

**MASS INTENTIONS:** w/c 22nd March 2026

Sat 28th (St Mary's)	5.30pm	Lawrence Johnson
Sun 29th (St Aidan's)	9.15am	Susie (ill)
Sun 29th (St Mary's)	11.00am	Laura Anne Heslop
Mon 30th	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues 31st (St Mary's)	10.00am	Patrick Bradley
* Tues 31st (St Mary's)	7.00pm	<i>Penitential Service</i>
Wed 1st April (St Aidan's)	10.00am	Special Intention
Thurs 2nd (St Aidan's)	7.00pm	<i>Mass of the Lord's Supper</i>
Fri 3rd (St Aidan's)	3.00pm	<i>Celebration of the Lord's Passion</i>
Fri 3rd (St Mary's)	3.00pm	<i>Celebration of the Lord's Passion</i>
Sat 4th (St Mary's)	5.30pm	Easter Vigil
Sun 29th (St Aidan's)	9.15am	Easter Sunday
Sun 29th (St Mary's)	11.00am	Easter Sunday

For Mass Intentions, please use envelopes in our churches.

**LENTEN REFLECTIONS:** A beautiful compilation of reflections written by members of the Diocesan Writing Team are available to view via [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk). Based on the daily Gospels, they offer a moment of quiet and contemplation as we travel through Holy Week.

**CHILDREN'S PRAYER:** God of joy, we welcome you into our lives as the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus, with respect, love and happiness. Help us to remember that you are in all people and try to make them feel welcome. Amen.

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK:** 5th April / Easter Sunday  
"It is the Spirit of Christ which spurs me on." 2nd Reading - Colossians 3:1-4

**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.

**SAFEGUARDING:** We look to ensure our churches are safe spaces where we support each other, signpost external services and walk together on our individual life journeys. If you have any safeguarding questions, please speak to Fr Sean, our safeguarding representatives:  
St Aidan's - Ms B Lamb / St Mary's - Mrs A Parry or visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk/services/safeguarding](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk/services/safeguarding) for information & support.

**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 28th March 2026: Palm Sunday**

After listening to today's Gospel, Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11) consider this reflection by Fr Henry Wansbrough:

Today's liturgy concentrates on two very different events, the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as Messianic King and the events of a few days later which culminated in his agonising and shameful death. This seeming end-point was to be reversed by the explosion of new life in the Resurrection after three days, an explosion which constituted God's vindication of Jesus' loving obedience and the affirmation that it has overcome and wiped out the sin of Adam, human sin. How much time did Jesus spend in Jerusalem?

The Gospel of John recounts four separate visits to Jerusalem, whereas Mark (and Matthew and Luke, who follow Mark's outline) compresses all Jesus' Jerusalem ministry into one visit, inaugurated by the solemn entry, as narrated in the gospel we hear today before the procession with palms. This event is recounted by the evangelists in the light of their fuller understanding of Jesus after the Resurrection. We see the colourful, festal atmosphere of crowds going up to Jerusalem, waving palm branches as banners in their enthusiasm and singing as they march. Jesus and his disciples join in. But it may be only later that the significance of this event was grasped: this entry was the fulfilment of the prophecy of Zechariah about the Messiah coming into his inheritance, to complete his God-given mission and to proclaim peace to the nations. Matthew especially, writing for a community steeped in Judaism, actually quotes the prophecy and also the psalm-verse about 'him who comes in the name of the Lord'. He stresses that Jesus is this Son of David, whose eschatological kingship is about to be established.

**Next week is known as Holy Week: how and when will you take time to listen to God and grow in holiness?**

## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES**

### **HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASSES**

Tuesday 31st March - Penitential Service, 7pm at St Mary's

Thursday 2nd April – Maundy Thursday Mass, 7pm at St Aidan's

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday 3pm, with Fr Sean at St Mary's and

Deacon Alison at St Aidan's

Saturday 4th April - Easter Vigil, 5:30pm at St Mary's

Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday, 9:15am at St Aidan's / 11am at St Mary's

### **COLLECTIONS:** 22th March 2026

St Aidan's: Loose Plate: £216.00 / Envelopes: £92.00 / Candles: £140.00

Hall hire: £52.00

St Mary's: Loose Plate: £311.33 / Envelopes: £33.00 / Donations: £60.00

Easter Flowers: £29.00 / Friday Coffee Morning: £147.00 (SMILE TRAIN)

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. 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)

**STANDING ORDER & GIFT AID FORMS:** There are forms available at both churches for the new financial year. PLEASE NOTE - existing donors do not need to complete a new form—these are for NEW DONORS ONLY.

Thank you.

**FINANCIAL END OF YEAR:** Parish information will be shared following our end of year financial reconciliations in early April. Should you have any questions, please email [NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk)

**PARISH SECRETARY:** We are looking for a secretary to assist the parishes of St Aidan's and St Mary's (this writer stresses it's a super gig!)

The role is 12 hours per week and the closing date is 12noon, 13th of April.

All information and how to apply can be found via [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)

**PARISH DISCERNMENT:** Thank you again for your responses and reflections at our open meetings and displays in our church halls.

Our Parish Councils are now collating the information shared and will meet:

Tuesday 21st April at 7pm: St Mary's

Wednesday 22nd April at 7pm: St Aidan's

to complete the submission to the Diocese by 23rd April 2026.

## **NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE**

**CHRISM MASS:** Bishop Stephen will celebrate the Chrism Mass on Wednesday 1st April at 11am at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. All are welcome to attend this annual Diocesan Mass.

### **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** 12th April

St Matthew's Church in Jarrow will be marking Divine Sunday

2.30pm – Introductory talk on Divine Mercy;

3pm – Chaplet of Divine Mercy (sung)

3.15pm – Blessing of Picture of Divine Mercy

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (during which there will be a time for Individual Confessions)

4pm – Chaplet of Divine Mercy (spoken)

All are very welcome. Further information via 0191 489 7295

### **VACANCY:** Assistant Cook

An exciting opportunity is available at St Joseph's Care Home (Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle) for an Assistant Cook.

Hours available: 37.5 hours per week, including evenings and weekends.

More information via St Joseph's Home on 0191 2731279.

### **ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL:** Mon 13th April - Fri 29th May

In order to install LED lighting and to improve the sound system and repaint, it is necessary to temporarily restrict access to our Cathedral.

Closing the main body of the church ensures both the health and safety of our clergy, congregation and visitors and helps to keep the maintenance schedule to an absolute minimum. Works will begin on Monday 13th April and will continue until Friday 29th May during which time our Cathedral Masses will move to our city centre churches - full details are available via [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)

The Pauline Bookshop and Cloisters Café are not affected by these works and will continue to operate as per their usual opening times.

Mary's Place will also remain open on a Monday 10am – 1pm.

**RE-IMAGINING PASTORAL COUNCILS:** Next online session 21st April at 7pm "Making choices that serve others: Discernment, Decision-making and Decision-taking" - with guest speaker Austen Ivereigh, Catholic speaker and writer. Sign up via [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)