

**MASS INTENTIONS:** w/c 1st December 2024

Sat 30th (St. Mary's)	5.30pm	Tony Ward
Sun 1st (St. Aidan's)	9.15am	Herbert Ball
Sun 1st (St. Mary's)	11.00am	Special Intention (AW)
* Mon 2nd	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues 3rd (St. Mary's)	10.30am	Requiem Mass John McDonnell
Wed 4th (St. Aidan's)	12.15pm	Requiem Mass Maureen Bews
Thurs 5th (St Aidan's)	10.00am	Edith Latimer
Fri 6th (St Mary's)	10.00am	John McDonnell
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

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

*Lord, as we begin a new year in the life of your Church, we pray that we may always be vigilant, living our lives in awareness of your call to be watchful at all times for your coming among us. Amen*

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK:**

8th December - Second Sunday of Advent

"We endeavour to mould ourselves as his faithful followers and to live out his values." 2nd Reading: Philippians 1:4-6. 8-11

**CHILDREN'S PRAYER:** Loving God, you want the whole world to welcome Jesus. Help us to prepare for his coming by changing our lives for the better. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord, 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](mailto: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](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)

**Parish Newsletter:**

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

**Rev. Sean Hall**

**Tel. 0191 268 4222**

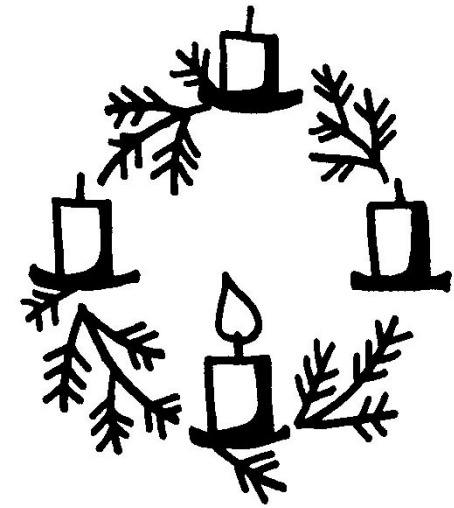
**[www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)**

**[www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com](http://www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com)**

**Join us on Facebook: NE12Catholic**

*For Baptisms, First Holy Communions and Confirmations, please email*

*[NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk)*



**Sunday 1st December 2024**

**First Sunday of Advent**

After listening to today's Gospel, Liberation is Near at Hand (Lk 21:25-28), consider this reflection.

The first Sunday gospel of the year (which begins in Advent) is also in a way the last gospel of the previous year. It comes at the end of Jesus's ministry, when he is preparing his disciples for their own ministry - in succession to him. Jesus is speaking to them on the Mount of Olives, looking down on the white city of Jerusalem, glittering in the sunshine. The city is soon to be destroyed by the Romans, with dreadful horrors of famine, massacre, burnings and executions.

This is seen as a foretaste of the end of the world when Jesus, the Son of Man, comes to save his people. We do not know when this will happen, and, more importantly, when it will happen for us, when we will meet the Son of Man and be judged and saved by him. But our Christian faith is a guarantee that it will be a moment of God's mercy, whenever it occurs.

We must look forward to it, and have it ever present before our mind.

But we would be fooling ourselves if we think that there are no struggles and trials and hardships to be undergone on the way. Why is the passage appointed for the first Sunday of Advent, the turning point between the years? Because the birth of Jesus at Christmas, for which we are beginning to prepare, is a significant move towards the fulfilment of the promises of salvation, the coming of Christ as a baby - with all the budding potential of a baby. *What does Jesus really mean by these prophecies of catastrophic turmoil in the universe? How does Jesus want us to face turmoil and troubles in life?*

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS:** Congratulations to the children receiving communion this Sunday at St Mary's - Eva, Amber, Tara and Maya. Please remember them and all the children preparing for the sacrament across our parishes in your prayers.

**NEW (LITURGICAL) YEAR - NEW LECTIONARY:** A new edition of the book which contains the readings proclaimed at Mass comes into use today. The English Standard Version is a literal translation of the Bible that seeks as far as possible to reproduce the precise wording of the original text and the personal style of each biblical writer by rendering each Hebrew or Greek word with an equivalent English word. You can read the text for the week ahead via [www.universalis.com/mass.htm](http://www.universalis.com/mass.htm)

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** No 10am Mass on Wed 4th December  
The Requiem Mass for John McDonnell is on Tuesday 3rd December, 10.30am at St Mary's.  
The Requiem Mass for Maureen Bews is on Wednesday 4th December, 12.15pm at St Aidan's.

**CONFESSION:** Saturday 7th December, 11am at St Aidan's

**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.

**COLLECTIONS:** 24th November 2024  
St. Aidan's - Loose Plate: £219.00 / Envelopes: £92.00 / Hall hire: £22.00  
Candles: £50.00 / Papers: £17.00 / Youth Ministry Trust: £20.00  
St. Mary's - Loose Plate: £332.49 / Envelopes: £64.00 / Donations: £65.00  
Fri Coffee Morning: £76.00 (People's Kitchen)  
For details about Gift Aid or donating via standing order, please email [NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk) - thank you for your continued support.

## **ST AIDAN'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:**

Raffle tickets will be on sale before and after mass on Sundays 1st, 8th and 15th of December. 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.

## **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:**

Christmas Eve - St Mary's at 4.30pm (Carols before mass)  
Christmas Eve - St Aidan's at 6.30pm (Carols before mass)  
Christmas Day - St Mary's at 10am

## **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, an opportunity to find out more about that life, and to be helped in taking the first steps of a new relationship with the Lord.

All sessions will be held at St Aidan's and will run from 7.00 - 8.30pm with a guest speaker attending each week.

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>

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Took place last week, minutes will be available soon.

## **NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE**

### **ENRICH YOUR ADVENT EXPERIENCE:**

As we enter the beautiful season of Advent, we are reminded of the hope, peace, joy, and love that this time brings. 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. Let us come together as a community, embracing the spirit of Advent with open hearts and minds, ready to welcome the light of Christ into our lives. May this season be filled with moments of reflection, prayer, and joyous anticipation. Daily reflections can be found via [www.diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith)