

MASS INTENTIONS: w/c 15th December 2024

Sat 14th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	D'cd of Duffy & Cormican families
Sun 15th (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	People of the Parish
Sun 15th (St. Mary's)	11.00am	John McDonnell
* Sun 15th (St Mary's)	4.00pm	Penitential Service
Mon 16th	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues 17th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Mary McNamara (ill)
Wed 18th (St. Aidan's)	10.00am	Priest's Intentions
** Thurs 19th	*** NO MASS ***	
Fri 20th (St Mary's)	10.00am	Christina Quinn
* Sat 21st (St Adian's)	11.00am	Confession
Sat 21st (St Mary's)	5.30pm	D'cd of Forster & Burnett Families
Sun 22nd (St Aidan's)	9.15am	People of the Parish
Sun 22nd (St Mary's)	11.00am	Phillips Family

For Mass Intentions, please see envelopes in our churches

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand;"

Philippians 4:4

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: 22nd December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

The ultimate expression of loving obedience is the Cross.

(2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10)

CHILDREN'S PRAYER: "Caring God, Elizabeth was filled with joy when she saw Mary and knew how special her baby would be. May all parents and their babies around the world have the chance to live healthy and happy lives, with hope for the future. 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 telephone 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

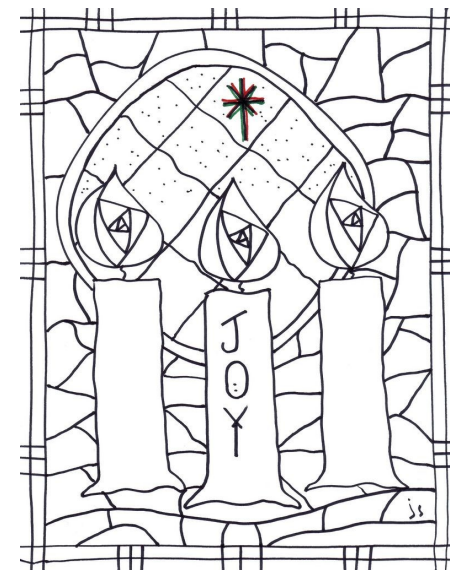
Sunday 15th December 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

After listening to today's Gospel, John the Baptist's Counsels (Lk 3:10-15), consider this reflection.

In this second of the two Advent Sunday gospels about John the Baptist we first hear details about how to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Luke is always aware of the dangers of wealth and money, so he concentrates on avoiding its misuse. First he teaches equal sharing with the needy, no hoarding but generosity. Then he turns to financial exploitation. Tax-collectors had to pay for the right to collect taxes, and would be tempted to extort a nice margin to cover their own needs. In the same way soldiers could be tempted to abuse their power by bullying those they were meant to protect. The second half of John's task is to point away from himself towards Jesus, who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke's gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are full of the Holy Spirit. Luke must have been vividly aware of the working of the Spirit in the Church, in its ministers of all kinds and in the life of the Christian communities. He warns also of the fierce fire which will purge away impurities; for John the Baptist the Messiah is a stern figure who will burn away the rubbish in human hearts to make room for the Spirit.

What is the "rubbish" in my life which needs to be burnt away to prepare for the coming of Jesus?



Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER: Gaudete Sunday

From the Latin word 'rejoice' today we light the rose coloured Advent candle to express the joy of anticipation at the approach of Christmas.

SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER: Penitential Service at St Mary's at 4pm

All are welcome to take a little time out of their busy schedules for quiet reflection, prayer and reconciliation.

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE STARS: Available in the church hall for those who wish to write on personal intentions for our Christmas masses.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS: Minutes available from our November meetings both online and on the noticeboard at St Aidan's and in the hall at St Mary's. Please speak to Fr Hall if you have any queries.

CONFESSION: Saturday 21st December, 11am at St Aidan'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 volunteers.

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. Draw will be made after mass on Sunday 22nd December.

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: 8th December 2024

St. Aidan's - Loose Plate: £266.00 / Envelopes: £94.00 / Hall hire: £80.00

St. Mary's - Loose Plate: £295.08 / Envelopes: £29.00 / Donations: £20.00

Advent Alms: £52.20 / Fri Coffee Morning: £80.00 (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

Thurs 19th Dec 1:30 – 3:00pm, all welcome to enjoy tea, cakes and music. Contact the school via 0191 2153260 or admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk if you would like to attend. The students look forward to seeing you.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2025: Could this be the year you take on a new role at St Aidan's or St Mary's? Perhaps explore the ministries of reading or distributing communion? New members are very welcome at our Parish Council Meetings and help is always needed to ensure we can continue to offer coffee mornings and children's liturgy classes.

Please speak to Fr Hall or email NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk

JOURNEY IN FAITH - HOLY NAME PROGRAMME 2025:

Sycamore is an informal course about Christian faith and explains, across 12 sessions, the central beliefs and practices of Catholic Christianity. It is ideal for those who are exploring the faith for the first time, for those who may wish to be received into the Church, and for those who want to deepen the faith they already have. The first session takes place on Sunday 12th January. For further information and to register your interest, please contact: welcome@holynamesmond.co.uk

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, the first taking place on 16th January and themed 'God's Love.'

Please book your place via <https://bit.ly/LifeInTheSpiritBenton>

ST AIDAN'S & ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

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

*May this season be filled with moments of reflection, prayer,
and joyous anticipation.*

See daily reflections via www.diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith