

### **MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING: 6th March 2022**

Sat. 5th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun. 6th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	George Todhunter
Sun. 6th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	People of the Parish
Mon. 7th	***	NO MASS
Tues. 8th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Geoff & Paul Allmond
Wed. 9th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Jim & Joan Byrne
Thurs. 10th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	George Todhunter
Fri. 11th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Sick Person (A.W)
Sat. 12th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Decd. Maher Family
Sun. 13th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Fr. Richard Harriott
Sun. 13th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Peggy Smart & Carr MacDonald

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

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

Stan Younger, Noel Dack, Colin Martin, Terence Conroy, Jack Savage, James Simpson, Terry Hargreaves, Rose Mulligan, Elizabeth Montgomery, Brenda Ward, Jane Fairlamb, Elsie McNulty, Rose Kennedy, Lilian Martin, Francis Steinson, Sarah Douglas, Bernard King, Margaret Wily, Thomas Wilky, Joseph Oxborough, Robert Copeland, William McQueen, Nathaniel McPhillips, Frederick Hood, Thomas Stedding, Michael Buckley, William Binkett, Charles Kent, Richard Kennedy, Jane Hogarth, Ellen Stedding, Kevin Grady, Anne Gardiner, Constance Young, Dorothy Conway.

### **KEEP IN TOUCH**

Contact Fr Hall directly via 0191 268 4222 or seanehall1@gmail.com  
Access live weekend mass streaming via our Facebook page NE12Catholic. This is a private, member only site.  
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 6th March 2022**

#### **The First Sunday in Lent**

After listening to today's Gospel, Jesus is tested in the Desert (Luke 4:1-13), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

To remind us that Lent is a time of testing, the gospel reading of the First Sunday of Lent is always about the testing of Jesus. Through our fasting (or whatever that extra offering we make to the Lord during Lent may be) we enter into solidarity with the hardship undergone by Jesus in his Passion.

Of course Lent is not a matter of testing out how far we can push ourselves (a sort of macho self-torture). Rather it is a period of preparation for the Passion and Resurrection - just like the forty years of Israel in the desert preparing for the Promised Land, or like the prophet Elijah's forty-day preparation before he encounters God on Mount Horeb, or like the forty days during which Christ prepared the apostles between Easter and the Ascension.

The point of Jesus' forty-day fast is to give some force in response to the devil's first temptation. To each of the devil's taunts Jesus replies with a word of scripture: if you rely on God's word you are unshakably safe, for God has created and arranged everything. Matthew and Luke have a different order for the second and third temptations: Matthew climaxes with Jesus as the Second Moses, like Moses seeing all the territories from a high mountain. Luke ends the scene as he begins and ends his gospel, at Jerusalem, the turning-point of the gospel - the place where Jesus rises from the dead and ascends to the Father.

We do not live on bread alone. How has the Word of God fed you?  
In the solitude of the desert Jesus prayed to his Father. Can you find solitude for prayer? What can you do during Lent to come closer to the Lord?

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:**

### **ST MARY'S COFFEE MORNINGS**

We are delighted to announce the return of coffee mornings after Friday Mass at St Mary's. All are welcome to join us in the hall for friendships and refreshments! Donations for the weekly fundraising raffle are appreciated.

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Fr. Hall has recorded a virtual presentation of the Stations of the Cross. Watch via [https://youtu.be/V\\_DVNILtNI8](https://youtu.be/V_DVNILtNI8) or [www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)

### **MEETING MINUTES**

St Mary's Parish Council and Finance Committee met on 23rd February. Minutes are available to view on [www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)

### **COMING BACK TOGETHER**

If you know someone who is not currently attending Church but would appreciate a visit, please give Fr. Hall their name & address so he can arrange visits as part of our process of coming out of the Covid restrictions.

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

Please help the ongoing appeal with donations of shampoo, toiletries and female hygiene products. Donations can be left at both churches. Thank you for your ongoing support.

### **ST MARY'S CHOIR**

Singers and musicians of all ages and abilities welcome to join our friendly group! Please speak to anyone from the choir to find out more.

### **HELP FOR UKRAINE**

One of our Parishioners is involved in the collection of urgent supplies to help families and children caught up in the conflict in Ukraine. If you can donate long life food, including baby food (no glass jars), toiletries - especially those for children: wet wipes, nappies, first aid kits. Clothing (new please), sleeping bags, batteries, children's books & sweets. Please leave donations clearly marked HELP FOR UKRAINE in St Mary's Church Hall BEFORE 10th MARCH. Thank you for your help.

### **COLLECTIONS: W/C 27th February 2022**

St. Aidan's - Loose Plate: £787.00 // Envelopes: £86.50 // Hall Hire: £44.00  
Northern Cross: £7.50

St. Mary's - Loose Plate: £77.70 // Envelopes: £176.20

**LENTEN ALMS:** Baskets in both Churches for donations in aid of St Cuthbert's Care. *Thank you for your continued support and generosity.*

### **FROM THE DIOCESE**

#### **PROUD CATHOLICS**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15 March at 7.30pm, with praying of the Stations of the Cross together around the walls of St Andrew's. See [www.proudcatolics.co.uk](http://www.proudcatolics.co.uk) for more information.

### **VACANCY**

The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle is looking to appoint a new Head of Finance. Closing date for applications: 12 March 2022. Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details and application.

### **LENTEN REFLECTIONS**

A booklet of Lenten reflections is available to view or download from [www.diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/liturgy-prayer](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/liturgy-prayer)

### **SYCAMORE FOR LENT**

This Lenten Season there will be an online programme each Sunday From 6th March to 10th April at 4.00pm until 5.15pm  
The sessions involve some teaching and thought-provoking testimonies & discussion groups. This is a free course. To join or find out more visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)

### **CAFOD'S NEW LENT CHALLENGE IS HERE!**

Challenge yourself to walk 200k this Lent and help stamp out hunger, one step at a time. You can walk, roll, skip or stroll your way to 200k. Go it alone, take it on 5k a day for 40 days, or smash the target as a team. There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. Help give hunger its marching orders. See [www.walk.cafod.org.uk](http://www.walk.cafod.org.uk) for details.