

## **MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING: 11th December 2022**

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
Mon. 12th	**** NO MASS ***	
Tues. 13th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	George & Maria Brown
Wed. 14th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Christine Humble
Thurs. 15th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Nan Hayes
Fri. 16th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Gerard McAndrew
* Sat. 17th (St. Aidan's)	11.00am	Confession
Sat. 17th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Stephen Brattle
Sun. 18th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Teresa Hall
Sun. 18th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	People of the Parish

## **PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK**

### **The Fourth Sunday of Advent - 18th December 2022**

*"Both wholly human and Son of God."*

Second Reading: The Son of God in Power (Romans 1:1-7)

## **CHILDREN'S PRAYER**

*"Loving God, as we wait for the birth of Jesus at Christmas, we give thanks for the wonderful gift of new life. We pray for all parents around the world and for their children, that they will be healthy, happy & love one another. Amen."*

## **WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR:**

Those who have died recently.

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](mailto: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](http://www.stmarysrcprimaryschool.co.uk)  
St. Stephen's Catholic Primary School [www.ststephensprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.ststephensprimaryschool.co.uk)

## **Welcome to our Parish Newsletter for:**

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

**Rev. Sean Hall**

**Tel. 0191 268 4222 / [parishsecretary@mail.com](mailto:parishsecretary@mail.com)**

**[www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)**

**[www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com](http://www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com)**

**Join us on Facebook - NE12Catholic**

## **Sunday 11th December 2022**

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

After listening to today's Gospel, Miracles of the Messiah (Matthew 11:2-11), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection. John the Baptist was expecting a Messiah of judgment, who would cut down the rotten tree and burn the useless chaff. When, in prison, he hears that Jesus is not doing this, he is puzzled and sends messengers to ask if Jesus is really the Messiah.

Jesus sends back the message that he is fulfilling the prophet Isaiah – the passage which we hear about in today's first reading.

Jesus' understanding was that healing, not punishment, was the task of the Messiah. He goes and seeks out those who need healing, both physically and spiritually. He does not wait for sinners to repent before gathering them into the kingdom; he makes the first advance.

Then he turns to praising the Baptist. It is a fascinating point of speculation as to whether Jesus was himself once a disciple of John the Baptist. After all, John says he did not recognise Jesus until he saw the Spirit coming down on him. But he also says that Jesus, who came after him, has passed before him.

This is a typical position of a rabbi, leading his disciples, and suggests that John had been Jesus' rabbi, then became his disciple.

Jesus was fully man, and even he needed to learn as all human beings do. John the Baptist did all he could to lead others to God.

How, through our actions and attitudes, can we point others to God?

How do our lives show that we are preparing for Christ's second coming?

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:**

### **ST MARY'S PARISH CAROL SERVICE - Today! (Sunday 11th Dec at 4pm)**

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

### **ST. AIDAN'S CRIB AND CHRISTMAS TREE**

Straight after mass next Sunday (18th Dec), we will be putting up the Crib and Christmas Tree as well as placing the new Nativity figures onto the altar. Volunteers to stay and help would be much appreciated. Thank you.

### **ST AIDAN'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

Last chance to buy tickets. 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!

### **CONFESSION - Saturday 17th December at St Aidan'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

### **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.

### **ST MARY'S READERS**

Saturday & Sunday Reader Lists for 2023 are now available from the hall.

### **ST MARY'S SECOND HAND BOOK SALE**

Lots of titles available to browse in the hall - please leave donation in basket.

### **COLLECTIONS: w/c 4th December**

ST. AIDAN'S - Loose plate: £140.00 / Envelopes: £50.00

ST. MARY'S - Loose plate: £243.00 / Envelopes: £203.00 / Donations: £246.00

Friday Coffee Morning: £140.00

*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](mailto:chris.henzell@gmail.com) to sign up.

### **NEW YEAR'S AFTERNOON TEA**

The Just.Us 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. Please contact the school on 0191 2153260 or email [admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk) by Friday 6th January 2023 if you would like to attend.

### **FROM THE DIOCESE**

#### **ADVENT REFLECTIONS**

The reflections for the third and fourth weeks of Advent can be downloaded from [bit.ly/DHNAdvent2022](http://bit.ly/DHNAdvent2022) or by searching #DHNAdvent2022 on Facebook.

### **BLUE CHRISTMAS LITURGY**

Christmas can be a difficult time for many people for all sorts of reasons; bereavement, unemployment, being far away from family and so on. Blue Christmas liturgy offers a way of acknowledging that and hopefully, finding the hope that will help them to get through Christmas. Visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for support