

**Calling all Grandparents** - I mentioned a couple of weeks ago that we could have a Service of Blessing for Grandparents and asked for a few grandparents who would meet with me to talk about what would be useful in such a Service. I had only one volunteer and am hoping for 2-3 others. This could be an enjoyable celebration and so, if you'd be interested please do have a word. Thanks.

**Lent** - is coming up fast. Ash Wednesday is 14th February this year. In our commercial world St Valentine's Day will be more important to some! But it makes sense to begin thinking now about how you'd like to spend the 6 weeks or so of Lent. Talk to yourself (or others) about whether you routinely do the same thing each Lent and quiz yourself (maybe to share with others) about what it means to you and what you get from it. It needs to involve prayers. Why not also consider coming to weekday Mass if you can? It's an excellent way of learning more about Mass and what God may be doing in your life. It's not too early to start thinking. Thanks.

**Pope Francis** recognises 2025 as a year of Jubilee and asks that 2024 be a Year of Prayer leading up to it. Various invitations are under way to provide and suggest ways and routines of praying and there will be others coming from the diocese. You may be interested in accessing an online site from the Jesuits which gives you a prayer time each day. It's called Pray As You Go, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but particularly while travelling to and from work, study etc. A new prayer session is produced every day of the working week and one for the weekend. It is not a 'Thought for the Day', a sermon or a bible study, but rather a framework for your own prayer. Lasting 10-13 minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflections. Download the Pray As You Go app.

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

**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.

**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*

**Please pray for**

**CATHLEEN RITSON (84)  
and  
LENA FLETCHER (69)**

**who have died.  
May they rest in  
peace.**



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

Sun	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20	Ps 94	1 Corinthians 7: 32-35	Mark 1:21-28
Mon	2 Samuel 15: 13-14, 16: 5-13	Ps 3	Mark 5: 1-20	
Tues	2 Samuel 18:9-10, 24-25, 30-19:3	Ps 85	Mark 5: 21-43	
Wed	2 Samuel 24: 2, 9-17	Ps 31	Mark 6: 1-6	
Thurs	1 Kings 2: 1-4, 10-12	Chronicles 29: 10-12	Mark 6: 7-13	
Fri	Malachi 3: 1-4	Ps 23	Hebrews 2: 14-18	Luke 2 22-40
Sat	1 Kings 3: 4-13	Ps 118	Mark 6: 30-34	
Sun	Job 7: 1-4, 6-7	Ps 146	1 Corinthians 9: 6-19, 22-23	Mark 1:29-39

**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.

**Dates for your diary** - Firstly Big Garden Birdwatch, this weekend 26th - 28th January. Please consider taking part in this important annual survey. Information is provided at the back of each church in the parish. Secondly, Cafod have now advertised a Big Lent Walk. Individuals or groups can undertake 200km (5km per day over 40 days) and raise sponsor money for Cafod, and thirdly there will be a Bulb planting and coffee morning, this is planned for Saturday 9th March. More info to follow.

**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 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!

**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](mailto:vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk)

**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, its about saving food wastage. Anyone can join. 3 bags of food for £8.50.

**Big Chef Little Chef** - run by volunteers, again its 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.

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 27 January</b>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Jim McClay</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
<b>Sunday 28 January</b> <i>4th Sunday of the Year</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Eileen Stockton</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Maureen and John Nicholson</i>
<b>Monday 29 January</b>	No Mass 10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 1.00 pm: Craft Group at St Mary's
<b>Tuesday 30 January</b>	10.00 am Mass: <i>For the sick</i> 12.45 pm Funeral Service @ St Mary's for LENA FLETCHER
<b>Wednesday 31 January</b> <i>St John Bosco</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Intentions of Tony Murphy</i>
<b>Thursday 1 February</b>	10.00 am Mass in St Wilfrid's School 5.30 pm Parish Council Meeting
<b>Friday 2 February</b> <i>PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</i>	8.15 am Mass in St John's School Chapel 10.00 am Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Saturday 3 February</b> <i>St Blaise</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Audrey Hartley</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
<b>Sunday 4 February</b> <i>5th Sunday of the Year</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Special Intentions</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Private Intention</i>

**Quote:**

*"Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret".  
- Ambrose Bierce*

## The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle  
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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 **28 January, 2024**

# 4th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### A MUM'S LIFE (continued)

Do you realise that could kill someone?  
Hurry up  
Hurry up. Everyone's waiting.  
I'll count to ten and then we're going without you.  
Did you go to the bathroom?  
If you don't go, you're not going.  
I mean it.  
Why didn't you go before you left?  
Can you hold it?  
What's going on back there?  
Stop it.  
I said, Stop it!  
I don't want to hear about it.  
Stop it or I'm taking you home right now.  
That's it. We're going home.  
Give me a kiss.  
I need a hug.  
Make your bed.  
Clean up your room.  
Set the table.  
I need you to set the table!  
Don't tell me it's not your turn.  
Please move your chair into the table.  
Sit up.  
Just try a little. You don't have to eat the whole thing

**(To be continued)**



### Confession Times

St Mary's

**Saturdays at  
10.45-11.30  
and by request.**