

**Bishop Stephen's letter** - two weeks ago we had a letter from Bishop Stephen Wright read out at all of our churches. He spoke about how, in the past, we may have been tempted to see the Earth as an object to be exploited. Increasingly, we are trying to recognise the Earth as a sacred gift from the creator. The Earth does not belong to us, rather, we belong to the Earth. While trying to see the big picture, we try at local level to make our small contributions to the bigger picture in trying to feed those who are poor not wasting energy or water, and increasing nature in our grounds. Thank you for all that you are trying to do in our own locality.

**Masses this week** - to our vigil Mass we welcome Fr Paul Tully and to our Sunday morning Masses we welcome Fr Gordon Ryan. I think most people already know these priests. Welcome to both!

**Mass on Thursday** - this Thursday (3 October) we won't have a Mass in church. Instead we will have a Mass in St Wilfrid's Primary School at 10.00 am.

**Family Mass** - this Sunday (6 October), children and parents from St Wilfrid's Primary School will be joining us at 11 am for a family Mass in St Mary's church. Everyone is very welcome.

**St John's Secondary School** - on Friday morning during term time we usually have a Mass at St John's School at 8.15 am. This is for staff, but also for any parishioners who might like to attend. You may wish to park in the school's main (staff) car park and then, inside the door, sign in at the reception desk. The school chapel is nearby. However, having said this, there will not be a Mass in school this coming Friday (20th) or on Friday 27th September. All welcome on 4th October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

**Foodbank** - a huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, tea and tinned potatoes. 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.

**Quiz** - the next quiz will take place on **Thursday 3rd October at 7pm** in St Mary's meeting room. All are very welcome.

**Laudato Si** - A big THANK YOU to everyone who completed our annual environmental survey. We had a good response this year. Thank you to Tom Bowman who has again collated the results and put them into a display available in both churches. If anyone has any comments they would like to give us, we would be very happy to receive alongside any suggestions for ways we can help with care of our environment.

Care of Creation will be celebrated in September and we are hoping to have a parish event of displays. Anyone interested would be most welcome to get involved, more information to follow.

**SVP Membership** - At our last meeting, our long serving member Marion Bartley has retired from St Mary conference after more than 30 years. We are all sorry to see her leave but most grateful for her help over these years visiting and helping those in need. We thank her for her great contribution over these years to our community. If any of our parishioners would like to see what we do in the SVP, just have a word with one of our members. As the Lord said, "The harvest is rich but the labourers are few". If we don't have the members we can't do the work.

**SVP Summer Raffle** - the Summer Raffle tickets that were on sale recently have all been sold. The stubs and funds raised sent to the Raffle Team and the prizes will be drawn later in the month. Many thanks to all who purchased tickets and

**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*
- Jane Hardy (Kirby)*
- Margaret Pattenden*
- Mary Curry*
- Adam Quarmby*
- Eileen Kelly*
- John Green*
- Lynette Stott*
- Mary Oldfield*



**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	Job 1: 6-22	Ps 16	Luke 9: 46-50	
Tues	Job 3: 1-3, 11-17, 20-23	Ps 87	Luke 9: 51-56	
Wed	Exodus 23: 20-23	Ps 90	Matthew 18: 1-5, 10	
Thurs	Job 19: 21-27	Ps 26	Luke 10: 1-12	
Fri	Job 38: 1, 12-21, 40: 3-5	Ps 138	Luke 10: 13-16	
Sat	Job 42: 1-3, 5-6, 12-16	Ps 118	Luke 10: 17-24	
Sun	Genesis 2: 18-24	Ps 127	Hebrews 2: 9-11	Mark 10: 2-16

also to the people who helped sell the tickets at both churches. We can look forward to the prizes list some time later. It would be nice if we managed to pick up a winner. We can always hope.

**St Wilfrid's Social Evening - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**, the eve of St Wilfrid's Day - a chance to get together with quizzes, bingo and a raffle. Tickets (still only £1!) available at the back of each church. Come and join the fun! Offers of food and raffle prizes will be very welcome.

**FLAME 2025** - Flame 2025 takes place on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March**. The theme is '**UNSTOPPABLE. FAN THE FLAME OF HOPE**'. It is open to anyone from school year 9 to University/young adult age. Under 18s must be part of an organised group. Please talk with your school chaplain, catechist or parish priest if you would like to come along. Two years ago, over 700 young people from our Diocese travelled to Wembley Arena for this national Catholic youth gathering. Once again YMT is hoping to take a large number of young people (up to 1,000 including accompanying adults). **COST: £45** per person (includes return rail travel, Wembley ticket and London travel card). The cost has been generously subsidised by Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott Donnelly. For further information contact [mary.hughes@ymt.org](mailto:mary.hughes@ymt.org)

**Life in the Spirit Seminars** - An introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit, an opportunity for people to find out more about that life, and to be helped in taking the first steps of a new relationship with the Lord. To be held at St Mary's, Newton Aycliffe - **please see poster at the back of churches**. It is not necessary to book onto these sessions in advance, although it would be helpful in managing the numbers. Refreshments will be served from 6.30 - 7.00 pm before the start of the seminar each Monday evening. Please book your place via <https://bit.ly/CDSLifelnTheSpirit> or scan the QR code on the poster.

**Tea/coffee** - remember we have tea and coffee after 9.30am Mass each Sunday at St. Wilfrid's. All are very welcome.

**First Steps 2024 - Exploring the Catholic Faith** - are you someone, or do you know someone, who is wondering about their relationship with God and not sure where to start? **Welcome to First Steps!** Join Deacon Shaun and the First Steps team on a journey this autumn and see if the Catholic Church can help your relationship grow. This may be the right path for you, and it may even help you take the next steps towards coming into the Church. We gather weekly online via Zoom and invite you to come along to find out more. This programme is for people new to the faith and to anyone accompanying them on their journey in faith. Starts on Wednesday 2 October at 7pm for 8 weeks. (First Steps is not an RCIA programme, but we can offer guidance to anyone wishing to continue their journey in faith.) You can register here: <https://bit.ly/DHNFIRSTSteps>.

**Bible Alive** - October copies of Bible Alive are available now to those on the list. Price £1.50.

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 28 September</b>	<b>No Mass</b> <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>For those coping with addiction and healing</i>
<b>Sunday 29 September</b> <i>26th Sunday of the Year</i>	<b>09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>People of the parish</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>Bridie Clinton</i>
<b>Monday 30 September</b>	<b>No Mass today</b> <b>10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</b> <b>1.00 pm Craft Club at St Mary's</b>
<b>Tuesday 1 October</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Agnes and Michael Coleman</i> <b>11.15 am Requiem Mass at St Mary's for Fallon Ada Thexton</b>
<b>Wednesday 2 October</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Thursday 3 October</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>In St Wilfrid's School - all parishioners welcome</i>
<b>Friday 4 October</b>	<b>8.15 am Mass:</b> <i>In St John's School - all parishioners welcome</i>
<b>Saturday 5 October</b>	<b>No Mass</b> <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>Paul Maria Chu Sinh</i>
<b>Sunday 6 October</b> <i>27th Sunday of the Year</i>	<b>09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>Holy Souls</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>Family Mass with 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 **29 September 2024**

## 26th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### Not one of us!

*It's very easy to become clannish, to feel comfortable only with people like ourselves. So, if people speak with a different accent, wear different sorts of clothes to us, support a different football club or political party to us, then we can begin to feel out of our comfort zone.*

*It is this that creates the 'them' and 'us' situation. It is this too which, when taken further, can lead to discrimination and, in some instances such as a few weeks ago, riots. 'Them and Us'. And this is what we find in today's scripture readings. In today's first reading we have seventy of the Jewish Elders with Moses, and upon them the Spirit of the Lord came to rest. But two people, Eldad and Medad, were not with the seventy Elders and yet they too received the Spirit. Because they didn't belong to the main group, the Elders wanted to prevent them from prophesying.*

*Then in today's Gospel, John tells Jesus that someone not of their group is casting out devils in Jesus' name, and should John stop him? 'Them and Us'.*

*This can come to exist so easily in our attitudes towards anyone who is different. As Jesus says "Anyone who is not against us is for us".*

**David Coxon**



#### Confession Times

**St Mary's**

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

**St Wilfrid's**

**before Sunday Mass**