

Thank you to everyone who organised and supported our Advent liturgies and to all who prepared our churches in any way for our Christmas masses. On a personal level, I want to thank you all for the very warm welcome extended to me since my arrival in the parish in September, and a further thank you to all who were kind enough to give me cards, and even gifts, this Christmas. All of this is much appreciated. Thank you. - David Coxon

Penitential Rite : We often use the 'Lord, have mercy/ Christ have mercy/ Lord, have mercy' option of the Penitential Rite at the beginning of mass. Might we try Option B for a few weeks until we get to know it?

PRIEST : Have mercy on us, O Lord.

PEOPLE : **For we have sinned against you.**

PRIEST : Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

PEOPLE : **And grant us your salvation.** [page 8 in mass books]

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 hoping for tinned spaghetti, pasta sauce and hot dogs.** A big thank you!

Northern Cross: The January edition of the 'Northern Cross' will be available at the back of church next weekend at £1.50 with news from around the diocese.

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

Gift Aid : A parishioner who puts £5 on the plate each week can contribute an additional £65 to the parish if that parishioner signs a simple Gift Aid form. A GAD. All that is needed are a few pieces of info on one simple form AND of course the person must be paying tax. In this example £65 tax over the tax year, ie., £1.25 per week. In return, the parish gives you a nice shiny box of numbered envelopes, one per week, to put your donation in. No name on the envelope, just your unique number. We use the envelope to support the Gift Aid claim. If interested - talk to John Stockton (St Wilfrid) or Tony Murphy (St Mary).

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



Non-cash offerings : Did you know that more than 35 parishioners don't have to bother with cash to make their offerings to the parish. They sign up to pay (usually monthly) by bank transfer from their bank account to the parish account. A good system, saves a lot of cash handling. If interested see the usual suspects, John Stockton or Tony Murphy.

Christmas Memory Tree : There is a tree at the back of St Wilfrid's church if you should want to hang a note with the name of some loved one, or any other intention. Ask Linda Gabriele.

Several feasts : During the Christmas season we celebrate several feasts. Obviously, there is the 25 December (the birth of Jesus). But then, today, the feast of the Holy Family. Then, this Wednesday, New Year's day, we celebrate the feast of Mary, the Mother of God. Then, next week, the feast of the Epiphany. Finally, the Baptism of the Lord.

Two requests : 1. If you are wanting a mass intention for a particular day, perhaps you could let us know at least two or three weeks in advance, and in which church you want the mass. 2. If possible, could you let us know as soon as you can in the week if you want an item included in our parish bulletin. If items arrive when we are about to print then it often means we need to take out some other item so as to squeeze it in.

New Year's Eve (Tuesday) : 10.00am mass at St Wilfrid's. Let's end the year well!

New Year's Day (Wednesday) : 10.00am mass at St Mary's. Let's start the year well!!

Jubilee 2025: Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, and the theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". It will be a year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and reconciliation and we'll be opening the Jubilee Year in our Diocese with celebrations at our 2 Jubilee Hub Churches on Sunday 29th December. Bishop Stephen will be celebrating Mass and opening the Holy Door at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle at 11.30am and at St. Joseph's Hartlepool at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

Craft group : Next meeting in St. Mary's meeting room will be on Monday 6th January.

'Northern Catholic Calendar' 2025 : This book offers (almost) up-to-date information about parishes, schools, convents and clergy across our diocese. Available today at £3.50

The Christmas Season : Out there in the world, Christmas starts sometime in late November and the tree is thrown out, if not on Boxing Day, then certainly by 2 January! However, for Christians, the season of Christmas begins on 25 December and concludes on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord which, this year, will be on 12 January. That is when our cribs and church decorations are taken down. So, we Christians still have another two weeks' of partying!!

Epiphany : Next weekend we will be celebrating the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. This is when the three kings make their appearance in the Christmas story.

Advance notice : In 2025, Ash Wednesday will fall on 5 March, and Easter Sunday on 20 April.

This week

Services & meetings

Saturday 28 December <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	10.00am Mass : <i>Tony Crump, Mary McLeod & family</i> 5.30pm Vigil mass: <i>For everyone in our parish</i>
Sunday 29 December <i>Feast of the Holy Family (Year C)</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Stockton & Cruddace families</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>For grandchildren</i>
Monday 30 December	No Mass today 10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's
Tuesday 31 December	10.00am : St Wilfrid's: <i>For everyone in our parish</i>
Wednesday 1 January <i>Mary, the Mother of God</i>	10.00 am Mass: St Mary's: <i>For everyone in our parish</i>
Thursday 2 January <i>St Basil & St Gregory</i>	10.00am mass : <i>Jack Moran and Frank Hickey</i>
Friday 3 January	10.00 am mass : <i>Harrop family</i>
Saturday 4 January	<i>* No morning mass or confessions today.</i> 5.30pm mass : <i>Jane Hardy (Kirby): sick.</i>
Sunday, 5 January <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	9.30am mass at St Wilfrid's : <i>For everyone in our parish</i> 11.00am mass at St Mary's : <i>Tommy & Veronica Loye</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 December 2024**

FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY

The Holy Family

Here's a tip: on this feast of the Holy Family consisting of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, don't compare your own family to theirs. Why? Because you are setting yourselves up to fail! If we think about this saintly group, and then think about how we ourselves can bicker and argue and squabble, then we will just get depressed and think 'What's the point?'

Instead, notice how each of today's readings speak about relationships. In the first reading, for example, we are told 'Son, help your father in his old age; even if his mind should fail and he is lacking in understanding, show indulgence'. In today's gospel, we detect the anguish of parents when they realise that their young son has got separated from them and is lost. Then, in today's second reading, notice the virtues that our family relationships may not yet enjoy fully, yet we know that they are the things to strive for: 'compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, patience, bearing with one another'.

..... 'Compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, patience, bearing with one another'. We may not yet have achieved these things within our own families but, as we prepare to begin a new year, they give us something to work at.

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 Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

Confession Times

St Mary's

Saturdays at 10.30-11.00 and by request.

St Wilfrid's before Sunday Mass