

**Weekend Masses will now be streamed via YouTube only.**

**Simply search 'St Mary of the Rosary' for our page.**

**MASS INTENTIONS w/c 7th January 2024**

Sat. 6th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun. 7th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	People of the Parish
Sun. 7th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Sr, Anne McCarthy
Mon. 8th	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues. 9th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Winifred Maher
Wed. 10th	*** NO MASS ***	
Thurs. 11th	*** NO MASS ***	
Fri. 12th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Pat Curry
Sat. 13th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Confession
Sat. 13th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Emmet & Tierney Families
Sun. 14th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Priest's Intention
Sun. 14th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Deceased of the Maher family

*For Mass Intentions, please see envelopes in our churches.*

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK:** 14th January 2024.

*"This should give us a wonderful reverence for our bodies."*

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians (6:13-15.17-2).

**CHILDREN'S PRAYER:** God of all, you know us all by our name, and love and care for us, because we are all your children. Help us also to love and care for our brothers and sisters around the world. 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](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:**  
**St. Mary's & St. Aidan's R.C Churches**  
**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**

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



**Sunday 7th January 2024:**

**The Feast of the Epiphany**

After listening to today's Gospel, Wise Men from the East (Matt 2:1-12), consider Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection:-  
The Wise Men, with their clever knowledge of astronomy and their lavish gifts, represent all that is best in worldly values. They also have a bit of magic about them, for frankincense and myrrh were used in spells, and the word for 'wise men' can also mean 'magicians'.

In this case, the Wise Men have real wisdom and its reward, and all the respect and fame due to a 'magus' and yet they lay it all at Jesus' feet. It might be worth asking at this beginning of the year whether we submit all our skills and comforts to Jesus as the Wise Men did. The story also rests on the sharp contrast between King Herod and the Wise Men. Herod was a Jew, so he should have recognised and honoured the Jewish Messiah. Not at all! He tried to kill the Messiah.

By contrast, the Wise Men, arriving from what for us would be the equivalent of outer space, carry on their search till they find Jesus and humbly bow before him. This poses a nasty question: we Christians have all the guidance and encouragement of the Church, but how often do we find those outside the Church, not even professed Christians, behaving in a more Christian way than we do ourselves!  
What skill, what gift may I place before Jesus today?

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

## NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

**STAMPS AND COINS FOR LITTLE SISTERS:** Volunteers are collecting used postage stamps and foreign currency (any country or period) and broken or unwanted gold & silver jewellery which they sort and sell to dealers to raise funds for Little Sisters of the Poor. Any donations can be left in marked envelopes in our churches. A good excuse to clear out drawers!

**SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR SPUC:** There will be a special collection next weekend (13th / 14th Jan) for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. Envelopes for donations will be at church entrances. Thank you for your support.

**CONFESSION:** Saturday 13th January 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

**DIOCESAN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL EVENING:** Tues 23rd January, 7pm at St Mary's Comp School, Benton Park Road. 'Fragility of Freedom' with guest speaker Mrs Deanna Van Der Velde. Booking is essential via [Interreligious.relations@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:Interreligious.relations@diocesehn.org.uk) or 0191 243 3316.

**ST MARY'S SOCIAL - FISH AND CHIP SUPPER:** Sat 10th February, 6.15pm  
There will be a sign up form in the hall next weekend.  
If you are able to help, please email [parishsecretary@mail.com](mailto:parishsecretary@mail.com)

**COLLECTIONS:** St. Aidan's - w/e 24th December & Christmas Eve  
Loose Plate: £435.00 / Envelopes: £105.00 / Advent Alms: £340.00  
St. Mary's w/e 24th December  
Loose Plate: £251.05 / Envelopes: £58.00 / Christmas Raffle: £75.00  
Friday Coffee: £167.00 (Mary's Meals)  
St. Mary's Christmas Masses  
Loose Plate: £852.88 / Envelopes: £86.00 / Donations: £120.00  
Votive Candles: £48.57  
*Thank you for your continued support and generosity.*

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

**NEW READERS OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD COURSE:** Training and guidance in the preparation and delivery of readings during church services, this programme consists of two sessions: -  
Monday 15 January, 7.00 – 9.00pm.  
Saturday 20 January, 10.30am – 3.00pm (includes Commissioning Mass)  
Venue: St Mary, Dockendale Lane, Whickham, Newcastle, NE16 4EN.  
Cost: £12.50 per participant with booking deadline Wed 10th January.  
Please speak to Fr Hall or email [parishsecretary@mail.com](mailto:parishsecretary@mail.com)

**PAUL'S LETTER TO PHILEMON:** The Sion Centre for Dialogue & Encounter 'Zoom' study programme for Winter into Spring 2024 continues on Wed 17th January. 'Paul's Letter To Philemon 'A Charming Postcard of a Letter' and 1 Thessalonians 'The First of Paul's Extant Letters' will be presented by Rev'd Nicholas King, SJ. The talk will take place from 2.00pm – 3.30pm. For details & zoom link, visit [www.sioncentre.org](http://www.sioncentre.org)

**YOUTH MINISTRY CONFERENCE:** 3rd Feb, Cardinal Hume School, G'head  
This Youth Ministry & Practical Theology Conference is YMT's first since the pandemic, and will gather together youth ministers, catechists, clergy, teachers, staff and volunteer co-workers from across the Diocese. Themed "Investing in the Fearlessness of Youth", additional details can be found [www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam)

**MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MASS 2024:** Saturday 17th February  
Bishop Stephen will celebrate Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 17 February 2024 at 12.00pm to give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage and Family Life. All married couples are invited with particular focus on those celebrating a significant anniversary, together with bereaved spouses, separated individuals and families experiencing or having experienced domestic difficulties. Anyone celebrating a special anniversary can request a certificate by calling the Faith and Mission Team on 0191 243 3316. More detail via [rob.wareing@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:rob.wareing@diocesehn.org.uk) (Diocesan Lead for Marriage & Family Life).