

## Nothing and Everything

Being alone with God  
means that I can hide nothing.  
Any facades I might put on for the benefit of others  
disappear.  
Distractions into which I could deliberately escape  
have to go.

I stand here, naked and unprotected before God,  
aware only of my poverty.

And God comes to me  
at the point where I most need him,  
pouring his warmth into my hurts and fears,  
and his love into those parts of myself which I  
cannot even name.

And that is everything.



**Welcome to our Parish Newsletter:**  
**St. Mary's & St. Aidan's R.C Churches**  
**Rev. Sean Hall**  
**Tel. 0191 268 4222**  
**[www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)**  
**[www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com](http://www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com)**  
**Join us on Facebook - NE12Catholic**  
*To arrange Baptisms, please email*  
*[parishsecretary@mail.com](mailto:parishsecretary@mail.com)*



**Sunday 28th January 2024:**

**The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

After listening to today's Gospel, Jesus Teaches with Authority (Mark 1:21-28), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection:-  
The growing authority of Jesus is the theme of the early part of Mark's gospel and today's story is an excellent illustration of this. Jesus has already called the disciples. He calls and they simply follow: it seems that he is a total stranger to them, yet has such authority that they drop everything to follow him.  
Now in the synagogue he teaches on his own authority. He does not quote the interpretations of others, as rabbinic teachers did, saying, "Rabbi X says this," "Rabbi Y says that". No, Jesus teaches, "I say to you...". He seems to be master even of the Law. But it is God's Law. Only God has authority over it, so who does Jesus think he is? On one level he is a teacher to be compared with Moses, one who is to come into the world, the teacher prophesied in today's first reading. But he is more than this. To confirm the power of his teaching, he shows what authority he has by overcoming an unclean spirit, wringing from it the snivelling protest, "Have you come to destroy us?" and the acknowledgement that he has a special link with God.

*What are the qualities of a good teacher?*

*How does Jesus, the good teacher, reveal his authority?*

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

## NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

**ST MARY'S PARISH COUNCIL:** Chair Una H stepped down this week and we would like to thank her for her time, hard work and continued support of our parish. **Thank you Una!** Peter T takes up the role as Chair, minutes can be viewed on our website [www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)

**ST AIDAN'S PARISH COUNCIL** meets on Wed (31st Jan) at 7pm

Both councils are actively seeking new members as we look to grow and shape our parishes. It needn't be a big commitment, and you will help make a difference. Please speak to Fr Hall or email [parishsecretary@mail.com](mailto:parishsecretary@mail.com)

**ST AIDAN CRIB & NATIVITY FIGURES:** Volunteers are needed to stay behind **today** to put away our crib & nativity figures. Thanks in advance for the help.

**CONFESSION:** Saturday 3rd February at St Aidan's, 11pm - 1130pm.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Monday 5th February at St Aidan's, 6pm-7pm

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION:** Classes are for children in yr 9 and above.

Please register your interest via [parishsecretary@mail.com](mailto:parishsecretary@mail.com)

**ST MARY'S SOCIAL - FISH & CHIP SUPPER:** Sat 10th February from 6.30pm.

Please see Sue or Malcolm after weekend masses to pay for food choices before Sun 4th February. Donations of raffles prizes also gratefully received.

**COLLECTIONS: w/c 21st January 2023**

St. Aidan's - Loose Plate: £250.00 / Envelopes: £70.00

St. Mary's - Loose Plate: £316.86 / Envelopes: £50.00 / Donations: £60.00

World Leprosy Day: £43.66 / Friday Coffee: £105.50 (Mary's Meals)

*Thank you for your continued support and generosity.*

**STAMPS & COINS FOR LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR:** Thank you for the kind & generous donations. A large box was collected from St Mary's last week and the fundraisers were overwhelmed. We will continue to take any items, please leave in the hall at St Mary's or entrance at St Aidan's.

**SUNDAY READERS LIST:** Please see a revised 2024 list for St Mary's Sunday readers by the front door.

**Weekend Masses will now be streamed via YouTube only.**

**Simply search 'St Mary of the Rosary' for our page.**

**MASS INTENTIONS: w/c 28th January 2024**

Sat. 27th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Keith & Alan Nesbitt
Sun. 28th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Frank & Freya Amis
Sun. 28th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Anne Earl
<i>Mon. 29th</i>	<i>*** NO MASS ***</i>	
Tues. 30th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Benjamin Willshire
Wed. 31st (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	George Todhunter
Thurs. 1st Feb (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Priest's Intentions
Fri. 2nd (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Therese Thompson
<i>* Sat. 3rd (St. Aidan's)</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Confession</i>
Sat. 3rd (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Raymond Taylor
Sun. 4th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Jean Sharp
Sun. 4th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	John Hall & Phil Andison

*For Mass Intentions, please see envelopes in our churches.*

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK:** 4th Feb - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Paul's most important point is that you must not upset other people's consciences." (1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23).

**CHILDREN'S PRAYER:** *Merciful God, look after all those who are sick. Help us to bring them comfort and make them feel better in any way that we can. Watch over all doctors, nurses and carers and give them strength in their difficult job. Amen.*

**WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR:** Those in our parishes who are sick or who may need our thoughts and prayers. Those who have died recently. And those of our parishes whose anniversary occurs at this time.

**KEEP IN TOUCH:** Contact us [parishsecretary@mail.com](mailto:parishsecretary@mail.com) / 0191 268 4222  
Access weekend mass live via YouTube, search St Mary of the Rosary  
Newsletters & Homilies can be viewed on [www.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)

St. Mary's Catholic Comprehensive School [www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk](http://www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk)