

Weekend Masses will now be streamed via YouTube only.
Simply search 'St Mary of the Rosary' for our page.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR w/c 10th December 2023

Sat. 16th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Margaret Bradford
Sun. 17th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	People of the Parish
Sun. 17th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	People of the Parish
Mon. 18th	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues. 19th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Mary Urie
Wed. 20th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Thurs. 21st (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Fri. 22nd (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Phillips Family
* Sat. 23rd (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Confession
Sat. 23rd (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Olive and Joseph Crowe
Sun. 24th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	People of the Parish
Sun. 24th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	People of the Parish

For Mass Intentions, please see envelopes in our churches.

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: 24th Dec - Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Our celebration of Christmas is not just of a baby born at Bethlehem. It is of the climax of God's plan for the world."

CHILDREN'S PRAYER: God of all, you sent the angel Gabriel as your messenger to Mary. Help us to be your messengers in the world today. Amen.

WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR: Those in our parishes who are sick; Those who have died recently. And those of our parishes whose anniversary occurs at this time.

KEEP IN TOUCH: Contact us 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

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:
St. Mary's & St. Aidan's R.C Churches
Rev. Sean Hall

Tel. 0191 268 4222

www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk

www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com

Join us on Facebook - NE12Catholic

*To arrange Baptisms, please email
parishsecretary@mail.com*



Sunday 17th December 2023:

The Third Sunday of Advent

After listening to today's Gospel, A Voice Crying in the Desert (John 1:6-8. 19-28), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection:-
So, John the Baptist came as a witness to the light. In today's gospel reading he seems rather to refuse witness. He is quite negative, answering with a stalwart and repeated 'No!'. He witnesses only that 'There is one standing among you whom you do not know'. It is not always easy to find Jesus. All the way through the Gospel of John there are misunderstandings about Jesus; people fail to recognise him for what he is: there's the Samaritan at the well, Nicodemus in the night, Mary Magdalene beside the empty tomb, even Peter and the disciples as they fish on the Lake. We can easily become so wrapped up in our own troubles and worries that we fail to recognise the one figure who can provide the solution to them, although he is standing among us, the one who 'has the words of eternal life'. He may come to us in a way we do not like, as a corrective - blocking or diverting the way we have chosen. He may come as suffering, disappointment, failure or bereavement. All of these may be acts of God's love, to show us the way, though we cannot see it at the time. It is just like John the Baptist, saying steadily 'No!', until eventually we turn around and see Christ as our true light. How can I find Jesus in the crowded events of my busy life? He often comes in unexpected ways. Is he in the quiet voice of a friend? Is he in the anger of someone I have annoyed? Is he in the rebuke of someone who knows me better than I know myself? Is he in my failures and frustrations?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

ADVENT ALMS: Donations made at our churches this Advent Season will support St Cuthbert's Care in Newcastle. Thank you for generosity.

ST AIDAN'S CRIB AND NATIVITY FIGURES: TODAY!

Volunteers are needed after mass to help set up our Holy Family statues in front of the Altar. Two people also required to draw the Christmas Raffle. Thank you in advance for all your help.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AT ST MARY'S: Tickets also on sale in St Mary's hall for the chance to win a Christmas Hamper. Good Luck Everyone!

ADVENT REFLECTIONS: The Diocese's Advent Reflections help foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures and a renewed sense of belonging as we prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas. They have been written by a variety of people and are available to view on the diocesan website www.diocesehn.org.uk or via our Parish Facebook page NE12Catholic. ***If you would prefer a printed copy of these Reflections, please leave your name with our greeters at St Aidan's or speak to Fr Hall.***

CONFESSION: Saturday 23rd December at St Mary's , 11am

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: Please note, no booking required.

This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve.

Mass will take place at the usual Sunday times:-

9.15am at St Aidan's and 11.00am at St Mary's.

Christmas Vigil Mass (24th December)

4.30pm at St Mary's (with carols 30 mins before Mass)

6.30pm at St Aidan's (with carols 15 mins before Mass)

Christmas Day (25th December) - 10am at St Mary's.

Boxing Day (26th December) - 10am at St Mary's.

Please remember church will be busy so arrive in plenty of time.

COLLECTIONS: w/c 10th December 2023

ST. AIDAN'S - Loose Plate: £183.00/ Envelopes: £50.00 / Hall Hire: £72.00

ST. MARY'S - Loose Plate: £325.31 / Envelopes: £38.00

Friday Coffee: £51.00 (Mary's Meals)

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

MASS AND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Proud Catholics will celebrate Mass at St Andrew's RC Church, followed by refreshments and an opportunity to exchange Christmas greetings on Tuesday 19th December, 7:30pm. See www.proud Catholics.co.uk for info

AFTERNOON TEA AT ST MARY'S COMP SCHOOL, BENTON PARK ROAD

All parishioners are invited to a Christmas Afternoon Tea on Thurs 21st Dec from 1:30 - 3:00pm, with tea, cakes and music. There's no cost but there will be stalls to raise funds for a local foodbank. Contact the school on 0191 2153260 / admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk to attend.

EVENTS FOR NEW DIARIES

ST MARY'S MASS ROTAS

Rotas for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers at St Mary's in 2024 are available in the church hall. If you would prefer an electronic version, please email parishsecretary@mail.com

Thank you for your continued support and service to our parish.

DIOCESAN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL EVENING

Tues 23rd January 2024, 7pm at St Mary's Comprehensive School, Benton Park Road. This year's theme is Fragility of Freedom with guest speaker Mrs Deanna Van Der Velde. Booking is essential via Interreligious.relations@diocesehn.org.uk or 0191 243 3316.

ST MARY'S SOCIAL - FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

Saturday 10th February, 6.15pm onwards (weekend before the start of Lent!) All welcome and a sign up sheet will be available in the new year. If you are able to help, please email parishsecretary@mail.com