

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING: 4th December 2022

Sat. 3rd (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun. 4th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Edith Latimer
Sun. 4th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Teresa Hall
Mon. 5th	**** NO MASS ***	
Tues. 6th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Priest's Intention
* Wed. 7th (St. Aidan's)	1.45pm	<u>Requiem Christine Humble</u>
Thurs. 8th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Teresa Hall
Fri. 9th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Teresa Hall
* Sat. 10th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Confession
Sat. 10th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	John & Ina Duffy
Sun. 11th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	James Allan Scott
Sun. 11th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Velia Rea

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

The Third Sunday of Advent - 11th December 2022

"There is plenty of opportunity for tolerance."

Second Reading: Waiting for the Lord (James 5:7-10)

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

"God of hope, you sent your Son Jesus to bring good news to people who are poor. Help us to be that good news, so that all people around the world can make a better life for themselves and their families. Amen."

WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR:

Those who have died recently: Maureen Crawford

Those who are sick: George Brown

And all those within our Parishes whose anniversary occurs at this time.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Contact us via parishsecretary@mail.com or 0191 268 4222

Access weekend mass live via our Facebook page NE12Catholic.

Newsletters & Homilies can be viewed on [ww.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School www.stmarysrcprimaryschool.co.uk
St. Stephen's Catholic Primary School www.ststephensprimaryschool.co.uk

Welcome to our Parish Newsletter for:

St. Mary's & St. Aidan's R.C Churches

Rev. Sean Hall

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Join us on Facebook - NE12Catholic

Sunday 4th December 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

After listening to today's Gospel, John the Baptist's Call to Repentance (Matthew 3:1-12), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

'Repentance' seems an unattractive word. It conjures up images of morose brooding over past sins and failures, a negative idea.

This is not what John the Baptist proclaimed.

His message was wholly positive. In Hebrew and Greek the concept of 'repentance' is about a change of behaviour, a change of direction.

John is calling on his listeners to change their ways, to change their scale of values, their whole direction of life. To reinforce his message he wears the clothes worn by Elijah, the prophet whom Jewish tradition taught was to return to announce the final coming of the Lord.

John proclaims his message in the desert, that apocalyptic landscape of the arid and bare Jordan Valley, below sea-level, where merchants would be crossing the Jordan on the road to the East. So John makes a deliberate claim to be this final prophet and to be preparing a way for the Lord.

We see Jesus as the Messiah, the loving Saviour, but John was not at this point proclaiming this Jesus. He was proclaiming the threatening and imminent arrival of the sovereignty of God, when rotten trees would be cut down and evil swept away to be burnt in unquenchable fire. If we are to be open to the arrival of the Kingship of God, we may need to look to our own scale of values.

Is my scale of values compatible with those of the Kingship of God?

How far do they coincide?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE CARD SIGNING - *Thank you*

Thank you to everyone who supported and generously donated to our card signing sessions last weekend. Eleven individuals identified via ACTUK will each receive several personally addressed cards in locations including China, Bahrain, Cuba and Pakistan. A small sum left after postage costs has been donated to our Justice and Peace fundraising efforts.

ST MARY'S FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

This month supporting refugees & asylum seekers and thanks to a generous donation £140 was raised on Friday 2nd December.

CONFESSION - Saturday 10th December at St Mary's.

The first & third Saturday of the month at St Aidan's 11am - 11.30am

The second & fourth Saturday of the month at St Mary's 11am - 11.30am

ST AIDAN'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets on sale this weekend and next. Raffle will be drawn on Sat 17th Dec with prizes ready to collect on Sun 18th. Thank you for your support.

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets for sale in the church hall, draw will be made on Sunday 18th
Thank you and good luck!

ST MARY'S PARISH CAROL SERVICE - Sunday 11th December, at 4pm

Come along to enjoy the music & hear more about projects supporting Christians in Bethlehem. All very welcome.

DECEMBER DATES

Wed 14th Dec, 6pm - St Stephen's School Carol Service at St Aidan's.

Mon 19th Dec, 2pm - St Mary's School Carol Service at St Mary's.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Vigil - 4pm at St Mary's / Christmas Eve Vigil - 6pm at St Aidan's
Christmas Day Mass - 10.00am at St Mary's / No mass on Mon 26th Dec.
Booking is NOT required this year, but please remember to arrive early as we expect our Churches to be busy.

COLLECTIONS: w/c 27th November

ST. AIDAN'S - Loose plate: £186.50 / Envelopes: £67.00 / Hall Hire: £34.00

Funeral: £206.00 / Piety: £51.50 / Candles: £29.00 / Papers: £12.00

ST. MARY'S - Loose plate: £217.00 / Envelopes: £67.00 / Donations: £135.00

Catholic Youth: £26.10 / Friday Coffee Morning: £78.10

Thank you all for your continued support and generosity.

JUSTICE & PEACE REFUGEE PROJECT WITH SVP, BLACKFRIARS

As the colder weather takes hold, donations of warm clothing, non perishable food (no pork please) and toiletries are even more desperately requested for those in need. Items can be left in the foyer at St Aidan's and in the hall at St Mary's. Thank you for your care & support.

CONFIRMATION COURSE - January 2023

A confirmation course for students in school year 9 and above will run from January/February - July 2023 for those in the parishes of St Teresa's, St Anthony's, St Lawrences', St Vincent's, St Aidan's & St Mary's Forest Hall. Please contact Fr Shaun O'Neill / Fr Sean Hall or email Pat /Sarah on chris.henzell@gmail.com to sign up.

NEW YEAR'S AFTERNOON TEA

The Just.Is student group at St Mary's Catholic Comprehensive School would like to invite all parishioners to a New Year's Afternoon Tea at the school on Tuesday 17th January 2023 from 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm. It promises to be a wonderful occasion to mark the start of a new year with chat, fun and delicious treats. All ages are welcome. There is no cost but there will be a few stalls to raise funds for a local foodbank.

Please contact the school on 0191 2153260 or email admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk by Friday 6th January 2023 if you would like to attend. Many thanks and Merry Christmas to you and your families.

FROM THE DIOCESE

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

A series of reflections on the readings used throughout Advent can be downloaded from bit.ly/DHNAdvent2022 or by searching for #DHNAdvent2022 on Facebook.