

Right To Life - Support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Sign a postcard from the back of church and we'll post it to your MP in support of this amendment.

Lent Extra - copies of Lent Extra are on sale at the back of church at £2.50 each.

Bible Alive - February's issue is available now.

The Faith Museum visit - Thursday 7th March - the list for this is now closed. We will meet in Auckland Tower at 11.00am on the day and we will then be guided to the Old Library where we will hear a talk from the Faith Museum Curator. Lunch will follow, and then we will be free to explore the museum at our leisure. It would be a great help if everyone could pay by Sunday 3rd March - the cost is £15 if you have an Auckland Project Annual Pass or £24.50 if you don't. It should be an interesting day.

Fashion Show - St John's sixth form students are holding a charity fashion show raising money for Cancer research. They would like as many people as possible from the St John's community to come and watch the show on **Friday 8th March at 6:30 - 8:30**, the price is £5 a ticket including a meal. If you would like to attend, you can purchase a ticket at main reception with cash or email stjohns.bhccet.org.uk and reserve your seat and pay on the night.

The Northern Cross for February is on sale today. £1.50. What a bargain!

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

LOUDfence - Is an organisation to support those who have suffered abuse and to safeguard the vulnerable. Together with the Diocese of Newcastle, our diocesan family is privileged to be hosting a LOUDfence at St. Marys' Cathedral and at Newcastle Cathedral. It will begin at the 11.30 Sunday Mass on the 3rd March at St. Mary's Cathedral and end with a Service of the Word at Newcastle Cathedral on the 6th March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to these liturgies and to visit both Cathedrals during the days to offer their prayers and support for all who have suffered abuse within church communities and all contexts. We are invited to leave prayers and messages together with provided items like the prayer ribbons presented to Bishop Stephen at his Installation Mass, which are still tied to his Bishop's Chair. People can leave their prayers and messages within or outside of the Cathedrals, recognising some people would rather not enter a place of worship. There will be

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*

Please pray for

**LENA READER
(78)
who has died.**

May she rest in peace



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18	Ps 115	Romans 8: 31-34	Mark 9: 2-10
Mon	Daniel 9: 4-10	Ps 78	Luke 6: 36-38	
Tues	Isaiah 1: 10, 16-20	Ps 49	Matthew 23: 1-12	
Wed	Jeremiah 18: 18-20	Ps 30	Matthew 20: 17-28	
Thurs	Jeremiah 17: 5-10	Ps 1	Luke 16: 19-31	
Fri	Philippians 3: 8-14	Ps 1	Matthew 5: 13-16	
Sat	Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20	Ps 102	Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32	
Sun	Exodus 20: 1-17	Ps 18	1 Corinthians 1: 22-25	John 2: 13-25

people available for pastoral accompaniment if that is requested. As a diocesan family we pray for all who have suffered abuse and recognise our shared duty to safeguard the vulnerable.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, pasta sauce, jam, small tins of meat and more 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.

The newly built store room for the foodbank at Woodhouse Close Church Centre (our distribution point) was formally opened this week and has been rightly named the David Fleming room in memory of the sterling work Dave did to get the project started.

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.

Saving food from Landfill - The Bread and Butter thing (charity). Go on their website and it will explain about being a member. It's free to join. It isn't about benefits, it's about saving food wastage. Anyone can join. 3 bags of food for £8.50.

Big Chef Little Chef - run by volunteers, again it's about saving food from landfill. The Community Hub, LCBC, 11 Selby Close, Bishop Auckland DL14 9ED opens Monday to Thursday. Telephone 07507 666805 for more information.

St Mary's church cleaning - Tuesday February 27 after morning Mass (Group 3). If you would like to join our church cleaning group - please have a word - we always need more people.

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 24 February	No morning Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i>
Sunday 25 February <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Mark Docherty</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Private Intention</i>
Monday 26 February	No Mass 10.00 am <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i>
Tuesday 27 February	No Mass
Wednesday 28 February	No Mass
Thursday 29 February	10.00 am Mass: <i>Antony Chu Van Xuan & Cecilia Pham Thi Hong</i>
Friday 1 March	8.15 Mass in St John's School Chapel 10.00 am Mass: <i>Patrick and Cecilia Jordan</i> 6.30 pm <i>Stations of the Cross at St Helen's Church</i>
Saturday 2 March	10.00 am Mass: <i>Fr John Gibbons</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i>
Sunday 3 March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Ian Lloyd</i>

Quote:

"Life is six to four against"
- **Damon Runyan (American author) 1880-1946**

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

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To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube **25 February, 2024**

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

*Mary, Our Lady of Kiev, Mother of God,
we ask you to intercede for the people of Ukraine,
for their government,
and all who suffer as a result of war.*

*Be with them as you stood beside your Son,
suffering on the Cross at Calvary.
Give them strength and courage
through faith, hope and justice.*

*May we, in our turn,
support them through prayer and generosity
that human lives may be saved,
that the injured may be healed,
that the dead may be at peace,
that there will be peace after war.*

Amen



Confession Times
St Mary's

Saturdays at
10.45-11.30
and by request.