

### **MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEKS BEGINNING: 19th March 2023**

Sat. 18th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Welcome Ottilie Margot Ronan
Sun. 19th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Nan Hayes
Sun. 19th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Shirley Charlton
Mon. 20th	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues. 21st (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Elizabeth Scott
Wed. 22nd (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	George Todhunter
Thurs. 23rd (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Fri. 24th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	People of the Parish
* Fri. 24th (St. Aidan's)	6pm	Stations of the Cross (A Rebello)
* Sat. 25th (St. Mary's)	11am	Confession
Sat. 25th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Jane & Lawrence Johnson
Sun. 26th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	June Weatherstone
Sun. 26th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Laura Anne Heslop

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

The Fifth Sunday of Lent - 26th March 2023

*"The Spirit ....gives us strength and zeal to do God's work in all our ways of life."* Second Reading: The Gift of the Spirit (Romans 8:8-11)

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

God of light and power, we give thanks to you for the gift of life.  
Help us to do what we can so all people throughout the world can  
enjoy this gift. Amen.

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

Those who are sick. Those who have died recently.  
And all those within 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 [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)

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

**St. Mary's & St. Aidan's R.C Churches**

**Rev. Sean Hall**

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**[www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)**

**[www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com](http://www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com)**

**Join us on Facebook - NE12Catholic**

### **Sunday 19th March 2023**

#### **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

After listening to today's Gospel, The Cure of the Man born Blind (John 9:1.6-9.13-17.34-38 ), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection. The second of the three great Johannine readings about water, light and life (which point to the baptisms of Easter) gives us the splendid account of Jesus bringing light to the blind man in the Temple. It is full of Johannine contrasts and irony. The 'Jews' or the Pharisees think they have the light and knowledge, but the more they abuse the man born blind, the clearer their own darkness and ignorance become. The more they try to thrust the blind man away from Jesus, the more they push him into seeking refuge in him.

Much of the colouring of the scene comes from the controversies towards the end of the first century, when the Pharisees were the only branch of Judaism to survive after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. The New Testament shows that there was bitter opposition between those Jews who accepted the divine claims for Jesus, and those who rejected them. This is especially clear in the fear of the blind man's parents (recounted in the longer version of Sunday's Gospel) that they would be excluded from the synagogue if they accepted that Jesus' grant of sight was a sign of his divine mission. The doughty and pugnacious man born blind has no such hesitation!

What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world?  
How can you bring this light of Jesus to other people?

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:**

**MOTHERING SUNDAY:** There will be tea, coffee and scones served in the church hall after Sunday Mass at St Mary's - all are welcome.  
Thank you to our bakers and those serving refreshments!

## **DIOCESAN SURVEY: Open until Monday 27th March**

Last week Fr Hall mentioned the online survey from the Diocese which is seeking input from all parishioners. Please do take a look -  
You can access the survey via the homepage of the Diocesan website at [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) and a link to the survey will also be posted on our Facebook page NE12Catholic this Sunday afternoon.

## **ST AIDAN'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Wed 22nd March, 7pm**

This is an open meeting with all parishioners very welcome to attend.  
Previous minutes are on the website [www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com](http://www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com)  
We hope to see you there!

## **ST MARY'S PARISH COUNCIL** - met on Wed 15th March.

Minutes are available to view on [www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)

**PARISH CENSUS FORMS:** Thank you to all for the completed forms.  
Those indicating an interest in voluntary roles or requesting Gift Aid details will be contacted with more information this month.

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** additional date

Alison Rebello will be leading Stations of the Cross at St. Aidan's on:-  
\* Friday 24th March, 6pm and Fri 31st March at 10am

## **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP:** (see [www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk))

Tuesday 21st March, 10.30am at St Mary's  
Thursday 30th March, 7pm at St Aidan's (join also via zoom)  
Each session, we reflect together on the Readings for the coming Sunday.

## **CONFESSION** - Saturday 25th March 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

## **COLLECTIONS: w/c 12th March**

ST. AIDAN'S - Loose Plate: £196.00/ Envelopes: £46.00 / Hall Hire: £34.00  
CAFOD Family Fast Day: £120.00  
ST. MARY'S - Loose Plate: £224.20 / Envelopes: £58.00  
FRI. COFFEE MORNING: £46.40 (CAFOD EARTHQUAKE APPEAL)  
*Thank you all for your continued support and generosity.*

## **FROM THE JESMOND ST MARY PARTNERSHIP**

### **CHRISTIAN MEDITATION COURSE: Join anytime!**

This five week meditation course is taking place at the Holy Name in Jesmond, every Tuesday from 7th March to 4th April, 7pm until 8pm.  
All are welcome and you can come along to any or all sessions. There is more information via [wccm.org](http://wccm.org) or email [rosie.hodnett@btinternet.com](mailto:rosie.hodnett@btinternet.com)

## **FROM THE DIOCESE**

### **LENTEN REFLECTIONS PART 2: View on [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)**

We walk these forty Lent days with Jesus on a pilgrimage of grace, and look to Him for new direction, for healing and for hope. We must recognise our pain, confusion and distress and hand them over to Him, while also giving witness to the pain and suffering of others....

*"As you walk the path ahead, lean on these resources for support, guidance and inspiration. Worry less about the pace you set for yourself and be open to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit in the silence this holy season gives to our suffering and search for healing."*

## **JUSTICE & PEACE REFUGEE PROJECT**

Thank you for your continued support which is as vital as ever. Donations of tinned and packet foods, toiletries and clothing is collected from the foyer in St Aidan's and the hall at St Mary's. Find out more via [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)

## **FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION** - Saturday 25th March

There will be a Day of Prayer for Life - in particular for the unborn and for pregnant women - including Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and opportunity to venerate the relics of St Gianna Molla at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle following the 10.00 am Mass until 4.00pm organised by Catholic members of SPUC.