

**Christmas Masses:**

Christmas Eve: 5.30pm at St Mary’s and 7.30pm at St Wilfrid’s  
Christmas Day: 9.30am at St Wilfrid’s and 11am at St Mary’s  
Everyone is welcome. We’ll be delighted to see you.

**Diocesan Safeguarding** - you may have seen a report on the local BBC TV news about Safeguarding in our diocese. With last week’s bulletin you’ll see the statement from the diocese. Its helpful to see the full statement as the news item only gave a brief quote from it. If you have any questions, I’m always ready to hear from you.

**Thanks again** - to all who organised, helped and attended the smashing social evenings we’ve had lately. The Christmas Quiz raised £489.09 made up to £500, to be donated to The Foodbank, The Woman’s Refuge and The Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project. We’ll donate our Christmas collections to the same charities as you indicated at last weekend’s Masses. The money donated to Samaritan’s Purse (shoebox appeal) was £113 together with £150 from the Quiz Night held on 26th October. This helps to send the shoeboxes to the children abroad.

**Marie Curie Nursing** - raised £358 from the evening with Durham Constabulary Brass Band. Thank you everyone for your generosity and for making these evenings so enjoyable. You not only help to build community, you create a great night out and support superb care.

**St. Mary’s Piety Shop** now has Christmas cards, Advent Calendars, Chocolate and Small Christmas items for sale.

**The Foodbank** - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, pasta sauce, UHT milk, small tins of meat, tinned spaghetti, UHT milk, tinned potatoes and good quality bags for life. 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. Winter temperatures will drop. Thank you.

**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. More are on order.

**Bible Alive** – December’s copies are available at the back of church. Please collect yours if you ordered a monthly copy. Tick against your name on the list for November. £1.50. Thank you.

**The Faith Museum visit** - this has now been arranged for Thursday 7th March and will consist of a talk from the Curator, lunch in the library and

**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*
- Senara Wilton*
- Joan Vasey*
- Patrick Fogarty*
- John Green*



**Scripture Readings** for this week’s Masses:

Sun	2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16	Ps 88	Romans 16: 25-27	Luke 1: 26-38
Mon	Isaiah 52: 7-10	Ps 97	Hebrews 1: 1-6	John 1: 1-18
Tues	Acts 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59	Ps 30	Matthew 10: 17-22	
Wed	1 John 1: 1-4	Ps 96	John 20: 2-8	
Thurs	1 John 1: 5-2:2	Ps 123	Matthew 2: 13-18	
Fri	Colossians 1: 24-29	Ps 22	Luke 22: 24-30	
Sat	1 John 2: 12-17	Ps 95	Luke 2: 36-40	
Sun	Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14	Ps 127	Colossians 3: 12-21	Luke 2: 22-40

then exploration of the museum. Details later, but it will cost less for those who have an annual pass from the Auckland Project, so you might think of getting one. Save the date!

**SVP Club** - if you are a member your £12 subscription (for one number for the year) is now due for 2024. If you would like to join as a new member you are very welcome. For more details of the club please see the poster on the left side notice board as you enter church. Please give your money to Zita or leave it in an envelope clearly marked. Many thanks.

**Vocations Alert** - “Jesus said to his disciples: “Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come.”

Is the Lord awakening you or anyone you know to consider a vocation to the priesthood? Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299012 or vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk

**The Northern Cross** - January’s Northern Cross will be out on 7 January.

**Craft Group** - the next meeting of the craft group will be on Monday **8th January** in St. Mary’s meeting room.

**2nd Collection**—next week is for Racial Justice.

**Holy Island SVP Camp** — are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2024? Let them join us for a week on Holy Island. They’ll stay in our Centre and be looked after by DBS checked and trained helpers who will ensure they have a safe, fun time. We do lots of interesting and enjoyable activities such as rock pooling, longball, football, rounders, walking, craft and art, table tennis, long ball, quizzes and competitions and marathons as well as laser tag, silly sports, sand castle building, swimming and scavenger hunts. Girls and boys can be aged 9-12 and it is a great way for them to meet new people and make friends from all over the North East. A week’s all-inclusive holiday costs a donation of £150 and can be paid in instalments. In some circumstances children may be able to receive partial or full funding to attend. If you’re interested, or know of a child who could benefit from such a holiday, please visit our website for further details at: <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island>. Applications open from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOURS.  
THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY**

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 23 December</b>	10.00 am Mass: <i>People of the parish</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Margery and John Watson Harrop</i>
<b>Sunday 24 December</b> <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Thanksgiving</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Private Intention</i> 5.30 pm @St Mary's Christmas Mass for the People of the parish 7.30 pm @St Wilfrid's Christmas Mass for the People of the parish
<b>Monday 25 December</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	9.30 am Mass @ St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass @ St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i>
<b>Tuesday 26 December</b> <i>St Stephen</i>	No Mass
<b>Wednesday 27 December</b> <i>St John Apostle</i>	No Mass
<b>Thursday 28 December</b> <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	No Mass
<b>Friday 29 December</b> <i>St Thomas Becket</i>	No Mass
<b>Saturday 30 December</b>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Peter Maria Chu Sinh</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>For those who have died in 2023</i>
<b>Sunday 31 December</b> <b>THE HOLY FAMILY</b>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Health of John Barfield</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Vasey, Hogg &amp; Cruddace Families</i>

**Quote:**

*"When I was told that by 2100 woman would rule the world, I replied, 'Still?'"*

**- Winston Churchill (1874—1965)**

## The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle  
Fr Dennis Tindall, St Mary's, Vart Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6PQ Tel: (01388) 603431  
website: Parish of St Mary and St Wilfrid : Bulletin e-mail: office@stmaryandstwilfrid.org.uk  
To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube **24 December, 2023**

## CHRISTMAS EVE & 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### A PRESENT FROM ABOVE

*I now look down upon the world at festivities below, with twinkling lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting in the snow. The sight is so spectacular, but it will draw a tear, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

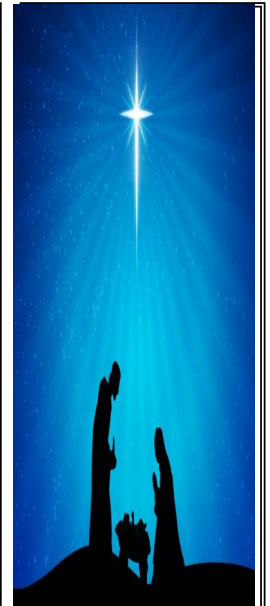
*I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear but none compare with the beautiful hymns the choir sings up here. I have no words to describe what heavenly voices bring, for it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.*

*I know how much you miss me, I see it in your heart, but I'm never far away dear, we're really not apart. Just be happy for this loved one I know you hold so dear and be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I send you each a special gift, from my heavenly home up here that life continues after death and you should have no fear. Love, it lasts forever, more precious than any gold, but you already know that, from the stories Jesus told.*

*Just know I am beside you and we will meet again, to share our life in heaven, you have to wait till then. So have a joyful Christmas, and wipe way that tear, because I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*- Source unknown*



### Confession Times St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.