

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 26 March</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Newsam Finley</i> <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>Margery Harrop</i>
<b>Sunday 27 March</b> <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>Holy Souls</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>Private Intention</i>
<b>Monday 28 March</b>	<b>No Mass</b> <b>10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</b> <b>11.00 am - 1 pm St Mary's open for private prayer</b> <b>2.00 pm Holy Hour at St Wilfrid's</b>
<b>Tuesday 29 March</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Ian Lloyd</i>
<b>Wednesday 30 March</b>	<b>7.00pm Mass with Bishop Robert at St Mary's</b>
<b>Thursday 31 March</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Gemma Murray's recovery</i>
<b>Friday 1 April</b>	<b>8.15 am Mass in St John's School Chapel</b> <b>9.30 am Mass:</b> <i>Julie Ann Banks</i> <b>6.30 pm Stations of the Cross at St Helen's church</b>
<b>Saturday 2 April</b>	<b>9.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Fr Peter Smith</i> <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>People of the parish</i>
<b>Sunday 3 April</b> <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>Arthur Oldfield and Wilfred Teesdale</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>World Peace</i> <b>2.00 pm CAFOD Walk for Hunger - Start from St Wilfrid's</b>

## Quote:

*"Truth has no special time of its own. It's hour is NOW - always and indeed then most truly when it seems most unsuitable to actual circumstances".*

**- Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) Doctor & theologian**

## 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 [27 March 2022](#)

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

## Lent is not for the faint-hearted

Lent is not for the faint-hearted. It demands that we, like Thomas, put our hand into the side of the crucified Christ.

Lent is a journey towards the cross, a journey of enlightenment: from wilderness to feast, from desert to oasis. It's an attempt to identify with the powerless and the suffering in the world.

Lent is not tidy. The days grow longer, the ground thaws, there's mud and dirt everywhere and the windows need cleaning.

Lent is a journey. So at the end of Lent we should expect to find ourselves somewhere different from where we started.

Lent can be an opportunity to explore what is the nature of the promised Kingdom of God on earth that we long for; a time to discern how we are called to work for it.

No, Lent is not for the faint-hearted.

**- Kate McIlhagga**

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.

**A warm welcome to Bishop Seamus this Sunday.**

**Visit of Bishop Robert** - Our Bishop has been hampered by Covid from visiting the parishes of the diocese. He is coming here on Wednesday and we'll have Mass with him in the evening in St Mary's at 7pm. I hope many people will be able to come and join us for the Mass and a cuppa afterwards. Thanks.

**COVID rules** - From today there will be 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. Over the last 3 weekends you have donated £3978 via CAFOD. Thank you big time!

**Lent Lunches** are on again this year. The dates are all Wednesdays and the time is 12.00 noon. Here are the details:

**30 March: St Anne's Church, 13 April: BA Methodist Church.** All are welcome.

**Daily Lenten reflections** - Can be found in Lent Extra and on the diocesan website at <https://diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/liturgy-prayer/#seasonal>

**CAFOD's Lent Walk** - You may recall that last year - when many folks were doing daily walks during Covid's more restricted times, CAFOD had a Walk for Water appeal. As a parish we raised over £4000 through individuals being sponsored for their walks. This year CAFOD have asked for a Walk Against Hunger appeal. Can we support this please for some of the most deprived children and families in the world? I know times are getting difficult locally. Let's see what we can do. Why not walk regularly with family or friends? Sponsor forms available today.

**The Foodbank** - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. The following items are needed this week, **cereal (no porridge) and long life milk and 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

**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*
- 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 PAUL BROWN (35) who has died. May he rest in peace.**



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

Sun	Joshua 5: 9-12	Ps 33	2 Corinthians 5: 17-21	Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
Mon	Isaiah 65: 17-21	Ps 29	John 4: 43-54	
Tues	Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12	Ps 45	John 5: 1-3, 5-16	
Wed	Isaiah 49: 8-15	Ps 144	John 5: 17-30	
Thurs	Exodus 32: 7-14	Ps 105	John 5: 31-47	
Fri	Wisdom 2: 1, 12-22	Ps 33	John 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30	
Sat	Jeremiah 11: 18-20	Ps 7	John 7: 40-52	
Sun	Isaiah 43: 16-21	Ps 125	Philippians 3: 8-14	John 8: 1-11

already urgent. Your help is invaluable. No one should be living in a house with no heating. Thank you..

**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.

**Walk on Sunday 3 April** - We are having an outdoor walk from St Wilfrid's church on Sunday 3rd April. Organised by Care of Our Common Home group. Everyone is welcome and people should meet outside the church meeting room before 2pm. The walk will last approximately one and a half hours. Refreshments will be served afterwards in St Wilfrid's.

**St Mary's Piety Shop** - Is now open. Please pop in and take a look. If we can help you with something, please do ask.

**Passover Meal** - We will be gathering for the Passover Meal on **Thursday April 7 at 7 pm at St Wilfrid's**. Once again this will give us the opportunity of celebrating our Jewish roots as we give thanks for the way God has led his people to freedom and salvation. Because COVID has not gone away, we need to give one another a bit more space, and so we cannot accommodate as many people as in the past. Tickets are now available at St Wilfrid's or from Michael Broadbent (01388 488569) - donation of £6 is asked to cover the cost of the meal.

**Bishop Auckland Passion Play – Good Friday – 15th April**

Thank you for your interest in contributing to our outdoor production of the Easter story in Bishop Auckland town centre – at **12 noon and 3pm on Good Friday**. If you have already volunteered but not yet been contacted by one of the **'Don't Panic – All will be Revealed'** team, then please come along to No. 42 Market Place, Bishop Auckland, any Saturday from 10am if you are interested in being part of acting or crowd, or 11.30am if you can offer to help with other roles, such as sewing costumes, making props, helping backstage or being a steward on the day.

Please contact Fiona Ewing (email: [fiona@conkertree.co.uk](mailto:fiona@conkertree.co.uk)), or Linda Gabriele (phone: 07841 681689) or Catherine Donovan on 07790352023 for further info. See website for more information: [passionplaybishopauckland.org/](http://passionplaybishopauckland.org/)

Tickets are now available to reserve through the website and Father Dennis has some or add your name to a list at the back of church if you can't reserve tickets online, and we'll see if we can help.