

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING: 5th February 2023

Sat. 4th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Emmett & Tierney Families
Sun. 5th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Jean Sharp
Sun. 5th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Micheal Byrne
* Mon. 6th (St. Aidan's)	6.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration led by Alison Rebello
Tues. 7th (St Mary's)	10.00am	Liam and Sheila Phelan
Wed. 8th (St Aidan's)	10.00am	People of the Parish
Thurs. 9th (St Aidan's)	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Fri. 10th (St Mary's)	10.00am	Christine Quinn
* Sat. 11th (St. Mary's)	11 - 11.30am	Confession
Sat. 11th (St Mary's)	5.30pm	Gerard Earley
Sun. 12th (St Aidan's)	9.15am	Ret Hudspeth
Sun. 12th (St Mary's)	11.00am	Michael and Jean Bell

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 12th February 2023

"We are assured by the Spirit of God that there is a meaning [to life], and that this meaning is for our glory"

Second Reading: The Hidden Wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 2:6-10).

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Loving God, when we do wrong and hurt others help us to be brave and say sorry. Help us to all live in peace together. Amen.

WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR

Those who are sick: Mary Jane Delbridge;

Those who have died recently: Fr Paddy McMahon;

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
St. Mary's Catholic Comprehensive School 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

www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk

www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com

Join us on Facebook - NE12Catholic

Sunday 5th February 2023

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

After listening to today's Gospel, Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Matthew here takes two piquant images from the words of Jesus which he found in Mark's Gospel and builds on them. This text follows immediately after the Beatitudes, with which he began the Sermon on the Mount; now he shows that these Christian attitudes are not just for our own benefit but are to change the world.

The first teaching is a warning, the second a promise. Christians are to be salt for the whole world. Imagine a perpetual diet of food without any tang or taste, soggy and insipid! This would be the world if Christians did not spread the good news of Christ, did not impart to the world the flavour brought by Christ's message. What would the world be without that message and without the challenge of the generosity and salvation of Christ which we profess? Yes, of course much of the same message may come to the world through other great world-faiths, but the full challenge and the full promise is in Christ.

The same is true for the second image, that of light. Imagine a world of darkness, where we had to feel our way and are never quite sure of shapes and purposes! And then what a difference occurs when the sun rises over the horizon or the light is switched on. Such is the difference which Christianity – and our Christianity – must make to the world.

What is the best way that I can share with my friends the joy of knowing Jesus?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:

CENSUS FORMS: Please complete one form per household so we can update our parish records & support our parish community.

ST AIDAN'S NATIVITY FIGURES: A very big thank you to everyone who helped last Sunday dismantling empty boxes and bubble wrapping our figures. It was a great team effort and your help was much appreciated.

ST MARY'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY: A final appeal please for completed DBS forms. There can be no group without volunteers & required paperwork.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Alison Rebello will lead Eucharistic Adoration on Monday 6th February, 6pm at St Aidan's. All are most welcome. Alison will be ordained as a Deacon this summer on the completion of his studies and we are delighted to have him as part of our Parish community.

ST. AIDAN'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: The following numbers are still to be claimed, so please check your tickets -72, 91, 141, 159, 203, 220, 274, 278, 313, 424, 472, 591, 593, 597 and 615.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP

Tuesday 7th February, 10.30am at St Mary's.

Thursday 16th February, 7pm at St Aidan's (join also via zoom)

Each session, we will reflect together on the Readings for the coming Sunday. All are very welcome. More details on www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk

CONFESSION - Saturday 11th February 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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS: St Aidan's PPC met on Wed 18th January - minutes are available to view on www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com

The next meeting will take place on Wed 22nd March - all are most welcome to attend to learn more about the council and perhaps how to get involved.

St Mary's PPC met on Wed 25th January - minutes available to view via www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk

COLLECTIONS: w/c 29th January

ST. AIDAN'S - Loose Plate: £188.00 / Envelopes: £92.00 / Hall Hire: £100.00
Candles: £43.00 / Northern Catholic Calendar: £40.00
Northern Cross: £12.00

ST. MARY'S - Loose Plate: £371.89 / Envelopes: £48.00 / Donations: £250.00
Friday Coffee Morning: £39.70

Thank you all for your continued support and generosity.

PILATES WITH STEF IN ST AIDAN'S CHURCH HALL * 1st Session Free! *

Join Stef for her new weekly class starting Thurs 9th February, 1.30pm - 2.15pm. All levels welcome for 45 minutes of strengthening, stretching and relaxation. £6.50 per session with mats available to borrow. Book via 07833 940501 / pilates.steff@gmail.com or walk-ins welcome.

JUSTICE & PEACE REFUGEE PROJECT WITH SVP, BLACKFRIARS

Financial donations can be given by cheque made payable to DHN Justice & Peace Refugee Project or via bank transfers (Sort Code: 40-34-18. Account: 52854058). Gift Aid is vital to the organisation so please request a form if you are able to help. Thank you for your care & support.

FOREST HALL LIBRARY

Lunch Club runs every fortnight and is a great opportunity to meet new people while enjoying a delicious pre-ordered hot meal. All are welcome. See flyers in the church hall or contact Paula on 0191 643 2085 for info.

FROM THE DIOCESE

PASTORAL LETTER

You can watch Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, deliver his second pastoral letter in a video now available on www.dioceseshn.org.uk

CAFOD'S 'BIG LENT WALK'

Challenge yourself to take on The Big Lent Walk by coming together over the 40 days of Lent to help raise money to overcome poverty. Sign up and find out more via www.walk.cafod.org.uk