



Contactless contributions now available at St Mary's church. Any problems, contact Harry on 07860 820830.

Today is Peace Sunday

Pope's Prayer intention for January: Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Northern Cross newspaper - January's edition is now available to purchase in the church porch.

Mondays, 10.45am at the bowls pavilion, Bishop Auckland Recreation Ground: **Gentle steps walk** (1 hour).

Tuesdays, 1-3pm in St Mary's meeting room: Come along to chat, share **skills in sewing**, cross stitch, crochet, or any form of craft you wish to share with people.

Wednesdays 2.15pm, at Leeholme Welfare Hall, DL14 8HN: **Seated Exercise Class.** Bernadette 07030 944810.

Sunday 25 January, 09.30am at All Saints, Ferryhill. First meeting for those applying to make their **First Confession and First Holy Communion** in 2026. Please meet at the back of church.

Friday 30 January, 11.15am at St Mary's: Requiem Mass for **Brogan Stubbs.**

Sunday 1 February, 10am at St Mary's: Special celebration for all those who were **baptised in the past year.**

Saturday 14 February, 12 noon at the Cathedral: **Marriage and Family Life Mass.** Celebrating a special anniversary? Request a certificate: <https://bit.ly/MarriageMass2026> or contact marriage@diocesehn.org.uk (0191 2433316).

Wednesday 18 February: **Ash Wednesday.**

Thursday 19 February 2.15pm at St Joseph's School Newton Aycliffe: **Mass** (All welcome!)

Thursday 19 February, 6pm at St Mary's: **Becoming Catholic (even if you happen to be one already!)** A Lenten journey of discovery or re-discovery of our Catholic faith. All welcome. Continues for 6 weeks, but all sessions are independent so come along any week (or all weeks).

Thursday 26 February, 7.30pm at St Mary's Cathedral: Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough - **Night Falls - a Passion Play.** (suitable for those over 12 years of age) Tickets £10/£15. Cathedral Box Office: 01642 597750.

Friday 3 April: **Good Friday.** Sunday 5 April: **Easter Sunday**

If you would like to have a copy of our weekly newsletter delivered direct to your email inbox, please scan the QR code and follow the link.



Please pray for all the sick

Christine Bainbridge, Julie Kirkbride, Vilna Woolhead, Hannibal Gonsalves, Bernard Molyneux, Joan Neasham, Mary Horton, Chris Palmer, Sharon Pape, Maureen Palmer, Jamie Spence, Tom Brett, George Walton, Carla Middleton, Raymond Lowey, Maria Hewitt, Peter Rogan, Mary Nichol.

Saint Mary,	Aycliffe	DL5 4HT
Saint Thomas,	Shildon	DL4 1HP
All Saints,	Ferryhill	DL17 8ET
Sacred Heart,	Chilton	DL17 0PW
Saint Joseph,	Coundon	DL14 8NL



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17 / 18 January – 2nd Sunday of the year (A)



LAMB OF GOD

Today's Gospel invites us to stand beside John the Baptist and look at Jesus with fresh eyes. John's words are not mere titles; they are revelations. To call Jesus the Lamb of God is to acknowledge the depth of God's love — a love that liberates, heals, and restores. To see the Spirit rest on Jesus is to recognize the dawn of a new creation. And to hear John testify that Jesus is the Son of God is to be invited into a relationship of trust and discipleship.

There's a moment in today's Gospel that feels almost cinematic. John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and proclaims, "*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*" It's as if the entire Old Testament, all of Israel's longing, all of humanity's searching, converges into that single sentence.

Sat	12.00	Aycliffe	Denise Turnbull (A)
17	16.00	Shildon	Maria Hewett (Speedy recovery)
Jan	18.00	Chilton	No intention requested
Sun	09.00	Coundon	Dec McLeod Family
18	10.00	Aycliffe	Alice Lynch (LD)
Jan	10.30	Ferryhill	Maureen Allinson
	12.30	Aycliffe	Polish language mass
	18.00	Aycliffe	Our parish family

*All are welcome
in all of our churches
— no exceptions!*

New to the Parish?
Please introduce yourself after
Mass. Registration Forms are
located in the church porch.

Reflection on today's Gospel

The main events of Christmastide are now behind us, and until Lent, we follow the Sundays of 'Ordinary Time'. The Christmas season has just closed, yet the readings refuse to let the mystery fade.

