

**Easter** is such a welcome note after hopefully the worst of the winter weather and the emerging colours of spring in the trees and flowers. It holds promise and the Church plays with the contrasts of light following darkness, forgiveness after sin, and the enduring message of repentance - a change of outlook and effort. With Jesus' resurrection the whole order of creation has been turned upside down. Life conquers death and is promised to us all and the impossible is now no longer the story. Have a faith-filled happy Easter everyone. Thanks to you all for your constancy and smiles!

**St Mary's and St Wilfrid's** - Fairtrade chocolate Easter Eggs on sale. £3.99, yes they are more expensive than many others, however they allow for farmers in developing countries to make a living for their families. All packaging is also recyclable.

**The CAFOD Lent Appeal Walk** - big thanks to Doreen Dinsley for walking three miles each day in Lent and to the loyal band of supporters who raised £350 for CAFOD by their sponsoring. A great and determined achievement. Well done! An example to us all!

**CAFOD/Laudato Si group** - thank you to all who participated in the Parish walk on 24th March and special thanks to the ladies who prepared and served a very tasty tea afterwards. £100 was raised on the day and will be donated to the CAFOD Lent appeal.

**Pope Francis** recognises 2025 as a year of Jubilee and asks that 2024 be a Year of Prayer leading up to it.

**Quiz night** - make a note in your diary - Thursday 18 April for our next quiz night.

**The Foodbank** - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, tinned tomatoes, rice pudding and UHT milk. 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

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*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Acts 10: 34, 37-43	Ps 117	Colossians 3: 1-4	John 20: 1-9
Mon	Acts 2: 14, 22-33	Ps 15	Matthew 28: 8-15	
Tues	Acts 2: 36-41	Ps 32	John 20: 11-18	
Wed	Act 3: 1-10	Ps 104	Luke 24: 13-35	
Thurs	Acts 3: 11-26	Ps 8	Luke 24: 35-48	
Fri	Acts 4: 1-12	Ps 117	John 21: 1-14	
Sat	Acts 4: 13-21	Ps 117	Mark 16: 9-15	
Sun	Acts 4: 32-35	Ps 117	1 John 5: 1-6	John 20: 19-31

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.

**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.

**Environmental Survey** - our annual environmental survey has come around again. This is the 3rd year for this. If possible we would like to invite as many people as possible to complete it and return it within 4 weeks. Following last years' survey we provided battery recycling boxes which have proved to be popular. As a parish community we are trying to implement small steps which help care for the earth and our local community. Thank you.

**Parish Website** - we have had a Parish Website for a number of years now. Here you can find the weekly newsletter and other information. Or if you would like to receive a regular email with the newsletter attached, please send your email address to : [office@stmaryandstwilfrid.org.uk](mailto:office@stmaryandstwilfrid.org.uk)

**Second Collection** - next week our second collection will be for the Sick and Retired Priests Fund to help the Diocese to continue to support retired priests and those who can no longer minister because of illness. We have been asked this year to see if this collection can be well supported and that individual donations can also be made to supplement the church collection. There are forms at the back of Church if you wish to make an individual donation and if you would consider Gift Aiding the donation you make. Thanks very much.

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 30 March</b> <i>HOLY SATURDAY</i>	<b>8.30 pm</b> THE EASTER VIGIL <i>at St Mary's: People of the parish</i>
<b>Sunday 31 March</b> <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i>	<b>09.30 am</b> Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i> <b>11.00 am</b> Mass at St Mary's: <i>Margery Harrop</i>
<b>Monday 1 April</b>	<b>No Mass</b> <b>1.00 pm</b> <i>Craft Club at St Mary's</i>
<b>Tuesday 2 April</b>	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday 3 April</b>	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Thursday 4 April</b>	<b>10.00 am</b> Mass: <i>Antony Chu Van Xuan and Cecilia Pham Thi Hong</i>
<b>Friday 5 April</b>	<b>10.00 am</b> Mass: <i>Fr Tom Jordan</i>
<b>Saturday 6 April</b>	<b>10.00 am</b> Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i> <b>5.30 pm</b> Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
<b>Sunday 7 April</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	<b>09.30 am</b> Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Private Intention</i> <b>11.00 am</b> Mass at St Mary's: <i>Madeleine, Tony and Dominic Ottewell</i>

## Quotation

*"I cannot teach anybody anything; I can only make them think".*

**- Socrates (about 425 BC)**

## 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 **31 March, 2024**

# EASTER SUNDAY

## RESURRECTION

Resurrection, is no past event. Calvary is history. Jesus died once and for all. But Easter is contemporary and its tense is the present tense. "Jesus IS risen". And, if Jesus is alive, he must live somewhere and his only home is the human heart, always sinful and often sad, yet kept from the edge of total rejection. It is void that the heart fears, the emptiness, the loss of grip and identity. To be nobody, to be superfluous, overlooked by God and disregarded by people, this is to die even when living, to be alone even in company. And this is unbearable. Jesus cried his abandonment and it is the voice of us all. And he is raised.

Yet few totally believe in resurrection. This is odd, for people often wish they had known Christ and dined with him and walked the evening shore beside him. How wonderful to have heard his words, to have felt the touch of his hand, looked into his kind and compassionate eyes. Yet his words were often violent, his hand once held a lash, and his eyes sometimes blazed with accusation. Christ had not come to condemn. Nor had he come to console. He had come to change. "Repent" is his first imperative. And "repent" is radical change, not superficial reform. It asks for a change of attitude, for new values, for something more than a routine practice of old pieties and a nervous attention to rubric and regulation. It asks for conversion from the real to the Really Real, from old to new. It asks for a dying. And for a resurrection.

- Fr Hugh Lavery



## Confession Times

**St Mary's**

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

**St Wilfrid's**

**before  
Sunday  
Mass**