

Thank you To all who were able to attend our Christian Unity service at St Anne's church last Sunday.

Jubilee 2025: In 2025 we are celebrating the 'Jubilee Year' or 'Holy Year'. With its Old Testament roots it is a special time of debt cancellation, forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The theme of our Jubilee Year is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Documents from Rome are usually for world-wide encouragement and so the original texts are issued in Latin. The Papal document announcing the Jubilee is entitled 'Spes non confundit' ('*Hope does not disappoint*'). This encouraging document urges us to look for, and be, signs of hope in the world around us and to work for peace and justice at home and across our world. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

'Northern Catholic Calendar' 2025 : Sadly, there are a few mistakes in our parish entry but this book offers **almost** up-to-date information about parishes, schools, convents and clergy across our diocese. There are still a few copies available at £3.50

Finding out more: One or two people who are not Catholic have recently asked the possibility of finding out a bit more about what Catholics believe. I'm just wondering if anyone else might be interested. – DC

Bible Alive: February copies of Bible Alive are now available at the back of church for those on the list. Price £1.50.

Foodbank: Thank you for what you feel able to bring in for our food bank, week after week. If you are able to bring anything at all, it is always much appreciated. As the weather gets cooler it really can be a choice between food or heating. **This week we are again hoping for coffee, tinned veg and small tins of meat.**

St Mary's Piety Shop: 'Not an onerous task' and 'no experience is necessary' always sounds encouraging for a little job! Might you be willing to look after the piety shop at St Mary's? If you have any questions at all, please speak to Zita White after 11am Mass.

Northern Cross: Next weekend we hope to have the February edition of 'The Northern Cross' available at the back of church.

Spirituality Group : Apologies! We need to change the date of the next meeting. We are now looking at *Wednesday, 5th February* 5.00pm at St Mary's.

Please pray for the health of:

*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
Mary Curry
Adam Quarmby
Eileen Kelly
John Green
Lynette Stott
Brenda Dawes
Jayne Littlefair*

*Please pray for
MARY MAIN
BRIAN CAMPBELL and
LUCILLE SENADHIRA
who have died.
May they rest in peace*



Baby pram/pushchair: we recently had an 'InfaBaby 3 in 1' travel system (child's buggy) left in the meeting room at St Mary's. If this is yours could you please come and collect it or let us know if we can give it to a good home. It comes as a car seat and cosy toes, pram, pushchair. Please see Fr Coxon for details.

Contact details : Many thanks to all who have filled in those mauve coloured sheets seeking contact details of all our parishioners. Some people may, for a variety of reasons, not want to provide information but its is simply to help me build up an address book of our parish to enable me to know where people are living. There are more sheets available at the back of the church if you are happy to complete one. Thank you. - David Coxon

Holy Communion to the sick : SVP members have kindly let me know the housebound parishioners that they visit. I wonder if Holy Communion ministers might let me know details of those to whom they take the sacrament? Names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and how frequently they visit with Holy Communion. Thank you. - DC

Next weekend : February 2nd is the date when we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem. This refers to the occasion when Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus, for the whole of his life, to the service of God. February 2nd falls on a Sunday this year so, instead of the fourth Sunday of the Year, we will next week celebrate the feast of the Presentation. Some children and parents from St Wilfrid's school will join us for our 11.00am Family Mass next Sunday.

Jane Hardy : The family of Jane Hardy asked that donations given at her funeral service might be offered to our parish. We thank everyone for contributions totalling £322.

LOUDfence : St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle is hosting a LOUDfence Workshop on Saturday 1st February at 10am. LOUDfence is a Catholic movement which shares practical ways to acknowledge harm caused by abuse in any setting, through arts and crafts. All objects made in the LOUDfence workshop will form part of the liturgy in the Diocesan LOUDfence on 1st May in Alnwick. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch with them. Light refreshments will be provided. Please bring paper, light fabric, ribbon and small objects which remind you of comforting memories, particularly in childhood.

SVP200 Club January winning numbers 145 & 96. We have a winner at St. Mary's this month.

Parish keys : Do you have any keys to get in to our churches or meeting room? Do you still need a key? Occasionally, people get keys then still have them when the no longer need them! For insurance purposes we need to know all key-holders.

Please pray for Mary Main who died on Christmas Day. Sadly, there can be a considerable delay between death and funeral at present. Mary's funeral will be on Wednesday, 29 January Her brother, Arthur Morris, usually joins us for our Vigil mass at St Mary's. Then, Brian Campbell died on 9 January and his funeral service is to be at St Wilfrid's church at 10.15am on Tuesday, 4th February. Lucille Senadhira died on Tuesday evening (21 January). We don't yet have details about Lucille's funeral service but we ask your prayer for each of these people, and for their families in their loss.

This week

Services & meetings

Saturday 25 January	10.00am mass : <i>Agnes & Michael Coleman</i> 5.30pm mass : <i>Theresa Watson</i>
Sunday, 26 January 3rd Sunday of the Year 'Sunday of the Word of God'	9.30am mass at St Wilfrid's : <i>Matthew Hampton</i> 11.00am mass at St Mary's : <i>For everyone in our parish.</i>
Monday 27 January <i>St Angela Merici</i>	No Mass today 10.00 am: <i>Holy Communion Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 1.00pm: <i>Craft Club in St Mary's meeting room</i>
Tuesday 28 January <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	10.00am Mass : <i>For those who suffer from addictive illnesses.</i>
Wednesday 29 January	10.00am Mass (at St Wilfrid's) : <i>Holy Souls</i>
Thursday 30 January	10.00am mass : <i>For health of Gemma Murray</i>
Friday 31 January <i>St John Bosco</i>	8.15am : <i>Mass in St John's School chapel</i>
Saturday 1 February	10.00am mass : <i>Special intention (MR)</i> 5.30pm mass : <i>For everyone in our parish.</i>
Sunday, 2 February Feast of the Presentation of the Lord	9.30am mass at St Wilfrid's : <i>Wilf Teesdale</i> 11.00am mass at St Mary's : <i>Holy Souls ;</i> <i>also a Family Mass for families of St Wilfrid's school.</i>

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 **26 January 2025**

3rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

'Sunday of the Word of God'

We can chatter away with friends all day long. Talking about things which, in the scheme of things, are pretty inconsequential. But then there are times when words can be really powerful. The sick relative who turns to us and quietly says 'I'm frightened'. The one who looks you in the eye and says 'I love you'. The person you know you have hurt who says 'I forgive you'. Very powerful words. Words can carry profound messages.

We conclude our Scripture readings at mass by saying 'The Word of the Lord'. But the readings are not simply strings of words. 'The Word' seeks to convey a message and interestingly, it may not be the same message for each person listening. God's message is addressed to the individual, according to what may be going on in our own individual lives. Perhaps, then, we need to listen to the Word - really listen. What might the Lord be wanting to say to me today, to you?

Today's first reading and also the gospel have groups of people listening attentively to God's Word. We too are here today, listening. Listening to God's Word. Amidst the words being read from the lectern to communicate God's Word, what, perhaps, could be some message of hope for you today? It may be some phrase, or even a single word, which jumps out at you. This may be God's Word for you, today.

David Coxon

Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and the Diocese's policies and procedures at all times.

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are
 Jeannie Hardy for St Mary's and Fiona Ottewell for St Wilfrid's or alternatively the Diocesan Safe-

Confession Times

St Mary's

Saturdays at 10.30-11.00 and by request.

St Wilfrid's

before Sunday Mass