

This week

| | Services & meetings |
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| Saturday 23 April | 10.00 am Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Fr Harry Ryan</i> |
| Sunday 24 April <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i> | 9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Monica Robinson</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i> |
| Monday 25 April <i>ST MARK Evangelist</i> | No Mass 10.00 am - Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 11.00 am Funeral Service at St Mary's for PETER HOPE 12.00 am - 1 pm St Mary's open for private prayer 2.00 pm - Holy Hour at St Wilfrid's |
| Tuesday 26 April <i>ST GEORGE Patron of England</i> | 10.00 am Mass: <i>Timothy Fogarty</i> |
| Wednesday 27 April | 9.30 am Mass: <i>Amore Foody's Intentions</i> |
| Thursday 28 April | No Mass 9.30 am Funeral Service at St Mary's for STEPHEN GREGORY |
| Friday 29 April <i>ST CATHERINE of SIENA</i> | 10.00 am Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i> |
| Saturday 30 April | 10.00 am Mass: <i>First Holy Communion Mass (1 of 4)</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Denis Jackson</i> |
| Sunday 1 May <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> | 9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Henry and Marie Agnew</i> |

Quote:

"The very first Easter taught us this - that life never ends and love never dies".
- Kate McGahan

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

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To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube [24 April 2022](#)

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Thomas speaking

I wanted to know, that's all, to see for myself if it could possibly be true - was that so awful?

Remember, we'd all doubted at first, when the women came back that morning, dismissing their story of the empty tomb as so much nonsense, so why point the finger at me, as though I questioned and they didn't?

Yet as much as I wanted to believe it, I simply couldn't, not unless the proof was spelt out for me in black and white. That was me all over, I'm afraid, the way I'd been since a boy.

He wasn't angry with me, though he could have been, for after all that time, all he'd said, I should have known, just as I should of understood he would rise from the tomb and return among us.

He'd spoken of it, often enough but, as so often happens, we dwelt on the bad and forgot the good, unable to see beyond the demands of the present moment.

So despite it all I refused to believe, convinced there were still too many questions and not enough answers.

And I'd be doing that still, still wondering if it ever could be, but for his grace.

For suddenly he was there again, standing among us, arms outstretched in welcome, those pierced hands reaching out to me, Thomas, and I knew I'd been wrong - he was alive, just as they'd said, and I knelt down in worship, for he'd come, despite me, despite my lack of faith - still he believed in me!

- Nick Fawcett

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.

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's

By request and by simple arrangement.

Easter - May this Easter time be a blessing for everyone. Can we decide to deliberately express our love and appreciation of our families and friends. Added to that, we're asked to reflect on how widely our circle of support and practical help can extend to others.

Despite betrayal by those closest to him, despite organised opposition, plots, brutality, agony and death, God still forgives, welcomes and challenges us to think this through personally. We're being called to live his values and show compassion for others suffering hardship. The Ukraine horror reminds us of how essential are the living signals of human kindness. In our own area, when love and help for others happen here, we see the message of Easter - the emphatic assertion of life and respect over pain, grief and hopelessness. Even small efforts mean a lot.

Eastertide - Continues until Pentecost. It's a time when we continue to develop our friendship with the risen Lord. Every Sunday is an echo of Easter Sunday. It's why our Sabbath is on a Sunday and not Saturday like our friends in the Jewish faith. I hope we can spread the message now that we invite everyone to re-connect with coming back to church - it expresses our community of faith and we continue learning about the Lord and ourselves. Welcome home!

The Second Collection - Next weekend is for World Communications Sunday and the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Thank you.

COVID rules - There is now no further need to sign in at church or ring or email to note your attendance. We have removed the tapes from alternate benches and churches can return to their earlier capacity while being sensible about distancing. We continue to ask you to wear a mask please and to hand-sanitise on entry and leaving. Church will be cleaned once per week. We are not back to pre-covid and need to proceed with care. Thank you for all your help through these times. Obviously if you have COVID, you must stay at home.

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal - The Ukraine collection box will remain at the back of Church for some time. CAFOD is a member of the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC), a joint agency arrangement that is coordinating funding to provide food, water, healthcare, shelter and clothing for the Ukrainian people in towns and for those fleeing from the warzone. We're also being asked to pray for this cruel situation and the implications of this invasion. We don't need to be asked twice to pray for the people and their worried relatives. We don't have the logistics to handle donations of material items. Money is the persistent and most useful requirement. You have donated over £4500 via CAFOD. Thank you big time!

CAFOD's Lent Walk - Has raised over £150 so far.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. The following items are needed this week, shower gel/ toothpaste and brushes/ soap and tinned or packet custard.

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
Joan Hannon
Christina Marsh
Kathy Lloyd
Roman Banks
Jane Hardy (Kirby)
Margaret Pattenden*

Please pray for

DONNA HOPPER (51)
*who has died.
May she rest in peace.*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

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| Sun | Acts 5:12-16 | Ps 117 | Apocalypse 1: 9-13, 17-19 | John 20: 19-31 |
| Mon | 1 Peter 5: 5-14 | Ps 88 | Mark 16: 15-20 | |
| Tues | Apocalypse 12: 10-12 | Ps 125 | John 15: 18-21 | |
| Wed | Acts 5: 17-26 | Ps 33 | John 3: 16-21 | |
| Thurs | Acts 5: 27-33 | Ps 33 | John 3: 31-36 | |
| Fri | 1 John 1: 5-2:2 | Ps 102 | Matthew 11: 25-30 | |
| Sat | Acts 6: 1-7 | Ps 32 | John 6: 16-21 | |
| Sun | Acts 5: 27-32, 40-41 | Ps 29 | Apocalypse 5: 11-14 | John 21: 1-19 |

The cheapest toothpaste and brushes can be found in Sainsbury's near the pharmacy. Own brand about 50p and packs of two brushes for a pound **No tinned beans, soup or dried pasta required.** **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.

St. Mary's Piety Shop - have some Meaningful Chocolate Company Easter Eggs for £4.50. These are more expensive than most supermarket eggs - however, the company gives a huge chunk of their profits to charities. All packaging is recyclable, with a high quality chocolate and also includes an Easter Story Activity Guide. Yum yum....

Peru Mission Charity Dinner Dance - On Friday 17th June, The Peru Mission (Charity 1145812) is hosting a Charity Dinner Dance at Rainton Arena, Houghton le Spring. The evening includes a 3-course meal, Brazilian Dance Band "Viramundo", raffle and auction. Tickets are £60 per person. All proceeds to sponsor the work of The Peru Mission in education, healthcare and creating opportunities amongst the poor of Peru.

Care of our Common Home - Environmental questionnaire - Please could all parishioners complete and return the questionnaire that was included in a recent bulletin. If you did not get a questionnaire you can pick one up at the back of the church.

Poverty Challenge: See, Judge, Act - Following the pandemic, many households now also face new hardships as prices rise. Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) the Catholic agency addressing poverty and injustice in England and Wales, has released a free new booklet to increase awareness of Catholic Social Teaching on poverty, and to inform local responses. Please take a moment to read and encourage groups and individuals to engage with it. Download from www.csan.org.uk.

Stella Maris - Is holding a Day of Prayer & Pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne on **Saturday 4th June 2022**, led by the Rt Rev Paul Mason, Stella Maris Bishop Promoter, England & Wales. The pilgrimage starts at 12 noon. All are invited. Please check tide times. For further information contact Regional Port Chaplain Paul Atkinson (07906 212 426) or Peter Barrigan (07713 924 504).

Please note - There will be a Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's at 10.00 on Easter Monday, but no Holy Hour - the next Holy Hour will be on 25 April.