

**MASS INTENTIONS:** w/c 4th January 2026

Sat 3rd (St Mary's)	5.30pm	Keith Nesbitt
Sun 4th (St Aidan's)	9.15am	Anderson Family
Sun 4th (St Mary's)	11.00am	People of the Parish
* Mon 5th (St Aidan's)	6.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration
Tues 6th (St Mary's)	10.00am	Special Intention (Mos)
Tues 6th (St Aidan's)	7.00pm	People of the Parish
Wed 7th (St Aidan's)	10.00am	Phil Burke
Thurs 8th (St Aidan's)	10.00am	Priest's Intentions
Fri 9th (St Mary's)	10.00am	Harrison Westgarth
* Sat 10th (St Mary's)	11.00am	Confession
Sat 10th (St Mary's)	5.30pm	Nicholson Family
Sun 11th (St Aidan's)	9.15am	People of the Parish
Sun 11th (St Mary's)	11.00am	People of the Parish

**For Mass Intentions, please see envelopes in our churches.**  
“When our journey seems long, when hope seems far away, when our courage is failing fill us with faith and trust; shine your light on our fears, lift our hearts with your joy.” CAFOD

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: The Feast of Epiphany**

*“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”* (Matthew 2:1-12)

**CHILDREN'S PRAYER:** Lord, the sight of the guiding star, brought hope, courage and joy to those who had journeyed to find you. Amen.

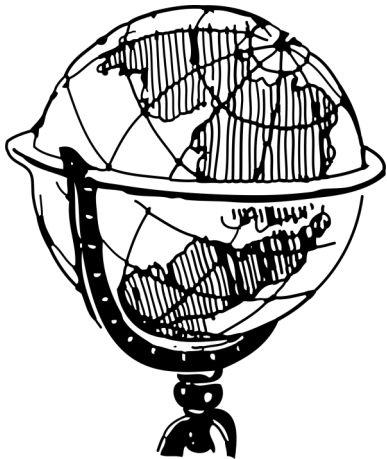
**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Those who have died recently. Those in our parishes who are sick or who may need our thoughts & prayers. And those of our parishes whose anniversary occurs at this time.

**KEEP IN TOUCH:** NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk or 0191 268 4222.  
Weekend mass live on YouTube, search St Mary of the Rosary.  
Newsletters & Homilies can be viewed via Facebook page NE12Catholic

**SAFEGUARDING:** Our safeguarding representatives are:  
St Aidan's - Ms B Lamb // St Mary's - Mrs A Parry  
If you have any safeguarding questions, please speak to our reps or visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk/services/safeguarding](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk/services/safeguarding) for information & support.

**DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE:** News & information about events happening across our diocese can be found via [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)

**Parish Newsletter:**  
**St. Aidan's & St. Mary's RC Churches**  
**Rev. Sean Hall**  
**Deacon Alison Rebello**  
**Tel. 0191 268 4222**  
**[www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)**  
**Join us on Facebook: NE12Catholic**  
*For Baptisms, First Holy Communions and Confirmations, please email [NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk)*



**Sunday 4th January 2026: Second Sunday of Christmas**

After listening to today's Gospel, The Word made Flesh (John 1: 1-5, 9-14), consider this reflection.  
The Gospel reading for this Second Sunday after Christmas is the same as that for Christmas Day itself. Perhaps, after all the celebrations of Christmas, there is room for a more sober thought. The climax is not at the end of the reading, but is in the centre: 'to those who believe he gave power to become sons of God'.  
On either side of this verse are rejection by his own people, and acceptance by those who see his Glory. This theme of acceptance and rejection runs right through the gospel of John, some accepting (the disciples, Nicodemus, the Man Born Blind), some rejecting (the Pharisees, the leaders of the Jews). The disciples accept at the Marriage Feast at Cana; the leaders of the Jews immediately afterwards reject at the Cleansing of the Temple. You cannot remain neutral; you must either accept or reject. It is a great trial-scene, and we judge ourselves by our reaction to Jesus. The Father has given all judgment to the Son, but the Son judges no one. The last dread scene is when the Jewish leaders pass sentence on themselves before Pilate and before Jesus crowned as king and seated as judge; they reject God's kingship by saying, 'We have no king but Caesar'. There is no need for sentence to be passed, for we pass our own sentence on ourselves.  
*Does it make sense to say that we judge ourselves?*

