

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING:** 5th December 2021

Sat. 4th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Stephen Brattle
Sun. 5th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Edith Latimer
Sun. 5th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Eileen Ann Lupton
Mon. 6th	***NO MASS***	
Tues. 7th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Brian McMenemy
Wed. 8th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Wyn Gaffney
Thurs. 9th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Edith Latimer
Fri. 10th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Michael McNicholl
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

***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:**

Henry Stewart, Minnie Marshall, Ernest Darby, Anne Gent, John Stogden, Elizabeth Moore, George Harmen, Thomas McKenna, Thomas Noble, Elizabeth Brown, Peggy Brennan, Nancy McKenna, Gary Stionach, Ethel Mallet, Catherine Proctor, Joseph Lackenby, Velia Rea, Eva Jackson, 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 Farris.

**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 5th December 2021**

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

After listening to today's Gospel, The Baptist's Message (Luke 3:1-6), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Each year the two middle Sundays of Advent centre on John the Baptist, preparing the way for Jesus. John came to prepare a community of repentance, of those who would be ready for the Messiah. This was to be a community not of those who went around moping about their sinfulness, but a community of those who had changed their ways, that is, their whole system of values and priorities.

The Hebrew concept of repentance which John proclaimed was a matter of turning round and going in the opposite direction. To be ready for the Messiah meant – and still means – just such a radical change of attitude. John himself had prepared by going out into the desert, for the Messiah was to come striding across the desert, as did Israel at the Exodus from Egypt. John's clothing and his whole way of life showed his rejection of current materialism and his single-minded dedication. His is not primarily a negative point of view, for his quotation of Isaiah (reflected also in today's first reading from Baruch), shows that the flattening of the hills and the filling of the valleys is a preparation for the Kingdom of peace and justice.

A good deal of positive planning and of spade-work is needed if we are to be ready to welcome that Kingdom. What sort of change did John the Baptist ask from his listeners?

Think of one change you need to make in your life to welcome Jesus.

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:**

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

First Meeting: 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.

### **ST MARYS' MUSICIANS**

A 'musical' note to anyone who would like to join and play along during Sunday Mass. If you are keen to join us, please speak to Trisha, Peter, Joan or Tony at any time or pop up to the gallery to see us. They would be glad to hear from you and you will be very supported and welcomed.

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

Urgent appeal for food, as well as bedding, blankets, winter clothing and footwear until the 17th December. There has been an increase in demand as many more refugees are using the centre. Please help where you can.

Donations can be left at both churches.

Alternatively, you can make a financial contribution.

The project bank account is: DHN, Justice & Peace Refugee Project / sort code 40-34-18 / account number 52854058.

Cheques made payable to DHN, Justice & Peace Refugee Project can be sent to Sara Harris, St. Vincent's Support Centre, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 2TQ

### **GOSPEL POWER CHRISTMAS PRESENT**

If you are looking for a stocking-filler present for a member of the family, or even just a treat for yourself, have a look at the book "Gospel Power 2022". It is published by Pauline Books and contains the Mass Readings, with some reflections, for each day of 2022. This little pocket book would fit into a desk drawer at work, a handbag, a brief-case, a bedside cabinet, or a side table in the sitting room: 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.

### **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 21st November 2021**

St. Aidan's - Loose Plate: £78.00 / Gift Aid: £132.00 / Training Fund: £90.00

St. Mary's - Loose Plate: £77.70 // Envelopes: £91.00 //

Priest Training Fund: £32.00

*Thank you for your continued support and generosity.*

### **FACILITIES UPDATE!**

Toilets which have been closed during Covid are now open for use again.

## **NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE:**

### **ASSOCIATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

In this year of the Eucharist, the Association of the Eucharist is holding a Holy Hour at St. Andrew's, Worswick Street, Newcastle, today (Sun 5th) from 2pm to 3pm, followed by refreshments.

### **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 - FAITH**

What do we have faith in? That Christ is our refuge, our salvation and the source of our joy. He comes to us as a child we can cradle in our arms, a friend we can always talk to, and a shepherd who rescues us when we are lost. Whatever we need, He brings us Good News. *Frederique Gill*  
*Read more at [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)*