

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING:** 12th December 2021

Sat. 11th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	John Bradford
Sun. 12th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Terry & Dorothy Lamb
Sun. 12th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Velia Rea
Mon. 13th	***NO MASS***	
Tues. 14th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Liam Phelan
Wed. 15th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Nan Hayes
Thurs. 16th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Jim & Joan Byrne
Fri. 17th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Mary Chamney
Sat. 18th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Margaret & Ernest Waight
Sun. 19th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Veronica Bews & Family
Sun. 19th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Francis Xavier & Leucadea Pereira

***We continue to ask that ALL except for those with genuine medical exemptions wear a suitable face covering while in our Churches. You must also sanitise your hands as you enter the buildings & not gather in groups inside our Churches before or after Mass. Thank you for your co-operation.***

**Please pray for all those who are sick and those whose anniversary occurs about this time:**

Maureen Jackson, John James, John Brown, Winifred Lyons, Margaret Air, Thomas Hopper, Michael Thompson, Sarah Richardson, Norah Long, James Close, Alberto Niccolini, Joseph Baker, Christiane Ross, Alfred Cairnie, Nora Melucci, Margaret Graham, John Fearris, Margaret Nicholson, Agnes Harmen, Rosemary McDonald, Robert Adamson, James Crawford, Pauline McCoway, Louis Weidner, James Lavery, Frederick Ritson, Maureen Stowar, Ernest Thompson, Leslie Legge, Wilfred Wright, Kelvin Harris, Anthony Britt, Jane Pattison, Gladys Kaluza, Joseph Crowe, Peter Madden.

**KEEP IN TOUCH**

Contact Fr Hall directly via 0191 268 4222 or seanehall1@gmail.com  
Access live mass streaming via our Facebook page NE12Catholic.  
Newsletters & Homilies can be viewed on [www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)

**Welcome to our Parish Newsletter for:**

**St. Mary's R.C. Church and St. Aidan's R.C Church**

**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**

**Sunday 12th December 2021**

**The Third Sunday of Advent**

After listening to today's Gospel, John the Baptist's Counsels (Luke 3:10-18), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.  
In this second of the two Advent Sunday gospels about John the Baptist we first hear details about how to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Luke is always aware of the dangers of wealth and money, so he concentrates on avoiding its misuse.

First he teaches equal sharing with the needy, no hoarding but generosity. Then he turns to financial exploitation. Tax-collectors had to pay for the right to collect taxes, and would be tempted to extort a nice margin to cover their own needs. In the same way soldiers could be tempted to abuse their power by bullying those they were meant to protect.

The second half of John's task is to point away from himself towards Jesus, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke's gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are full of the Holy Spirit. Luke must have been vividly aware of the working of the Spirit in the Church, in its ministers of all kinds and in the life of the Christian communities. He warns also of the fierce fire which will purge away impurities; for John the Baptist the Messiah is a stern figure who will burn away the rubbish in human hearts to make room for the Spirit.  
What is the "rubbish" in my life which needs to be burnt away to prepare for the coming of Jesus?

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:**

### **ST. AIDAN'S HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME**

First Meeting: Today (Sunday 12th Dec) at 4pm in St Aidan's Church Hall to set out the timetable for the Family Catechesis sessions preparing our children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. All children from St Stephen's School & St Aidan's parish enrolled on this year's programme should attend with their parents/guardians.

### **JUSTICE & PEACE REFUGEE PROJECT**

Urgent appeal for food, as well as bedding, blankets, winter clothing and footwear until the 17th December. Please help where you can. Donations can be left at both churches or you can make a financial contribution with details available via [www.svp.org.uk/st-vincent-newcastle](http://www.svp.org.uk/st-vincent-newcastle)

### **GOSPEL POWER CHRISTMAS PRESENT**

Gospel Power 2022 is published by Pauline Books and contains the Mass Readings, with some reflections, for each day of 2022. This little pocket book is set to be picked up for a few minutes each day. It only costs £5 and is available in the hall at St Mary's or the Entrance at St Aidan's.

### **CHRISTMAS ANGELS**

Along with other churches in our area, we will be distributing Angels carrying a 'Goodwill Christmas message'. They can be hung on gates, fences, doorknobs, trees etc where people passing can see them and hopefully take them home with them. There are only a few Angel's in each bag so it won't take anyone long to distribute them near where they live. Yellow bags are at each Church door containing the Angel's please take one and share the Christmas message with others. Thank You.

### **ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS STARS**

We will once again be having our Christmas Tree in church this year, if you have any spare stars for people to write a message for a loved one we would be grateful to receive them as soon as possible. The stars will then be hung on the Christmas Tree.

## **COLLECTIONS: W/C 5th December 2021**

St. Aidan's - Loose Plate: £77.00 / Gift Aid: £54.00 / Hall Hire: £64.00  
St. Mary's - Loose Plate: £ 76.90 // Envelopes: £176.00  
Priest's Training Fund: £14.60

*Thank you for your continued support and generosity.*

## **NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE:**

### **ORGAN RECITAL**

Peter Locke will give an Organ Recital at the Cathedral Church of St Nicholas in Newcastle, on Monday 20th December, at 1.05pm. The recital will have an Advent and Christmas theme, and will feature music inspired by the Gregorian Chant of the Church also. Admission is free.

### **ADVENT ALMS 2021**

***Baskets at both church entrances & exits available for your donations.***

This Advent, we ask you to consider supporting St Cuthbert's Care. The charity provides frontline registered care services for people with complex disabilities, residential homes and fostering for young people and two Catholic nursing homes for older people. Thank you.

### **ADVENT REFLECTIONS - JOY**

The Third Week of Advent is about Joy, but not the kind that is meant to stay hidden within one's heart. Far from it, we have been given a light so that we too may shine, as we witness to God's goodness in our dealings with others. The world might not know him, but we do. We know with what authority he comes, so we have a duty to live with him and share him with others, especially when we are called to do the unpleasant and the difficult in his name. The joy that God brings is not to be confused with worldly comfort and social success, but it is the remedy for every poverty in our world. That is why it is often less readily accepted by the rich than by the poor. It is the quiet strength that keeps us walking towards the light, whatever the darkness around us.

*Frederique Gill - read more at [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)*