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

**NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** *Wishing all a happy and healthy 2026.*

**CHRISTMAS THANKS:** For cards and kind gifts received; for generous donations to Advent Alms and collections for our church flowers; for support of our Christmas Stars and participation in our Christmas raffles.

**THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY:** Tuesday 6th January 2026.  
We will be celebrating mass at St Mary's at 10am and at St Aidan's at 7pm  
All are very welcome.

**NEWMAN TYNESIDE CIRCLE:** An invitation to all to hear our very own Fr Sean Hall present 'Does Church Doctrine Change?' at The Holy Name, Jesmond on Tuesday 13 January 2026, at 7.30pm.  
St John Henry Newman wrote, in his Essay on the Development of Doctrine, 'Here below to live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often'. Regarding in particular the Sacrament of Orders, what changes might be possible? What might not be possible in the future?

**COLLECTIONS:** 28th December  
St Aidan's - Loose Plate: £294.00 / Envelopes: £62.00 / Papers: £9.00  
Advent Alms: £90.00  
St Mary's - Loose Plate: £486.08/ Envelopes: £58.00 / Donations: £115.00  
Candles: £61.03  
Christmas Collections  
St Aidan's: Loose Plate: £260.00 / Envelopes: £80.00  
St Mary's: Loose Plate: £837.71 / Envelopes: £37.00  
21st December  
St Aidan's: Loose Plate: £253.00 / Envelopes: £82.00 / Hall hire: £48.00  
Donations: £57.00 / Christmas Raffle: £180.00  
St Mary's: Loose Plate: £326.57 / Envelopes: £43.00 / Donations: £115.00  
Candles: £32.52 / Friday Coffee Morning: £102.00 (Mill Hill Sisters)  
For information about donating via standing orders, offertory envelopes or signing up for Gift Aid, please email [NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk)  
*Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Collections help us to maintain our church buildings and grounds, cover utilities and costs of supplies. Your kind charitable donations assist some of the most needy in our community. Please know it all makes a significant difference.*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION:** Sunday 11th January  
We welcome our families to St Mary's at 10.00am and St Aidan's at 3.30pm.

**NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE**  
**CLOSING OUR HOLY DOORS:** The Year of Jubilee ends in January 2026.  
Bishop Stephen will close our Holy Doors on 6th Jan - The Feast of Epiphany.  
Cathedral Church of St Mary, Newcastle: Mass at 12.05pm.  
St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool: Mass at 6.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

**RE-IMAGINING PASTORAL COUNCILS:** 13th January (via zoom)  
In our crazy changing world, it's more important than ever that our parishes can respond to people's needs & share the Gospel in our local communities. Pastoral Councils, rooted in prayer and driven by mission, can be places of discernment and real creativity – but sometimes they're not quite right. You are invited to try a series of webinars to explore everything to do with pastoral councils from purpose to membership, and from resolving conflict to letting the Spirit lead.  
This month's session is titled: *The way we work together: culture, constructive behaviours & not being a thorn in one another's side.*  
With guest speaker Danny Curtin.  
Link is available via [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) where you can also watch videos of previous sessions.

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL EVENT:** 21st January  
The theme for this year's commemorations 'Bridging Generations', is a call-to-action. A reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors – it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us. Hear from speakers Professor Yitka Graham and Mr Nicu Ion from 7.00pm at St Mary's Catholic Comprehensive School, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7PE.  
There is no ticket charge for this event but booking is strongly recommended via [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)

**THE GREAT AWAKENING:** 24th January  
Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries UK presents this Catholic Healing and Evangelisation Service at Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich.  
Please see posters at entrances to our churches.