

MASS INTENTIONS: w/c 8th December 2024

Sat 7th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Margaret Kennedy
Sun 8th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	June Weatherstone
Sun 8th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	People of the Parish
* Mon 9th	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues 10th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Priest's Intentions
Wed 11th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Priest's Intentions
Thurs 12th (St Aidan's)	10.00am	Children of the Parish (school mass)
Fri 13th (St Mary's)	10.00am	Priest's Intentions
* Sat 14th (St Mary's)	11.00am	Confession
Sat 14th (St Mary's)	5.30pm	D'cd of Duffy & Cormican families
Sun 15th (St Aidan's)	9.15am	Maureen Bews
Sun 15th (St Mary's)	11.00am	People of the Parish

For Mass Intentions, please see envelopes in our churches

"Often we are so burdened and overwhelmed with other thoughts, images and concerns that it may take a long time before God's Word has swept all else aside and come through. But it will surely come..."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: 15th December - Third Sunday of Advent

"Place your worries before the Lord and leave the rest to him."

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

CHILDREN'S PRAYER: Generous God, we give you thanks for all the good things that you have given us. Inspire us to share what we have so all people may live a full and happy life. Amen.

WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR:

Those who have died recently. Those in our parishes who are sick or who may need our thoughts and prayers. And those of our parishes whose anniversary occurs at this time.

KEEP IN TOUCH:

Contact us via NE12Catholic@dioceses.org.uk or 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

Parish Newsletter:

St. Mary's & St. Aidan's Churches

Rev. Sean Hall

Tel. 0191 268 4222

www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk

www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com

Join us on Facebook: NE12Catholic

For Baptisms, First Holy Communions and Confirmations, please email

NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk

Sunday 8th December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

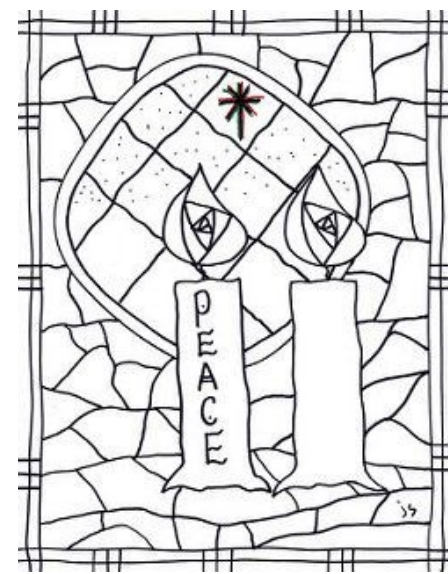
After listening to today's Gospel, The Baptist's Message (Lk 3:1-6), consider this reflection.

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

THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER: School Mass

Children from St Stephen's Primary will be joining us for mass at St Aidan's at 10am. Families are very welcome.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES: Thursday 12th December
St Mary's Primary School will be celebrating at St Mary's Church at 2pm.
St Stephen's Primary School will be celebrating at St Aidan's at 6pm.
All parishioners are very welcome to attend.

JUSTICE & PEACE REFUGEE PROJECT: Thank you for your continued support which is essential & much appreciated. Please note the last day donations will be collected from our churches before Christmas is Fri 13th December.

CONFESSION: Saturday 14th December, 11am at St Mary's

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: There are collections at both of our churches should you wish to donate in support of our Christmas flower displays. Thanks as always to our tireless volunteers for their talents and creativity.

ST AIDAN'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Tickets on sale before and after mass. The raffle will be drawn before mass on Sunday 22nd December and prizes available for collection after mass. Donations of prizes are welcome. Thank you for your support.

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Tickets can be purchased from the hall. Thank you to Natalie for organising.

ALTAR CRIBS: We hope to set up cribs in both churches after mass on 22nd December. Please make a note in diaries if you are able to help. Thank you.

COLLECTIONS: 1st December 2024

St. Aidan's - Loose Plate: £156.00 / Envelopes: £75.00 / Hall hire: £94.00

Piety: £50.00 / Youth Ministry Trust: £50.00

St. Mary's - Loose Plate: £389.80 / Envelopes: £22.00 / Donations: £40.00

Funeral: £228.00 / Candles: £32.55

Fri Coffee Morning: £96.00 (People's Kitchen)

For details about Gift Aid or donating via standing order, please email NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk - thank you for your continued support.

CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA AT ST MARY'S COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

The Just.Us student group at St Mary's Catholic School would like to invite parishioners to a Christmas Afternoon Tea on Thurs 19th Dec 1:30 – 3:00pm. It promises to be a wonderful occasion to celebrate together with tea, cakes and music. All ages are welcome. There is no cost but there will be a few stalls to raise funds for a local foodbank. Please contact the school on 0191 2153260, email admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk if you would like to attend. Many thanks and we look forward to seeing you.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR SERIES: January / February 2025

Organised by our Deacon, Alison Rebello, the Life in the Spirit seminars are an introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. All sessions will be held at St Aidan's from 7.00 - 8.30pm with weekly guest speaker.
16th January - God's Love // 23rd January - Salvation
30th January - The New Life // 6th February - Receiving God's Gifts
13th February - Baptised in the Holy Spirit // 20th February - Growth
27th February - Transformation.
Please book your place via <https://bit.ly/LifeInTheSpiritBenton>

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

ENRICH YOUR ADVENT EXPERIENCE:

Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation, as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is a time to reflect on the blessings we have received and to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord. May this season be filled with moments of reflection, prayer, & joyous anticipation. See daily reflections via www.diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Penitential Service - Sunday 15th December, 4pm at St Mary's

Christmas Eve Mass - St Mary's at 4.30pm (Carols before mass)

Christmas Eve Mass - St Aidan's at 6.30pm (Carols before mass)

Christmas Day Mass - St Mary's at 10am

Boxing Day Mass (Thurs 26th) - St Mary's at 10am

Wednesday 1st January, St Mary's at 10am