

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY	9.30 am Mass: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass: <i>People of the parish</i> <i>No evening Mass</i>
Sunday 26 December FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Margery Harrop</i>
Monday 27 December <i>St John Apostle</i>	No Mass 9.30 am <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 11-1 pm <i>St Mary's open for private prayer</i>
Tuesday 28 December <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	No Mass
Wednesday 29 December <i>St Thomas Becket</i>	No Mass
Thursday 30 December	No Mass
Friday 31 December	No Mass
Saturday 1 January MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD	No Morning Mass: 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>For all who died in 2021</i>
Sunday 2 January <i>2nd Sunday after Christmas</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Anne Foster</i>

Quote:

"With the coming of Jesus, humanity is now the outer garment of God's presence".

- *Source unknown*

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 **26 December 2021**

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

God everywhere

Did Gabriel come to Mary in her family's kitchen, on the way to the well, perhaps join her in the street?

God's secrets are strewn extravagantly around us. God's fingerprints are everywhere. Nothing has ever been written by theologians about God's beautiful presence that hasn't been better traced in the crystal calligraphy of a frosty morning.

Nothing has ever been preached by saints about divine intimacy that hasn't been better sung by the summer wind in the roadside trees.

Nothing has ever been taught by scholars about indwelling joy that hasn't been better danced to the music of a heartbeat or the rhythm of the spheres. And nothing has ever been created by artists about incarnate love that hasn't been more poignantly revealed in the sleepy eyes of a new baby.

- *Daniel O'Leary*

Copies of the weekly bulletin, the Partnership Note and any other handouts are available in a plastic storage box at the door of St Mary's and St Wilfrid's presbyteries. Please take what you need.

Following government advice, and that from our Bishops, church will be open for private prayer and for Mass. See this bulletin for details. We continue to take the safest measures we can. Please do your best to stay safe.

Confession Times

St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.

Our Christmas collections will be given to our usual charities - The Foodbank, the Woman's Refuge, Butterwick Hospice and The Diocesan Justice & Peace Refugee Project. Thank you always for your generosity to help the great work done in these groups.

Synod discussion will resume in January. In the meantime please keep reflecting on the purpose of the Church and how you express it in your faith. Seek the Holy Spirit's help. Thank you.

Thank You - to all who have sent in suggestions and ideas to help in our Care for our Common Home - the Earth. Please continue to send in any suggestions you may have for looking after our ecology and reducing our carbon footprint. Others may be helped by your suggestions. Many thanks.

The Foodbank now has an urgent need for food of all kinds mainly tinned vegetables, fruit, rice pudding, tomatoes, dried rice, carrier bags and for help with funds for assisting with gas and electricity needs. In this winter weather anything you can do to help people with food, heating and lighting is a most practical way of showing love and humanity.

If you have a mind to check the posters at the back of St Mary's church detailing the amount of food allotted to a family or an individual to get them through a few days, you'll appreciate how much food is needed for those seeking help. You may never have been in critical need, or you may have been helped by someone at a difficult time. As followers of our God who came to us at this time and didn't ask but commanded us to love one another, we

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford
Michael Dowson
Mrs Aitken
Val Mundell
Joan Lightfoot
Michael Nicholson
Adam Hudspeth
Christopher Browne
Tyler Quinn
Maureen Nicholson
Norah Hutchinson
Robin Davis
Angela Graham
Stephen Gregory
Frank Ridley
Jacob Thomas
Charlotte Thomas
Teresa Brown
Joan Hannon
Christina Marsh
Kathy Lloyd
Roman Banks
Jane Hardy (Kirby)
Margaret Pattenden
Brian Gilpatrick*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14	Ps 127	Colossians 3: 12-21	Luke 2: 41-52
Mon	1 John 1: 1-4	Ps 96	John 20: 2-5	
Tues	1 John 1: 5-2:2	Ps 123	Matthew 2: 13-18	
Wed	Colossians 1: 24-29	Ps 22	Luke 22: 24-30	
Thurs	1 John 2: 12-17	Ps 95	Luke 2: 36-40	
Fri	1 John 2: 18-21	Ps 95	John 1: 1-18	
Sat	Numbers 6: 22-27	Ps 66	Galatians 4: 4-7	
Sun	Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12	Ps 147	Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18	John 1: 1-18

can't just do nothing. I thank God for our generous people. Please help now to help some of our neighbours. We do have plenty of tinned beans, spaghetti, soup and dried pasta. Help us make a nutritious balance in the food we give. Thank you.

The Foodbank and crisis work done jointly by ourselves and Woodhouse Close Church Centre are saying a big thank you to all who have supported this work by giving in food and other necessities and money to help with gas and electricity emergencies. You have donated over £9000 this year so far. It's hugely appreciated.

The Northern Cross Calendar is the Directory and reference book for our Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Copies are available at the back of church, price £3. It's a great mine of valuable information.

Used postage stamps and foreign money can be brought in to church and we'll pass them onto provide funds for the work of the Little Sister of the Poor who care for elderly people.

The Woman's Refuge Centre will not be taking any more items of clothing for the moment. Thanks to all who have helped. Your thoughtfulness is wonderful.

LOVE TO ALL OUR FAMILIES
- Thank you for the difference you make