b>3.00 pm CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD at St Mary's</b>
<b>Saturday 30 March</b> <i>HOLY SATURDAY</i>	<b>8.30 pm THE EASTER VIGIL at St Mary's</b>
<b>Sunday 31 March</b> <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i>	<b>09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>People of the parish</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>Margery Harrop</i>

## Quote:

*"The definition of a consultant: someone who borrows your watch, tells you the time and then charges you for the privilege"*

**- A letter in The Times**

## 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 **24 March, 2024**

# PALM SUNDAY

## CREATION PRAYER

Help us O Lord to hear your voice, in the thunder of the waterfall, the sweet call of the songbird and in the cry of the child suffering from hunger and thirst.

May the cries of the poor and of the earth wake us from inaction and stir us to renew our lives. Help us accept the change and sacrifice we need to recover harmony with this beautiful abundant earth you gave us.

Guide us Lord to be fruitful in our endeavours and sustain us in any hardships we may face.

Through the darkest of times Lord keep us confident that your Grace will bring us to a new dawn when we can celebrate together the community of creation.

Please:

- ◆ Pass this prayer on
- ◆ Stick it up in your kitchen
- ◆ Put it on your mirror
- ◆ Place it where you'll see it often
- ◆ Add it to your daily prayers
- ◆ Can you learn it?

Thanks



## **Confession Times**

**St Mary's**

**Saturdays at  
10.45-11.30  
and by request.**

**St Wilfrid's**

**before  
Sunday  
Mass**