

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING: 18th December 2022

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
Mon. 19th	**** NO MASS ***	
Tues. 20th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Nicholson Family Thanksgiving
Wed. 21st (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Christine Humble
Thurs. 22nd (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Priest's Intentions
Fri. 23rd (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Sister Christine Bohr
* Sat. 24th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Confession
Sat. 24th (St. Mary's)	4.00pm	Jeff Brattle
CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL		
Sat. 24th (St. Aidan's)	6.00pm	People of the Parish
CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL		
Sun. 25th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Christmas Day

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

Christmas Day - 25th December 2022

"God became man so that man might be raised to the divine."

Second Reading: The Appearing of the Saviour (Titus 2:11-14)

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

God of joy, you love the world so much that you sent your Son Jesus to show us how to live. Help us to recognise Jesus in all people. Amen

WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR:

Those who have died recently. Those who are sick:

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 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

Tel. 0191 268 4222 / parishsecretary@mail.com

www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk

www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com

Join us on Facebook - NE12Catholic

Sunday 18th December 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

After listening to today's Gospel, Emmanuel (Matthew 1:18-24), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Matthew begins his Gospel about the birth of Jesus with a long and elaborately formal genealogy of Joseph. But Jesus is the son of Mary, not of Joseph!

The whole point of this story is that Joseph is not the genealogical father of Jesus, but adopts Jesus into his line, the line of King David. At first Joseph is hesitant to do so, presumably thinking that he is unworthy to acknowledge the child as his own, and unworthy to bond with Mary who is with child by the Holy Spirit. But the angel insists that only Joseph can do this job ('Do not be afraid,' he says).

As soon as the child is born, he is given the name Jesus, and is given it by Joseph. It is the father's prerogative to name a son, and by so doing Joseph takes the child as his own. We hear little more of Joseph, but what a joy it must have been to have Jesus as a son! What a relationship there must have been! What responsibility too! When Jesus calls God his 'Father', he is using something of the concept of 'father' which must have been formed in his mind by his adoptive father, Joseph, the perfect ideal of the loving parent. Why is it important that Jesus should be adopted into David's line? What sort of father would Joseph have been, and what can we learn from him?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:

ST MARY'S PARISH CAROL SERVICE

A big thank you to all those who braved the snow for our Carol Service!
Thank you also to those who worked behind the scenes to help prepare for it.

CHRISTMAS FOLIAGE!

If anyone has Christmas greenery from their garden or extra left over from crafting, please bring along to help decorate St Mary's for next weekend's Masses.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLES: please check your numbers today!

CONFESSION - Saturday 24th 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

DECEMBER DATES

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.

All Christmas Masses will be livestreamed:-

St Mary's will be available via www.youtube.com/@stmaryoftherosary

St Aidan's via Facebook NE12Catholic - these are private pages so please join in advance to ensure you can access chosen Mass.

COLLECTIONS: w/c 11th December

ST. AIDAN'S - Loose plate: £177.00 / Envelopes: £64.00

Funeral: £206.00 / Hall Hire: £38.00 / Christmas Raffle: £141.00

ST. MARY'S - Loose plate: £173.50 / Envelopes: £43.00 / Donations: £220.00

Friday Coffee Morning: £68.20

Thank you all for your continued support and generosity.

ST MARY'S READERS

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

NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDARS

On sale in the hall priced at £3 each. Thank you.

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. 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. Please contact the school on 0191 2153260 by Fri 6th January 2023 if you would like to attend.

FROM THE DIOCESE

BISHOP ROBERT BYRNE

The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon, OP was appointed Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese by Pope Francis on 12 December '22 following Bishop Byrne's resignation. Read more via www.diocesehn.org.uk

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

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

BLUE CHRISTMAS LITURGY

Blue Christmas liturgy offers a way of acknowledging that Christmas can be hard for some and hopefully, finding the hope that will help them to get through. Visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for support.