

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 25 September	No morning Mass 10am - 2 pm - Creation Prayer and Reflection at St Mary's
Sunday 26 September <i>26th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Special Intention (B)</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Private Intention</i>
Monday 27 September <i>St Vincent de Paul</i>	No Mass 10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 11 am - 1.00 St Mary's open for private prayer
Tuesday 28 September	No Mass
Wednesday 29 September <i>SS MICHAEL GABRIEL & RAPHAEL Archangels</i>	No Mass
Thursday 30 September <i>St Jerome</i>	No Mass
Friday 1 October <i>St Teresa of Lisieux</i>	No Mass CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY
Saturday 2 October <i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>	10am Mass: <i>Mike Tobin</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Marjorie Lundrigan</i>
Sunday 3 October <i>27th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the Parish</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Ann and Joe Tindall</i>

Quote:

“Civilisation is a race between education and catastrophe”.
- H. G. Wells

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: (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 **26 September 2021**

TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY of the YEAR

Our Common Home

The challenges we face on Earth are not theoretical, they are all too real and they are mostly being created by people. In 2009, the BBC's *Horizon* series aired an episode called *How Many People Can Live on Planet Earth?* There are now 7.2 billion people on Earth. That's nearly twice as many as in 1970, and we're heading for nine billion by the middle of the century and twelve billion by the end of it. We all have the same basic needs for clean air, water, food, and fuel for the lives we lead. So how many people can the Earth sustain?

The episode consulted some of the world's leading experts on population, water, food production, and energy. They concluded that if everyone on Earth consumed at the same rate as the average person in India, the Earth could sustain a maximum population of fifteen billion. On that basis, we are halfway there. The trouble is that we don't all consume at that rate. If everyone consumed at the same rate as the average person in North America we're told, the planet could sustain a maximum population of 1.5 billion. We are five times past that already.

So, if everyone wanted to consume as we do in North America, and it seems they do, by the middle of the century we would need five more planets to make that feasible.

The Earth has been around for almost five billion years, and it has another five billion years to run before it crashes into the sun. As far as we know, modern human beings like us emerged less than two hundred thousand years ago. If you imagine the whole history of the Earth as one year, we showed up at less than one minute to midnight on December 31. The Earth may well conclude that it tried humanity and is not impressed.

- **Ken Robinson, education specialist**

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.

Following government advice, and that from our Bishops, 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.

Sign the Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition - Please join the Caring for our Common Home Group in signing the Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition so that the political leaders participating in COP15 and COP26, take action for all members of creation this year.

We have an opportunity like no other. At the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in October, world leaders can set meaningful targets to protect creation. In November, at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), countries will announce their plans to meet the goals of the Paris agreement. Ahead of those meetings, it is our responsibility as Catholics to lift up the voices of the most vulnerable and advocate on their behalf. We must act now.

Please join us and take action. Click here: <https://thecatholicpetition.org/?source=email&>

Fiona Ottewell will also be at the back of church, at the three weekend services over the two weekends, with hard copies of the petition for those who haven't got easy access to the internet!

Caring for our Common Home - on Sunday 10th October, starting from St Wilfrid's at 2 pm, Melvyn will lead a Creation Walk to help us connect with nature and appreciate what we have all over again. Refreshments at St Wilfrid's afterwards. Make a note of the dates please folks. Thanks.

Latest news on COVID arrangements - We've received news from the Bishop that we maintain the practice of sanitising on entering and leaving church and cleaning the church after use. Masks should continue to be worn.

We can now operate at one metre distance rather than two, which gives us more space to accommodate some extra people in our church buildings. We can also now use books and will make Parish Mass Books available at St Wilfrid's and at St Mary's we'll continue to use the overhead screen for the Mass texts. If attending at St Mary's you need a book, please ask. Thank you.

Sunday Mass obligation - Our Bishops intend to restore the Sunday Mass obligation from this coming Advent - the end of November onwards.

Many have got out of our Sunday (or Saturday vigil) Mass habit, and, sadly many no longer give it the seriousness which it has never lost. To give God an hour or so of worship once a week is not asking much for most people and should be considered as a basic requirement.

Streaming of Masses has been a great help for many and will

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford
Michael Dowson
Mrs Aitken
Val Mundell
Joan Lightfoot
Monica Fuller
Michael Nicholson
Adam Hudspeth
Christopher Browne
Tyler Quinn
Maureen Nicholson
Norah Hutchinson
Robin Davis
Angela Graham
Stephen Gregory
Frank Ridley
Jacob Thomas
Charlotte Thomas
Teresa Brown
Joan Hannon
Christina Marsh
Kathy Lloyd
Roman Banks
Jane Hardy (Kirby)
Margaret Pattenden*

Please pray for

**JOHN Wm DAVISON (94) and
JOHN ROBSON (72)
who have died.**

May they rest in peace.



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Numbers 11: 25-29	Ps 18	James 5: 1-6	Mark 9: 38-43,45,47-48
Mon	Zechariah 8: 1-8	Ps 101	Luke 9: 46-50	
Tues	Zechariah 8: 20-23	Ps 86	Luke 9: 51-56	
Wed	Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14	Ps 137	John 1: 47-51	
Thurs	Nehemiah 8: 1-12	Ps 18	Luke 10: 1-12	
Fri	Baruch 1: 15-22	Ps 78	Luke 10: 13-16	
Sat	Baruch 4: 5-12, 27-29	Ps 68	Matthew 18: 1-5, 10	
Sun	Genesis 2: 18-24	Ps 127	Hebrews 2: 9-11	Mark 10: 2-16

continue, but it's no substitute for expressing Communion with the Lord and communion with the living community of the Church and the parish.

I mention the restart of the obligation now so that we can begin to prepare for attending Mass again. Vaccinations have helped greatly but have not dismissed the possibility of infection. The layout of our churches may change again and we'll let you know. I'll give you more information when we have it. In the meantime, let's give thought to what Communion and community means as we prepare carefully to celebrate more together again - as safely as possible. Covid has affected us all and we'll have to live with it wisely and carefully from here onwards. I'll keep you posted.

Foodbank - Your help is urgently needed. We'd love you to help with: **tinned rice pudding, long life milk, shampoo, jam, small tins of meat and toothpaste. No tinned beans, spaghetti or dried pasta required at this time.** Food can still be handed in at St Mary's and St Wilfrid's. As always, money to help with gas and electricity need is a godsend. The ending of furlough and the end of the £20 addition to Universal Credit will cause severe problems. Enormous thanks. Please help us.

Parish finances - Please remember to use your green envelopes, not forgetting the white second collection envelope also. The envelopes are important as it enables us to identify offerings that are Gift Aided. The tax recovered from HMRC is an important amount which requires us to use the envelopes as part of our recording systems. No envelope, no gift aid reclaimed.

Payment of Offerings by Bank Transfer - Any parishioner who wishes to stop paying their offerings in cash, can arrange to pay direct from their bank account into the church account. See copies in the plastic box on the presbytery doorstep. Thank you.

Used stamps - can be brought to church for helping the work of the Little Sisters of the poor. Thanks.

Marie Curie provide brilliant care and support. They are hosting an Open Garden and Soup and a Bun event to raise funds. Come to Hillside Cottage at Low Etherley on Sunday 10 October, 12 noon to 3pm. Adults £5 and children £1. Look out for signs on the main road. It's down the lane opposite No. 63. Let's see how we can help. Thank you.