

## **MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEKs BEGINNING: 25th Dec & 1st Jan 2023**

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
Mon. 26th	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues. 27th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	
Wed. 28th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	
Thurs. 29th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	
Fri. 30th (St Mary's)	10.00am	
Sat. 31st (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	
Sun. 1st Jan (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	
Sun. 1st Jan (St Mary's)	11.00am	
Mon. 2nd	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues. 3rd (St Mary's)	10.00am	
Wed. 4th (St Aidan's)	10.00am	
Thurs. 5th (St Aidan's)	7.00pm	
EPIPHANY VIGIL		
Fri. 6th (St Mary's)	10.00am	
FEAST OF EPIPHANY		
* Sat. 7th		
Sat. 7th (St Mary's)	5.30pm	
Sun. 8th (St Aidan's)	9.15am	
Sun. 8th (St Mary's)	11.00am	



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 25th December 2022**

#### **Christmas Day**

After listening to today's Gospel, The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2.1-14), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

The Gospel above (which we read at Midnight Mass) reminds us that the real point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus, God's gift to the world. Luke's account of the birth of Jesus stresses especially the poverty of the family: Christ comes to the poor and is greeted by the poor.

Mary and Joseph are displaced persons, and can find no decent place for the baby to be born. There is no space in the living-quarters and he has to be put in a feeding-trough among the animals. He is greeted not by the rich presents of the magnificent wise men from the East, but by impoverished hired shepherds, guarding flocks in the winter night. He is born to be the patron of the homeless and of displaced persons.

But Jesus is also the fulfilment of the hopes of the Old Testament. The families both of John the Baptist and of Jesus are eminently faithful to the prescriptions of the Law, waiting for the salvation promised to Israel. In the Temple Jesus will be greeted by Simeon and Anna, the representatives of fidelity to the Old Law. The birth of Jesus at Bethlehem shows that he is born as the heir to the promises to David, that God would build David a house of everlasting sovereignty, whose king would be the Son of God and would call God his Father. What does the Christmas story tell us about Jesus?

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:**

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Wishing all our parishioners, your families and your friends a joyful, safe and peaceful Christmas.**

**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

### **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](http://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.*

### **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](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://ww.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)

### **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**

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](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for support.