

## In God's hands, anything can happen

Johnny is the sort of person who always turns up. Whatever the occasion, he offers support and help. Some assume that's easy for him because he has time - but they don't know his story. His childhood was marked by hardship: family break-down through gambling, constant disruption, poor health, and a drift into trouble. When he was caught shoplifting, a youth worker stepped in - someone who understood his struggles and believed in him. Through patience, care, and persistence, Johnny's life slowly changed.

Real progress is rarely neat. People who have known instability often test kindness before they trust it. They expect rejection and may push others away first. Helping someone like that requires resilience, belief, and grace.

That kind of enduring love reflects the love of Jesus. Sent by the Father, Jesus shows us a commitment so deep that not even death could break it. He continues to believe in us despite our failures and resistance. His love is limitless, forgiving, and costly - and even now, he prays for us.

At the Last Supper, Jesus prayed for his followers - and that includes us. He still intercedes for us, bringing our weak and imperfect prayers before the Father. Prayer is not about performance; it is the simple act of turning up before God. Like Johnny, sometimes that's all we can do - but when we do, we place ourselves in God's hands, and anything can happen.

*Escomb Partnership Note*

Sunday 19 July: **The bishop** will celebrate mass at St Mary's.

22 – 29 October 2027: Diocesan **Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi**, led by Bishop Stephen. £1725 per person. Places limited to 50, allocated on a first come first served basis with payment of the deposit securing your place. The itinerary and booking details can be found at [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)

SVP Summer Camp Holy Island: Do any of our young adults (18+) have a spare week to spend volunteering on Lindisfarne helping out at the Holy Island SVP Camp? For details, email Barbara Taws - [Barbara@svp.org.uk](mailto:Barbara@svp.org.uk)

Exam Season: We pray that the Holy Spirit will bless all those sitting exams in the coming weeks. We wish them well.

Wednesdays, 12 to 1pm at Lifeline Community Hub: (ex Woolworth's): **FREE Community Lunch.** Book your place on 01325 965381.

The annual diocesan **Pilgrimage to Lourdes** is looking for an 'Ambassador' in each parish to help promote the Lourdes ethos and pilgrimage: [Lourdes.hospitalite@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:Lourdes.hospitalite@diocesehn.org.uk)

Refugee Project Justice and Peace March Report: Client footfall 295, New clients registered 39, 509 food bag beneficiaries, 1286 food bags distributed, value of food bags distributed (@ £7 each) £9002.

Streaming Mass: check out 'Newton Aycliffe Catholic Church Mass' on **YouTube** as often as possible (and subscribe) so that our channel can become more accessible to those searching for faith in their lives.

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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## 16 / 17 May 7th Sunday of Easter (A)



### That we may all be one

When Jesus makes His high priestly prayer to the Father He reveals an extraordinary interlocking of relationships between the Father, the Son and the disciples. He appeals for unity, which reflects His own oneness with the Father. Glory and honour flows from Him to God, from God to Him and through His disciples to Him.

Although God does not depend on humans, He refuses to be separated from us, choosing to dwell within, and we need to know Jesus to realise our full potential, to be truly alive, sharing His risen life, in the life of God.

After His Ascension, the disciples and Mary find their way by uniting in continuous prayer, and today we make our pleas to God, that the body of the whole Church may experience what Christ attained in His death and resurrection.

If we struggle to reach the highest communication, and the deepest silence, perhaps it is enough to accept the invitation to simply pause, listen to Jesus' words and rest in His presence with joyful gratitude.

Sat	12.00	Aycliffe	<b>Pam and Tony Scott</b>
16	16.00	Shildon	<b>Les, Eileen and Antony Hancock</b>
May	18.00	Chilton	<b>Dunlavey and Barrigan family</b>
Sun	09.00	Coundon	<b>People of the Parish</b>
17	10.00	Aycliffe	<b>Brogan Stubbs (RIP)</b>
May	10.30	Ferryhill	<b>Walter and Freda Wood</b>
	18.00	Aycliffe	<b>Our parish family</b>

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.



## Jesus prays for all

Before his suffering begins, Jesus turns to the Father and prays - not for Himself alone, but for those who follow Him. It shows His deep care and ongoing love for His people.

Jesus says eternal life is “to know the Father, the only true God, and Himself, whom the Father has sent”. This means eternal life is not just about heaven later - it begins now through relationship with God.

