

Thanks again - to all who organised, helped and attended the smashing social evenings we've had lately. The Christmas Quiz raised £489.09 made up to £500, to be donated to The Foodbank, The Woman's Refuge and The Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project. We'll donate our Christmas collections to the same charities as you indicated at last weekend's Masses. The money donated to Samaritan's Purse (shoebox appeal) was £113 together with £150 from the Quiz Night held on 26th October. This helps to send the shoeboxes to the children abroad.

Marie Curie Nursing - raised £358 from the evening with Durham Constabulary Brass Band. Thank you everyone for your generosity and for making these evenings so enjoyable. You not only help to build community, you create a great night out and support superb care.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, pasta sauce, UHT milk, small tins of meat, tinned spaghetti, UHT milk, tinned potatoes and good quality bags for life. 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. Winter temperatures will drop. Thank you.

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.

Bible Alive— January's copies are available at the back of church. Please collect yours if you ordered a monthly copy. Tick against your name on the list for November. £1.50. Thank you.

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!

SVP Club - if you are a member your £12 subscription (for one number for the year) is now due for 2024. If you would like to join as a new member you are very welcome. For more details of the club please

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
Bob Storer*

**Please pray for
TERESA WATSON
(88)
who has died.
May she rest in
peace.**



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14	Ps 127	Colossians 3: 12-21	Luke 2: 22-40
Mon	Numbers 6: 22-27	Ps 66	Galatians 4: 4-7	Luke 2: 16-21
Tues	1 John 2: 22-28	Ps 97	John 1: 19-28	
Wed	1 John 2: 29-3:6	Ps 97	John 1: 29-34	
Thurs	1 John 3: 7-10	Ps 97	John 1: 35-42	
Fri	1 John 3: 11-21	Ps 99	John 1: 43-51	
Sat	1 John 5: 5-13	Ps 147	Mark 1: 6-11	
Sun	Isaiah 60: 1-6	Ps 71	Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6	Matthew 2: 1-12

see the poster on the left side notice board as you enter church. Please give your money to Zita or leave it in an envelope clearly marked. Many thanks.

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 vocationsproWATSON (88) moter@diocesehn.org.uk

The Northern Cross - January's Northern Cross will be out on 7 January.

Craft Group - the next meeting of the craft group will be at **1 pm on Monday 8th January** in St. Mary's meeting room.

2nd Collection - this week is for Racial Justice.

Holy Island SVP Camp — are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2024? Let them join us for a week on Holy Island. They'll stay in our Centre and be looked after by DBS checked and trained helpers who will ensure they have a safe, fun time. We do lots of interesting and enjoyable activities such as rock pooling, longball, football, rounders, walking, craft and art, table tennis, long ball, quizzes and competitions and marathons as well as laser tag, silly sports, sand castle building, swimming and scavenger hunts. Girls and boys can be aged 9-12 and it is a great way for them to meet new people and make friends from all over the North East. A week's all-inclusive holiday costs a donation of £150 and can be paid in instalments. In some circumstances children may be able to receive partial or full funding to attend. If you're interested, or know of a child who could benefit from such a holiday, please visit our website for further details at: <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island>. Applications open from 5th December 2023.

A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOURS

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 30 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Peter Maria Chu Sinh</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>For those who have died in 2023</i>
Sunday 31 December <i>THE HOLY FAMILY</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Health of John Barfield</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Vasey, Hogg & Cruddace Families</i>
Monday 1 January <i>MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Bob Storer</i>
Tuesday 2 January <i>SS Basil & Gregory</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>In Thanksgiving (P)</i>
Wednesday 3 January	10.00 am Mass: <i>Joe and Ann Tindall</i>
Thursday 4 January	10.00 am Mass: <i>Anne Moran</i>
Friday 5 January	10.00 am Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday 6 January	10.00 am Mass: <i>Ian Lloyd</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 7 January <i>THE EPIPHANY of THE LORD</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Richard and Marion Brownless</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Tommy and Veronica Loye</i>

Quote:

"You can never get enough of what you don't need to make you happy"
- Eric Hoffer

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

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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 **31 December, 2023**

THE HOLY FAMILY

NEW YEAR

Look well to the growing edge! All around us world's are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such is the growing edge!

It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavour. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and people have lost their reason, the source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash.

The birth of the child - life's most dramatic answer to death - this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge.

- Howard Thurman



Confession Times St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.