

### **MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEKS BEGINNING: 26th Feb & 5th March 2023**

Sat. 25th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Winnie Haslam
Sun. 26th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Fr. Paddy McMahon
Sun. 26th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Michael Cassidy
Mon. 27th	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues. 28th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Wed. 1st March (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	People of the Parish
Thurs. 2nd	*** NO MASS ***	
* Fri. 3rd (St. Aidan's)	6pm	<i>Stations of the Cross (A Rebello)</i>
* Sat. 4th	*** NO CONFESSION ***	
Sat. 4th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Margaret Kennedy
Sun. 5th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Thomas Curran
Sun. 5th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	People of the Parish
* Mon. 6th (St. Aidan's)	6.00pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration (A Rebello)</i>
Tues. 7th	*** NO MASS ***	
Wed. 8th	*** NO MASS ***	
Thurs. 9th	*** NO MASS ***	
Fri. 10th (St Mary's)	10.00am	Geoff & Paul Allmond
* Fri. 10th (St. Aidan's)	6pm	<i>Stations of the Cross (A Rebello)</i>
* Sat. 11th (St. Mary's)	11am	<i>Confession</i>
Sat. 11th (St Mary's)	5.30pm	Irene Haslam
Sun. 12th (St Aidan's)	9.15am	Fr. Paddy McMahon
Sun. 12th (St Mary's)	11.00am	People of the Parish

### **PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK:**

The Second Sunday of Lent - 5th March 2023

*"Grace is the loving way in which God has regarded us from the beginning of time." Second Reading: The Response to God's Love (2 Timothy 1:8-10)*

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

Those who are sick.

Those who have died recently; John Bradley

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

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)  
St. Mary's Catholic Comprehensive School [www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk](http://www.stmarysnewcastle.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 26th February 2023**

#### **First Sunday in Lent**

After listening to today's Gospel, The Testing of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

By putting this scene at the beginning of Lent, the Church shows that it sees Lent as a period of testing.

Matthew sees this period in the wilderness as the testing of God's Son, just as the People of God (Israel – God's son, whom he brought out of Egypt) was tested for forty years in the desert. We may also see it as the time when Jesus reflected on the mode of his mission. His mission was to bring the Kingship of God to a new realisation: how should he do this?

The Tempter suggests false ways, which Jesus rejects one after another, each time using a word from scripture, the Word of God. He rejects the idea of the Messiah merely producing the luxury of the plenteous messianic banquet (stones into food). He rejects the idea of a startling personal miracle which none could gainsay (the leap from the Temple). He rejects the suggestion of entering into league with the Tempter's own values of pride and dominion (rule over the world).

At the same time Jesus shows himself to be the Second Moses, the founder of a new People of God: like Moses, he spends forty days and forty nights fasting; like Moses he is taken up onto a high mountain, from where he can see not merely all the territory of the Holy Land, but all the kingdoms of the earth. What temptation do you find hardest to resist? What helps you to resist temptation?

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:**

**MASS TIMES:** Please note no weekday masses 2nd - 9th March inclusive.  
No confession on Saturday 4th March as Fr Hall is away.  
There are full details on back page.

**PARISH BOUNDARIES:** The Diocesan Boundaries Committee has provided maps identifying our parish footprints and they are available to view for information at St Aidan's in the foyer and at St Mary's in the church hall.  
If you have any questions please email [parishsecretary@mail.com](mailto:parishsecretary@mail.com)

**BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE:** During Lent, lists will be available at St Aidan's entrance and in the hall at St Mary's for you to write the names of the loved ones you would like to be entered into our Books of Remembrance.  
Please PRINT clearly and please do not provide names which are already in the book or attempt to write in the book yourself. Thank you.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Friday 3rd March, 6pm at St Aidan's.  
Alison Rebello will be leading Stations of the Cross at 6pm every Friday throughout Lent. All are welcome.

## **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP:**

Thursday 2nd March, 7pm at St Aidan's (join also via zoom)  
No Tuesday session (7th March) as Fr Hall is away  
Each session, we will reflect together on the Readings for the coming Sunday.  
All are very welcome. More details on [www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)

**\* CONFESSION** - No Confession on Saturday 4th March

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

## **COLLECTIONS:** w/c 19th February

ST. AIDAN'S - Loose Plate: £203.00 / Envelopes: £65.00 / Hall Hire: £30.00  
CAFOD Earthquake Appeal: £537.00  
ST. MARY'S - Loose Plate: £250.00 / Envelopes: £28.00 /  
Fri Coffee Morning: £95.00 (CAFOD Earthquake Appeal) / Donations: £60.00  
CAFOD Earthquake Appeal: £217.50  
*Thank you all for your continued support and generosity.*

## **CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY:** Friday 3rd March

Envelopes are available at both church entrances, if you pay tax please complete the Gift Aid details on the envelope which means your donation is increased by 25p for every pound donated. Thank you for your support.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Friday 3rd March

Taking place at St Andrew's Church in Benton at 10:30am, this special service was written by the Christian women of Taiwan remembering those people of Taiwan who are in need of our prayers at this time.  
All are welcome with refreshments and homemade cakes served afterwards.  
Donations are requested to support projects run by Christian charities around the world. See [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk) for more information.

## **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Monday 6th March

Led by Alison Rebello at St Aidan's, 6pm-7pm. All welcome.

## **FROM THE DIOCESE**

### **LENTEN REFLECTIONS PART 1**

The Vicariate for Faith & Mission has produced the first booklet of Lenten reflections, ahead of the beginning of Lent on Wednesday 22nd February. The reflections have been contributed by a mix of clergy, religious and lay people to express the richness and variety of our diocesan community. The dedicated Lenten reflection page on the diocesan website can be found at <https://bit.ly/DHNLent2023>

## **NEW LITURGICAL LEADERS OF CELEBRATIONS OF THE WORD & HOLY COMMUNION**

Tues 28th February / Tues 7th March / Tues 14th March, all 10am-3pm  
St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY.  
Cost: £20 per participant (invoiced to parishes) More information via [www.forms.office.com/e/Lyk0DyKmGP](http://www.forms.office.com/e/Lyk0DyKmGP)

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ADMISSION APPEALS PANEL**

The Diocesan Department for Education is looking for volunteers to serve on admission appeals panels for Catholic schools. For more information and to obtain an application form, please email [education@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:education@diocesehn.org.uk) or telephone 0191 243 3313.