Jesus asks the Father to protect His disciples because He knows they will face struggle, opposition and uncertainty after He is gone. It’s a prayer for endurance and faithfulness.

This Gospel reminds us that Jesus prays for us. Not just for the first disciples, but for all believers. It’s a powerful image: even before His passion, His concern is for others. The message is one of comfort, belonging, and mission - we are held in Christ’s prayer and sent to live as one.

Retiring Collection today: **World Communications Day.**

Wednesday 27 May, 7pm at St Mary’s Bidhop Auckland: Diocesan **pastoral strategy meeting** for our Partnership. We need two representatives from each parish.

Thursday 28 May, 1pm at St Mary’s: Funeral service for **Isobel Shaw.**

Sunday 31 May: **BBQ** in the gardens of **St Mary’s church.** Please come and join us as we gather together to strengthen our faith and community bonds.

Saturday 6 June, Stella Maris Pilgrimage to Holy Island: Details from Steve Willows on 07793 488971.

Sunday 7 June, 3pm to 5pm at Ushaw: **Eucharistic Procession for Corpus Christi.** Details at Ushaw.org.

Sunday 7 June: **Feast of Corpus Christi.**

Saturday 20 June: **CAFOD pilgrimage to Holy Island.** Bus (£19) leaving St Charles, Tudhoe at 8.30am and leaving Holy island at 4pm. [michael.weetman@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.weetman@btinternet.com)

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, Rita Farthing, Helen Dungey, Caroline Lambie, Anne Airey, Matthew Pape, Nora Johnson, Kathleen Scullion

## Services this week

Mon	09.30	Coundon	<b>Our Priests</b>
18	09.40	Aycliffe	Rosary
May	10.00	Aycliffe	<b>Special Intention</b>
Tue	09.15	Ferryhill	<b>Tom Gordon (sick)</b>
19	09.50	Aycliffe	Divine Mercy
May	10.00	Aycliffe	<b>Alves, Faria, Concercao, Lopes, Rodrigues and Zannon Families</b>
	19.00	Coundon	Exposition
Wed	09.15	Ferryhill	<b>Michael, Katherine and Sister Vincent Franey</b>
20	09.40	Shildon	Rosary
May	10.00	Shildon	<b>Fr Anthony Barker (RIP)</b>
Thu	09.30	Coundon	<b>Our Parish</b>
21	10.00	Aycliffe	<b>Margaret Lee (RIP)</b>
	14.15	<u>SJNA</u>	<b>School Mass</b> (St Joseph, Aycliffe)
Fri	09.15	Chilton	<b>No intention requested</b>
May	11.00	<u>Aycliffe</u>	<u>Requiem mass</u> <b>Gerard Wise</b>

## Next week-end

Sat	09.30	Coundon	<b>Gerard Fleming</b>
23	10.00	Coundon	Exposition and Confessions
May	12.00	Aycliffe	<b>Terry and John Fitzsimmons</b>
	16.00	Shildon	<b>Elizabeth Brass (RIP)</b>
	18.00	Aycliffe	<b>Polish Community Mass</b>
	18.00	Chilton	<b>No intention requested</b>
Sun	09.00	Coundon	<b>People of the parish</b>
24	10.00	Aycliffe	<b>In thanksgiving (birthday)</b>
May	10.30	Ferryhill	<b>Neil Hood</b>
	11.00	<u>Aycliffe</u>	<u>Baptism</u> <b>Renley Shaun O’Brian</b>
	18.00	Aycliffe	<b>Our parish family</b>

Rest in Peace: **Elizabeth Brass, Deborah Patterson.**

Sunday, 10am at St Mary’s: Baptism of **Edward Thomas Wilbraham** (during mass).

St Mary’s Sanctuary Candle this week: **Tom Gordon**

Wednesday, 10am - 4pm at Minsteracres: **Day of Consolation** (those experiencing bereavement). [Minsteracres.org.uk](http://Minsteracres.org.uk)

Thursday, 2.15pm at St Joseph’s Aycliffe: **Mass** in celebration of the feast of **Pentecost.** All welcome.

Friday, 11am at St Mary’s: Requiem Mass **Gerard Wise.** No 10am mass (this week only)

Next Weekend at St Mary’s: Polish Community **Cake Sale.** Card reader in porch available for any cake purchases.

Sunday 24 May, 6pm at Ferryhill Methodist Church: **Churches Together** service. All welcome