

### **MASS INTENTIONS FOR w/c 5th November 2023**

Sat. 4th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun. 5th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Geoffrey Porthouse
Sun. 5th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Mary Elizabeth Barr
* Mon. 6th (St. Aidan's)	6.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration
Tues. 7th	*** NO MASS ***	
Wed. 8th	*** NO MASS ***	
Thurs. 9th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Priest's Intentions
Fri. 10th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Chris McGuinness
* Sat. 11th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Confession
Sat. 11th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Jhon Terrence Sherman Moral
Sun. 12th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Elizabeth Ann Brown & Family
Sun. 12th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Matthew Bradley

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

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

12th November - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"We will all be re-united in the joyful triumph of Christ's victory over death."* Second Reading: The Last Trumpet (Thessalonians 4:13-18).

### **CHILDREN'S PRAYER:**

Christ Jesus, we pray that we may always be ready  
to help others, to be kind and loving and to follow you. Amen.

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

Those in our parishes who are sick;

Pat Sanderson, Patrick Bradley and Jane Hall.

Those who have died recently. And those of 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://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)

### **Welcome to our Parish Newsletter:**

**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**

*To arrange Baptisms or First Holy Communion at our churches, please email [parishsecretary@mail.com](mailto:parishsecretary@mail.com)*

### **Sunday 5th November 2023:**

#### **The Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

After listening to today's Gospel, The Scribes & Pharisees Denounced (Matthew 23:1-12), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection:-

This is the fiercest of all the hard things which the gospel of Matthew has to say about the scribes and Pharisees. It introduces a sevenfold curse upon them. The Pharisees were the party of the Jews most concerned about the exact observance of the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The 'scribes' were lawyers to whom they would turn in the case of a clash between two laws. Their attention to detail and their fussiness often made them lose sight of the real purpose of the Law.

However, Jesus was prepared to meet them on the Pharisees' own ground and debate with them on their own terms. In the gospels, and especially in Matthew (written towards the end of the first century), the hostility of the early Christians to the Pharisees has obviously become fiercer, no doubt because of their persecution of the followers of Jesus. As Matthew warns, 'They will flog you in their synagogues.'

One of their concerns was obviously the status of the religious leaders. It looks as though they were almost turning themselves into little gods. So here the gospel stresses, by contrast, that all the disciples of Jesus are equal: in Christianity there is only one Father, only one Teacher for all. What are the charges here levelled against the Pharisees? What qualities earn Christian leaders the respect of others?

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES**

**THIS WEEK:** Please note - no mass on Tues 7th nor Wed 8th November.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Mon 6th November at St Aidan's, 6pm-7pm  
All are welcome.

**CONFESSION:** Saturday 11th November 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**

Both our churches are always on the look out for people who can support the parish in any way. Please consider coming along to our next meetings to hear more.

St Mary's - Wednesday 22nd November, 7pm - 8pm in the church hall.  
Email [parishsecretary@mail.com](mailto:parishsecretary@mail.com) for more information.

**HEART NORTH EAST:** This small local charity supports people in our area, providing food and clothing to the homeless. Given the recent bad weather they are making an urgent appeal for gloves, socks, hand warmers, sleeping bags and tents. Donations can be left in St Aidan's foyer. Thank you for your help.

**JUSTICE & PEACE - SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED:** There is a continuing need for tinned and packet food and personal toiletries to help refugees in our area. Donations can be left at both churches. Thank you.

### **COLLECTIONS:** w/c 29th October 2023

ST. AIDAN'S - Loose Plate: £205.50 / Envelopes: £62.00 / Candles: £44.00  
Hall Hire: £153.00 / Northern Cross: £10.50  
World Mission Sunday: £180.00

ST. MARY'S - Loose Plate: £248.81 / Envelopes: £50.00  
Donations: £70.00 / Friday Coffee: £74.10 (Mary's Meals)  
*Thank you for your continued support and generosity.*

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Poppies are available to buy in St Aidan's foyer & St Mary's church hall.

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Children who have made their First Holy Communion and are interested in becoming altar servers at St Aidan's or St Mary's are asked to send names and contact information to Joanne at [parishsecretary@mail.com](mailto:parishsecretary@mail.com) so details of a short training programme can be shared.

## **NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE**

**NEWSLETTER:** The November edition of the Diocesan newsletter is now available to read online. It contains a wealth of information about what is happening across the diocese including:-

***'A Light in the Darkness'*** - A Service of Remembrance for those who mourn the loss of a child.

The service will take place on Sunday 19 November from 3.00pm at St Joseph's Church, Gateshead (next to Gateshead Metro Station).

### **CLERGY TRAINING FUND**

The Clergy Training Fund is used to support the formation of Diocesan seminarians, who receive no funding from the state. It also supports the training of Permanent Deacons and the ongoing formation of all Clergy, helping them to grow and adapt in their ministry. Due to the impact of Covid-19, your generosity is needed now more than ever.

You can make a donation to the fund through the annual collection in parish, or via the donation page on the Diocesan website.  
Thank you for your support.

### **PROUD CATHOLICS - NEXT MEETING:** Tues 21st November 2023 - 7.30pm

*Reading With Care: Queer Perspectives on the Bible*

This meeting will examine some of the Biblical texts which are used against LGBTQ+ people, considering whether alternative interpretations are possible. Zoom link available. This will be followed by the usual social time and bring-and-share refreshments. See [www.proud Catholics.co.uk](http://www.proud Catholics.co.uk) for more details.