



**MASS INTENTIONS: w/c 14th September 2025**

Sat 13th (St. Mary's)	5:30pm	Geoffrey Brattle
Sun 14th (St. Aidan's)	9:15am	Ellen Devlin
Sun 14th (St. Mary's)	11:00am	Peter Lundgren
Mon 15th	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues 16th (St. Mary's)	10.00am	Fr Michael Marr
Wed 17th (St. Aidan's)	10:15am	Requiem Mass Selma Dix
Thurs 18th (St. Aidan's)	11.00am	Requiem Mass Kitty Todhunter
Fri 19th (St. Mary's)	10:00am	Mass of Thanksgiving
* Sat 20th (St. Aidan's)	11.00am	Confession
Sat 20th (St. Mary's)	5:30pm	Herbert Family
Sun 21st (St. Aidan's)	9:15am	People of our Parish
Sun 21st (St. Mary's)	11:00am	People of our Parish

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

*'God is in all things, in every event, in every individual,  
whatever their religion or lack of it.'* G.W. Hughes

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK:** 21st Sept /25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"God wills all people to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

**CHILDREN'S PRAYER:** Generous God, in you we have all that we need.

Help us to put you first in all that we do and to trust that you will care for us always. Amen.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Those who have died recently:-

*Selma Dix; Anne Grant; Peter Lundgren; Kitty Todhunter.*

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 on our Facebook page NE12Catholic

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

**Rev. Sean Hall**

**Deacon Alison Rebello**

**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*

**Sunday 14th September 2025:**

**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

After listening to today's Gospel, The Son of Man must be Lifted Up (John 3:13-17), consider this reflection.

In this gospel-reading we are listening-in to a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee who came to Jesus by night (presumably because he did not want his colleagues to know. Do you mind your colleagues knowing that you are a Christian?)

Jesus is talking about an incident during the Exodus journey described in our first reading today, when the Israelites were struck by a plague of snakes. Moses hoisted a bronze snake on a pole as a recovery-totem. It sounds superstitious, but presumably to depend on this "totem" was an expression of trust in God. Jesus now says that this snake is to be seen as a promise of the salvation to be won by trusting in his Cross. The Cross remains our sign of victory. To wear it and welcome it is, in our increasingly material world, a statement of where our heart and our confidence lies. However, the Cross is not complete in itself.

Some people find it 'morbid' or 'morose', but to Christians it contains also the victory and reassurance of the Resurrection. The Cross makes sense not by the crumpled figure on the wood, but by God's acceptance of that obedience. The triumph of the resurrection is too glorious to be represented by anything visible. *What place do representations of Christ raised on the cross have in your own life and home?*

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

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)

**EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS:** Today we mark the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena in 320 under the temple of Venus in Jerusalem and the dedication in 335 of the basilica and shrine built on Calvary. The feast day is, above all, the celebration and commemoration of God's greatest work: his salvific death on the Cross and His Resurrection, through which death was defeated and the doors to Heaven opened.

**EDUCATION SUNDAY:** Today we also pray for all those involved in Catholic Education. Foundation Governors are practising Catholics who act as a valued, critical friend to the school. If you feel that you have the skills and interest to be involved, please contact our primary school headteachers. St Mary's: Mrs S Foster via - office@stmarysfh.org.uk or 0191 814 2006 St Stephen's: Mr S Fallon via - office@ststephensrc.org.uk or 0191 625 0900

**\*\* IMPORTANT DATES \*\***

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2026**

Introductory parent meetings with Fr Hall will be taking place this week  
St Aidan's - Sunday 14th September at 3:30pm;  
St Mary's - Thursday 18th September at 6pm

**NE12CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB:** Wed at 7pm only

An overwhelming majority of parishioners would prefer to attend our monthly club on an evening. Please join us on 17th to discuss preface and first chapter of God of Surprises. Club will run every 3rd Wednesday.

**ST AIDAN'S AUTUMN PLANT & PRODUCE:** Sunday 21st September  
Plants, home grown produce and home baked goods will be on sale in the hall after mass. Please don't forget change and bags for your purchases.

**CONFIRMATIONS 2026:** Children in year 9 are invited to begin preparation for Confirmation. The initial registration meeting for candidates and parents is on Tues 23rd Sept at 6.45pm in St Teresa's Church Hall, Heaton.

**ALIVE IN HOPE: A CHURCH FOR MISSION:** Bishop Stephen invites everyone to a Jubilee Day on Sat 27th September, from 10am to 3pm, at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead. There'll be guest speakers from the Prisons' Chaplaincy and the Justice & Peace Refugee Project plus a choice of seminars and forums designed to reawaken and empower all for mission. Please visit <https://bit.ly/DHNAlive25> to book and find out more.

**JESMOND ST MARY'S PARTNERSHIP:** Saturday 11th October.  
'Building a Community of Hope - Journeying with Christ.' A day of Ignatian Prayer led by Fr Dermott Preston at St Mary's Comprehensive School, 10am - 2:30pm. A real must try if you have not done so before.

**WORLD FOOD DAY 2025:** Sunday 19th October  
This years theme is "Hand in hand for better foods and a better future"  
We are planning a shared lunch after Mass in St Mary's church hall on Sunday 19th October. Please save the date!  
The idea is for parishioners to bring a dish from their country to put on the table for all to enjoy. Everyone is welcome. More info will follow.  
If you can help please speak to Anna P or send us an email.

**DIOCESAN TRAINING EVENTS:** The Liturgical Formation Team are offering a number of events to support volunteers who play a vital role in our parishes: Welcomers Training on 6th October at St Hilda's Resource Centre, Ncle. A Day of Reflection for Existing Ministers of Holy Communion on Saturday 25th October, 10am - 3pm at St Augustine's in Darlington. Training for New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will take place in November at our very own St Aidan's. If you are interested in any of the above, please speak to Fr Hall or send us an email.

**GREEN FINGER HELP NEEDED:** St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) are looking for volunteers to help tend their extensive garden. The garden is a special place for the residents, a space for peace, fresh air & community. Help is needed with weeding, clearing undergrowth and general upkeep. Please contact Sr Brigitte or Anne Whale on 0191 2731279 to get involved.

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUPS IN NORTH TYNESIDE:**  
Tuesdays 7pm at St Cuthbert's Catholic Church, North Shields, OR  
Fridays 2.30pm St Paul's Church of England, Whitley Bay  
Info via Vince at St Mary's or by emailing alistairhain@gmail.com

**COLLECTIONS:** 7th September  
St Aidan's - Loose Plate: £271.00 / Envelopes: £59.00 / Hall hire: £46.00  
St Mary's - Loose Plate: £304.52 / Envelopes: £37.00 / Candles: £44.59  
Donations: £300.00 / Friday Coffee Morning: £42.00 (RNLI)  
Thank you for your continued support & generosity. For info about Gift Aid or donating by standing order, please email NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk