

Wednesday 3 December, 2 - 3.15pm at St Joseph's School, Newton Aycliffe, **Christmas coffee afternoon** with stalls and games. (all welcome!)

Thursday 4 December, 2.15pm at St Joseph's School, Newton Aycliffe, **Advent Mass**. (all welcome!)

Saturday & Sunday, 6 & 7 December at Ushaw. **Father Christmas Meet and Greet** (all ages). A one-on-one visit with Father Christmas - £12. Details: www.Ushaw.org

Wednesday 10 December, 11.45am - 2pm at St John's, Bishop Auckland. Parishioners are invited to attend the Parishioners' **Christmas Lunch**. Free of charge, however we will be raising money to support our Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Any donations will be gratefully received. RSVP by Monday 1st December, 01388 603426.

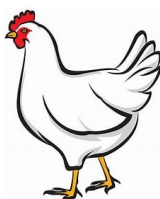
Thursday 11 December, 6.30pm at Ushaw. **Hexham & Newcastle Diocese Choir** performs much-loved carols, in the stunning St Cuthbert's Chapel. Details - Ushaw.org

Thursday 11 December, 6pm at Shildon Town Hall: **Civic Carol Service**.

Sunday 14 December, 2pm at St Mary's: **Charity Christmas Party** in support of football teams in Kenya and Zambia. Tickets £5; food, tombola, large raffle (£1 per square) to be drawn on the day. Please add your name to the list at the back of church (for catering purposes).

Wednesdays 2.15pm, Leeholme Welfare Hall, DL14 8HN: **Seated Exercise Class**. Bernadette 07030944810

Chickens for Christmas in Zambia: Last year we provided over **200 chickens** for families in Zambia over the Christmas period. If you would like to support the venture this year, envelopes are available at the back of church. Chickens now cost £5 in Zambia (hyper-inflation).



St Mary's: **Christmas cards** on sale in the Piety Shop at the back of church.

Refugee Project: Every month we collect items for this project in Newcastle. The Project is increasingly busy and continues to welcome clients from across the world. In September, they supported **568 individuals and families** and received **58 new registrations** from clients in need. The final collection of the year will be next week, in time for delivery before Christmas.

Clergy Training Fund. The diocese has three students in formation for the priesthood. **David Pinder**, in his fifth year at St. Mary's College, Oscott. **Emmet O'Leary**, in his third year at Allen Hall, London and **Dominic Nnadi** in his preliminary year of formation at the English College, Valladolid, in Spain. Please support this fund in the retiring collection this week-end.

Please pray for all the sick

(Please let us know if any names are missing)

Veronica Birchall, Christine Bainbridge, Julie Kirkbride, Vilna Woolhead, Hannibal Gonsalves, Bernard Molyneux, Joan Neasham, Mary Horton, Chris Palmer, Nora Piggott, Maureen Palmer, Jamie Spence, Tom Brett, George Walton, Carla Middleton, Sharon Pape.

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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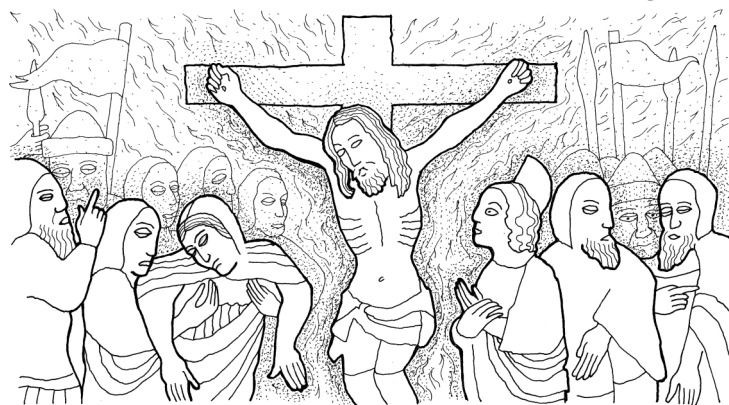
Fr Augustine Ofoma, 01740 651343

allsaints.ferryhill@diocesehn.org.uk

Sister Anna Ryan, 01388 602030

Website: www.aycliffeshildoncatholic.com

22 / 23 November Christ the King



Priest, Prophet and King

Just as Jesus overturned the values and customs of his time through his parables and mission, so too the cruelty and indignity of the Crucifixion is overturned by his noble and gracious acts of forgiveness, even in his final moments (Father, forgive them, for they know not what they have done).

As royal King, priest, and prophet, He draws people to Himself; and as the suffering Servant who knows the weight of human struggle, carries us towards Salvation, into the very heart of God.

Can we ever fully comprehend that, as faithful followers, we are not only invited but entrusted to share in Jesus' royal and priestly work? Through our lives of vocation, devotion, and care for the poor and suffering (who lie closest to God's heart), we participate in his mission.

As St Leo the Great reminds us: *The sign of the cross makes kings of all those reborn in Christ, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit consecrates them as priests.*

Surely this casts new light on how extraordinary and precious the gift of faith truly is.

Sat	12.00	Aycliffe	Rose Burey (A)
22	16.00	Shildon	Our parish family
Nov	<u>18.00</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	Polish Language mass
	18.00	Chilton	Stubbs and Lamb family
Sun	09.00	Coundon	People of the Parish
23	10.00	Aycliffe	Alice Watson (RIP)
Nov	10.30	Ferryhill	Adam Bowtell (40th birthday)
	18.00	Aycliffe	P.I. (B)

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

New to the Parish?

WELCOME!

Please introduce yourself after Mass. Also, Registration Forms are located in the church porch.

Jesus and the Internet

In a world where social media shapes identity and measures worth by likes and followers, Christians are asked a deeper question: Who is your king? For us, the answer is Christ — a King unlike any the world celebrates.

Christ did not seek power or status. He came to serve. His Kingdom is built on giving, not taking; on love expressed through sacrifice, not domination. This truth is at the centre of the Solemnity of Christ the King, which ends the liturgical year and leads us into Advent.

At the core of His kingship is agape (the Greek word for the highest expression of love - selfless, unconditional love). Agape becomes visible in Christ's total self-gift. It's not an idea but a choice: to seek the good of others, even at a cost to ourselves. The Eucharist embodies this love, nourishing us so we can share it in daily life.

But how do we live agape in the digital age?

Social media often rewards self-promotion, yet Christ calls us to humility. Each post can become an act of service, such as a word of hope, a prayer, a gesture of mercy. Before we speak online, we can ask: Am I seeking recognition, or am I seeking to serve?

Every Christian is called to be an influencer for Christ, not by numbers but by witness. Whether we reach a handful or thousands, our presence can spread kindness, patience, truth, and compassion, and when praise comes, we can turn it into gratitude: "Thank You, Lord, for allowing me to serve."

Christ's Kingdom is one of justice, mercy and peace. In a divided digital world, our charity can become a quiet proclamation that Christ still reigns. If we transform online spaces into places of grace and encouragement, we make His love visible even on a screen.

"The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve." May every digital act, no matter how small, reflect His Kingdom, which will never end.

The family of the late **Janet Holmes** would like to thank Fr Augustine for an amazing requiem Mass and also all the parishioners of St Joseph's for their words of comfort and all the cards. God bless you all.

St Thomas': Remembrance candles will be displayed on the windowsills at Christmas. There is a list at the back of church to order your candle, priced £2 each

Sanctuary Candle (St Mary's). Would you like this candle for your personal intention? Envelopes are in the church porch at St Mary's for the name of your intention.

Mass Intentions: Requesting a **mass for any intention** during the year is easy to arrange; simply use one of the envelopes in the church porch and place it in the collection basket.

Masses this week

Mon	09.30	Coundon	Father Peter Kelly
24	09.40	Aycliffe	Rosary
Nov	10.00	Aycliffe	Maureen McKeating
Tue	09.15	Ferryhill	No intention requested
25	09.50	Aycliffe	Divine Mercy
Nov	10.00	Aycliffe	Rose McQuillan (B)
	11.00	Shildon	<u>Funeral service</u> Margaret Allinson
	19.00	Coundon	Rosary and Exposition
Wed	09.15	Ferryhill	Nadine O'Sullivan
26	09.30	Shildon	Exposition
Nov	10.00	Shildon	Father W Wright (A)
Thu	09.30	Coundon	Sister Anna
27	10.00	Aycliffe	Communion Service
Fri	09.15	Chilton	No intention requested
28	09.30	Aycliffe	Exposition
Nov	10.00	Aycliffe	Alice Watson (RIP)
Sat	09.30	Coundon	Juila, Ted and Graham Maughan
29	10.00	Coundon	Exposition and Confession
Nov	12.00	Aycliffe	Peter Molyneux (RIP)
	16.00	Shildon	Our parish family
	18.00	Chilton	Alan Cornbill
Sun	09.00	Coundon	People of the Parish
30	10.00	Aycliffe	Joyce McCartin (A)
Nov	10.30	Ferryhill	Doris Ewin
	11.00	Aycliffe	Baptism Oscar Thomas Swindells
	18.00	Aycliffe	Deceased priests

This week-end: retiring collection - **Clergy Training Fund.**

This Saturday: **St Thomas' raffle.**

This Saturday, 5pm at St Charles Tudhoe. **Thanksgiving mass for Fr Anthony.**

Tuesday, 1-3pm in St Mary's meeting room: sewing, cross stitch, crochet, or any craft you wish to share with people.

Tuesday, 6pm at St John's School: **Christmas Market.**

Tuesday, 6pm at St Charles Tudhoe. **Induction Mass** for Father Remi as Parish Priest. Refreshments afterwards.

Next week-end: Final collection of the year for the **Refugee Society** (biscuits, tomatoes etc).

Saturday 29 November, 10am at All Saints Community Centre: **Christmas Fayre.**

Saturday 29 November: St Mary's SVP **raffle tickets** on sale.

Sunday 30 November, 6pm at Ferryhill Methodist Church: **Advent Churches Together service.**