

Contactless contributions now available at St Mary's church. If you would like a demonstration on how to use the system either in church, remotely from home or have any questions, please contact Harry on 07860 820830 any time.



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



Followers of Christ

A man on the radio described one of his neighbours as "a standout individual", someone whose kindness and qualities set them above the average. It led us to wonder whether, in families, friendships, organisations and communities, survival and progress often depend on such people — those who give more than expected and make life easier for others.

Jesus asks us to shine and to stand out, not by seeking attention but by choosing to give rather than take, to serve rather than feel entitled. Selflessness is required, yet it must be rooted in self-knowledge, so that we help without losing ourselves or being used. True selflessness and self-awareness belong together.

Years ago I saw a Snoopy card that read: "You do for me what sunlight does for stained glass windows." Sometimes a room really does seem to brighten when a particular person arrives. Jesus asks for more than the ordinary — or rather that the ordinary becomes recognisably special. It is not about personality, but about Gospel qualities of love, attentiveness and commitment. "Jesus went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

We carry L-plates, still learning from the Light of the World, called to be his living presence on earth. It is a 24/7 calling, sustained by prayer. We are named salt and light, already capable of making a difference. But if salt loses its saltiness, it loses its purpose. No one can take our place. The Lord says we have what it takes. Can we be brighter?

Escomb Partnership Note



In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. These images remind us that faith is not meant to stay private or hidden. Salt only fulfils its purpose when it is mixed into food, and light only makes a difference when it shines in the darkness. In the same way, our Christian life is meant to be lived openly through our choices, words, and actions.

Jesus challenges us to reflect God's love in ordinary, everyday moments - through patience, honesty, forgiveness and care for others. When we live this way, we help bring hope and direction to those around us. Our good works are not about drawing attention to ourselves, but about pointing others towards God. By being salt and light, we allow God's presence to be felt in the world through us.

Fr Anthony Cornforth, 01325 313611, 07923 683046

stmary.newtonaycliffe@diocesehn.org.uk

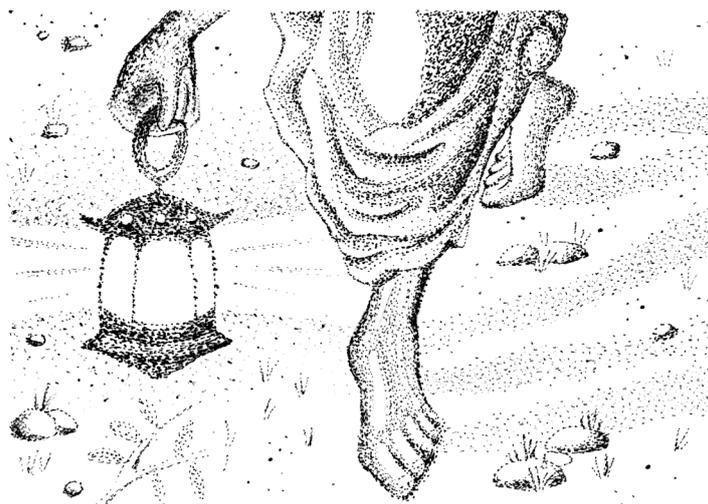
Fr Augustine Ofoma, 01740 651343

allsaints.ferryhill@diocesehn.org.uk

Sister Anna Ryan, 01388 602030

Website: www.aycliffeshildoncatholic.com

7 / 8 February – 5th Sunday of the year (A)



Light

God gives us the gift of light and reveals the work He calls us to do in a world where living a life of faith can be challenging. It is often easier to keep faith private and unobtrusive, so that it does not disturb our social relationships. Yet through the images of light and salt, Jesus invites us to let our faith be seen in actions, words, and willingness to reach out to others. He challenges us by asking whether we can do more. Through close and regular contact with Him, and by becoming more like Him, our faith begins to shine more brightly. Rather than asking us to master learning or philosophy, Jesus asks us to share with others our experience of loving God. This is something within everyone's reach. When we feel unable or unworthy, St Paul reminds us that we often become most truly visible as Christians not through our talents, knowledge, or strength, but through our simplicity, our weaknesses, and even at times our disabilities.