This Second Sunday in Ordinary Time returns to the event of Jesus' baptism and always feels like a quiet but decisive turning point in the liturgical year.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist recognises in Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John bears witness that Jesus truly is the Son of God. The Gospel presents John the Baptist pointing toward Jesus with a clarity and humility that still unsettles us: "*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*" John's entire life narrows into this single gesture — a finger pointing away from himself and toward Christ. It's a moment of profound self-emptying, and it invites us to examine the subtle ways we cling to our own importance.

This Sunday is less about doing more and more about *becoming transparent* — letting Christ's light pass through us without distortion. John the Baptist shows that the most powerful witness is often the simplest: a life aligned so fully with God that others can see Christ through it.

Emmaus Bereavement Listening Service. If you are struggling after the **death of a loved one** or any significant loss and would like to share your story with someone, a member of the Emmaus Team may be able to help. The team are trained in bereavement listening skills. Leave a message on 07732 980740 and a member of the team will get in touch with you.

The outside Christmas Crib on the roof of the porch at St Mary's has, unfortunately, seen better days. Next Advent / Christmas (2026) will see a brand new one courtesy of some of the inmates at HMP Deerbolt, where Fr Cornforth regularly celebrates Mass.

Our Lady Queen of Peace: Please pray the Rosary every day for **Peace in our world**. Jesus tells us that prayer can move mountains, so it could also bring an end to war.

The Little Sisters of the Poor collect **used postage stamps**. **Unfortunately, UK standard stamps bearing the Monarchs head are currently not suitable.** However, special UK ones are welcome as are stamps from any other country or period. Foreign currency (all varieties), bits of unwanted gold / silver (even broken pieces) and military medals remain very welcome. Any items can be left at the back of church.

Newsletter feedback— if you have any comments or suggestions on how the newsletter can be made more attractive or relevant - please don't hesitate in making your thoughts known via a text to 07923 683406 or email: stmary.newtonaycliffe@diocesehn.org.uk. Thanks.



Masses this week

Mon	09.30	Coundon	Moira Thompson
19	09.40	Aycliffe	Rosary
Jan	10.00	Aycliffe	Special Intention (MJ)
Tue	09.15	Ferryhill	Michael, Katherine & Sr. Vincent Franey
20	09.50	Aycliffe	Divine Mercy
Jan	10.00	Aycliffe	Maureen Palmer (Sick)
	11.30	Coundon	Requiem Mass for Barry Fawcett .
	19.00	Coundon	Exposition
Wed	09.15	Ferryhill	No intention requested
21	09.40	Shildon	Rosary
Jan	10.00	Shildon	Catherine Rossi
Thu	09.30	Coundon	Leah & George Shaw
22	10.00	Aycliffe	The Dead of the Parish
Fri	09.15	Chilton	Wendy Wigley
23	09.30	Aycliffe	Exposition
Jan	10.00	Aycliffe	World Peace

Next Week-end

Sat	09.30	Coundon	Janet Holmes
24	10.00	Coundon	Exposition and Benediction
Jan	12.00	Aycliffe	Paula Cruddace and Bob Kennedy
	16.00	Shildon	Our Parish Family
	18.00	Chilton	No intention requested
Sun	09.00	Coundon	Vincent & Violet McCoy
25	10.00	Aycliffe	Frances Matthews (A)
Jan	10.30	Ferryhill	Neil Hood and Vincent Carr
	18.00	Aycliffe	Sheila McGowan (RIP)

Rest in Peace: **Fr Robert Spence, Brogan Stubbs,**

Joseph (Paddy) Dunne

St Mary's Sanctuary Candle this week is for **John and Terri Fitzsimons / Olive and Cecil Hughes**.

18-25 January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year's theme is, 'One Body, One Spirit'. Service at **Shildon Methodist Church**, 2.30pm this Sunday. Also Churches Together Service at **Ferryhill Methodist Church** at 6pm on Sunday 25 January led by Revd. Elizabeth Catford.

Tuesday, 11.30am at St Jospeh's, Coundon: Requiem Mass for **Barry Fawcett**.

Wednesday, 10.30am West Cemetery, School Aycliffe: Grave-side funeral for **Sheila McGowan**.

Friday, 2.30pm in St Cuthbert's Chapel Ushaw: **Service for Christian Unity**.

Many thanks to **Fr John Daly** who is celebrating mass in St Mary's and St Thomas' until 27 January.