

MASS INTENTIONS: w/c 8th February 2026

Sat 7th (St Mary's)	5.30pm	John, Matthew & Patrick
Sun 8th (St Aidan's)	9.15am	Fr Pat McMahon
Sun 8th (St Mary's)	11.00am	Jean & Michael Bell
* Mon 9th	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues 10th (St Mary's)	10.00am	Peg Younger
Wed 11th (St Aidan's)	10.00am	Private Intention
Thurs 12th (St Aidan's)	10.00am	Priest's Intentions
Fri 13th (St Mary's)	10.00am	Private Intention (MH)
Sat 14th (St Mary's)	5.30pm	Audrey Braham
Sun 15th (St Aidan's)	9.15am	People of the Parish
Sun 15th (St Mary's)	11.00am	People of the Parish

For Mass Intentions, please use envelopes in our churches.

In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius I officially named 14 Febr as St. Valentine's day.

As well as serving as the patron saint of love, St. Valentine is also the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy.

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: 15th Feb / Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"We are assured by the Spirit of God that there is a meaning [to life], and that this meaning is for our glory." 2nd Reading (1 Corinthians 2: 6-10).

CHILDREN'S PRAYER: God of hope, may we be an example to others so that the light of Jesus shines brightly in the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, 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 for information & support.

Parish Newsletter:

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

Rev. Sean Hall

Deacon Alison Rebello

Tel. 0191 268 4222

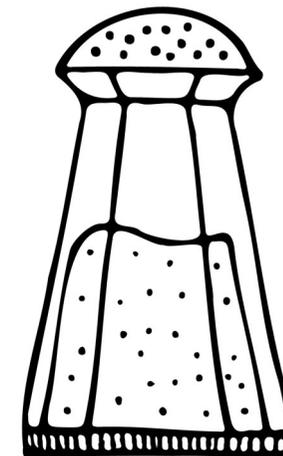
www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk

Join us on Facebook: NE12Catholic

For Baptisms, First Holy Communions

and Confirmations, please email

NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk

**Sunday 8th February 2026:****Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

After listening to today's Gospel, Salt and Light (Matthew 5: 13-16), consider this reflection.

Matthew here takes two piquant images from the words of Jesus which he found in Mark's Gospel and builds on them. This text follows immediately after the Beatitudes, with which he began the Sermon on the Mount; now he shows that these Christian attitudes are not just for our own benefit but are to change the world. The first teaching is a warning, the second a promise. Christians are to be salt for the whole world. Imagine a perpetual diet of food without any tang or taste, soggy and insipid! This would be the world if Christians did not spread the good news of Christ, did not impart to the world the flavour brought by Christ's message. What would the world be without that message and without the challenge of the generosity and salvation of Christ which we profess? Yes, of course much of the same message may come to the world through other great world-faiths, but the full challenge and the full promise is in Christ. The same is true for the second image, that of light. Imagine a world of darkness, where we had to feel our way and are never quite sure of shapes and purposes! And then what a difference occurs when the sun rises over the horizon or the light is switched on. Such is the difference which Christianity – and our Christianity – must make to the world. *What is the best way that I can share with my friends the joy of knowing Jesus?*

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS: St Aidan's - Tuesday 10th February at 7.00pm

Please email any agenda items to NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk

St Mary's Parish Council met on Wednesday 4th February.

Minutes are available on www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk or via

NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk

FIRST CONFESSIONS: Children preparing for their First Holy Communion at

St Mary's will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wed 11th

February at 6pm. Please keep them all in your prayers.

FEBRUARY NE12 CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB: All welcome

Meeting on Wednesday 11th at 7pm in St Mary's.

We continue our discussion on God of Surprises by G W Hughes.

CONFESSION: Saturday 14th February, 11am at St Mary's.

ASH WEDNESDAY: 18th February

All welcome to join us:-

Mass at St Mary's at 10am

Mass at St Aidan's at 7pm

Genesis 3:19: "For dust you are and to dust you shall return."

COLLECTIONS: 1st February 2026

St Aidan's: Loose Plate: £255.00 / Envelopes: £82.00 / Hall hire: £44.00

Donations: £50.00

St Mary's: Loose Plate: £259.03 / Envelopes: £11.00 / Donations: £90.00

Friday Coffee Morning: £94.00 (Mill Hill Sisters)

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

VOLUNTEERING AND SUPPORTING OUR PARISHES

Volunteers are always needed to help support our parishes; children's liturgy, music and singing, coffee mornings, organising social events, leading fundraising appeals, running the weekend mass decks are all delivered thanks to parishioners.

If you can help or would like to be involved, please speak to Fr Sean or

email NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk

NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE

RE-IMAGINING PASTORAL COUNCILS

This month's online session takes place on Tues 10th February, 7pm—8pm and is themed: 'Letting the Holy Spirit Lead and Really Listening' with guest speaker Fr Matthew Nunes, Archdiocese of Liverpool.

You can view previous sessions and register to take part in one or more talks via www.diocesehn.org.uk

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MASS: Sat 14th February at 12 noon

Bishop Stephen will celebrate Mass at St Mary's Cathedral to give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage & Family Life. Those marking a special milestone can request a certificate from the Diocese.

LENTEN RESOURCES: Reflections, readings and prayers are available on www.diocesehn.org.uk

INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL: Sunday 1st March at 3pm

A monthly prayer vigil has been held outside the barrier to

Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre for the last four and a half years.

The purpose is to pray for the women who are detained there. To stand in solidarity with them and to witness by our presence that their detention is inhumane, unjust and incompatible with our faith which calls us to recognise the unique dignity of each person in our one human family.

All are welcome to come along to a short prayer service which incorporates a time of silence. If you are unable to join in person, please join in prayer from home at 3.00pm. For more information, contact Liz Archibald at lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com

A DAY OF RENEWAL: 28th March 2026, 10am - 4pm

The Emmanuel Charismatic Community in our Diocese invite all to a day of renewal, with guest speaker Michelle Moran titled:

'Holiness in today's world: Life does not have a mission – but is a mission.'

Michelle Moran is an internationally renowned speaker, who was personally appointed by Pope Francis in 2016 to help establish CHARIS, and she was President of International Charismatic Renewal Services in the Vatican from 2006 – 2017. Taking place at St Mary's Comprehensive School on Benton Park Road, this is a free event, but please bring a packed lunch.

More details via pat.kennedy42@icloud.com or 0754 630 2832.