Sat	12.00	Aycliffe	Stephen McKenna (RIP)
7	16.00	Shildon	Coralina Adama, Lizzy Kelly and Bella Ward (RIP)
Feb	18.00	Chilton	No intention requested
Sun	09.00	Coundon	Pat and Anthony Fleming
8	10.00	Aycliffe	Alice Watson (RIP)
Feb	10.30	Ferryhill	Tom Dixon
	18.00	Aycliffe	Freda and Cyril Tinkler and Harry Goddard

*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.

February's edition of the **Northern Cross** now available.

Pope Leo's February Prayer Intention: That children suffering from **incurable diseases**, and their families, receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

New Minister Rotas now available for collection at **St Mary's**. If anyone would like to be added to the rota, please hand in names as soon as possible. Thank you.

Wednesday 18 February: Ash Wednesday. Mass at St Thomas' at 10am. St Marys 11am and 7pm.

During Lent, there will be a box at the back of St Thomas' if you would like to donate **one item of tinned food** per week during Lent, for the **Justice and Peace Refugee Project**.

Thursday 19 February, 11am at St Mary's: Stations of the Cross followed by mass. A soup lunch will be served in the hall afterwards, and every Thursday in Lent.

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).

Saturday 21 February, 2pm at Coundon and Leeholme Welfare Hall: showing of season five of **The Chosen** (The Life of Jesus). Tickets £2 from Bernadette 07930 944810.

Sunday 22 February: First Sunday of Lent.

Friday 27 February: CAFOD Family Fast Day.

Friday 27 February, 10am at Ushaw: Conversation group 'Let's talk about ... Women in the Bible and in the Church' - details at Ushaw.org

Saturday 28 February and Sunday 1 March at Ushaw: Spring Handcrafts and Producers Fair - details at Ushaw.org

31 July - 7 August 2026: Diocesan Centenary Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Details from Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666.

The Little Sisters of the Poor collect **used postage stamps**. Unfortunately, UK standard stamps with the King's head are no longer suitable. Special UK ones are welcome, as are stamps from any other country or period. Foreign currency, bits of unwanted gold / silver (even broken pieces) and military medals are still very useful. Please leave items at the back of church.

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, Rita Farthing, Helen Dungey, Caroline Lambie.

Masses this week

Mon	09.30	Coundon	Eileen O'Hanlon
9	09.40	Aycliffe	Rosary
Feb	10.00	Aycliffe	Holy Souls
Tue	09.15	Ferryhill	No intention given
10	09.50	Aycliffe	Divine Mercy
Feb	10.00	Aycliffe	Deceased bishops
	19.00	Coundon	Exposition
Wed	09.15	Ferryhill	No intention given
11	09.40	Shildon	Rosary
Feb	10.00	Shildon	Gerard Fleming
Thu	09.30	Coundon	Gerald Reynolds
12	10.00	Aycliffe	Our parish family
Fri	09.15	Chilton	No intention given
13	11.30	Aycliffe	<u>Requiem Mass</u> Stan Dixon

Next Week-end

Sat	09.30	Coundon	John and Kitty Collins
14	10.00	Coundon	Exposition and Benediction
Feb	12.00	Aycliffe	Eleanor Goundry
	16.00	Shildon	George Wardell
	18.00	Chilton	No intention given
Sun	09.00	Coundon	Blenkinson and Charles Families
15	10.00	Aycliffe	Paddy Dunne (RIP)
Feb	10.30	Ferryhill	Joan Bulmer
	11.00	Aycliffe	Baptism Tristan George Henry Winders
	11.30	Ferryhill	Baptism
	12.30	Aycliffe	Polish Language Mass
	18.00	Aycliffe	Brogan Stubbs (RIP)

This week-end: Collection of biscuits, tinned tomatoes and chick peas etc **for refugees**.

St Mary's Sanctuary Candle this week: **Coyle Family**.

Wednesday: Our Lady of Lourdes. Usual mass time - Ferryhill 9.15am and Shildon 10am.

Friday, 11.30am at St Mary's: Requiem Mass for **Stan Dixon**. No Mass or Exposition at 10am (this week only).

Saturday 14 February, 12 noon at the Cathedral: Marriage and Family Life Mass. <https://bit.ly/MarriageMass2026>

The collection at the WoPFCU service raised £95.00, so £100 was sent to **Christian Aid** as had been agreed.

The family of **Brogan Stubbs** would like to thank everyone for their prayers, support, comforting words, and for the sympathy and Mass cards sent to us. The money collected for **Children in Need**, in memory of Brogan, was £323.58p.