



Thursday 4 September, 7pm at St Thomas':  
**St Thomas' Flower Festival** preview evening, with welcome service and buffet afterwards. All welcome.

Friday 5 September, 10am to 3pm at St Thomas': The church will be open for **Flower Festival** viewing, with refreshments served. Free entry, though any donations left will be shared between The Teesdale Search and Rescue Team, and The South Cleveland Heart Fund.

Thursday 18 September, 7-9 pm at St Mary's (for 3 months):  
**Alpha Course** (Polish).

Sunday 21-23 September, 7.30pm Locomotion Museum, Shildon: **Steam, wheels 'n' rails.** Period costume musical drama telling the tale of how the railway began.  
 03300580058

Tuesday 21 / 28 October, 7-9pm at All Saints:  
 Preparation evenings for **new Eucharistic Ministers**. We are looking for suitable people in all of our parishes who would be willing to be commissioned for this service. Commissioning will take place on Saturday 1 November 10am-3pm.



Saturday 27th September, 10 am to 3 pm at Cardinal Hume School, Gateshead: **Alive in HOPE:** A Church for MISSION.  
<https://bit.ly/DHNAlive25>

Tuesday 30 September, 1pm at St Mary's Cathedral: Mass with the **Papal Nuncio** (the pope's representative in England and Wales).

Saturday 4 October, 12 noon at St Mary's: **SVP Mass for the sick**, followed by refreshments in the hall. List available in the church porch.

Friday 24 October, in St Mary's meeting room: **SVP Quiz night.** More information later.

Website. We are looking for a volunteer who will help with the continued updating of the **parish website**.

Confirmation: a preparation programme for **confirmation** (Y9 and above) will take place later in the year. If you would like to be confirmed, then please send your name and date of birth to [stmary.aycliffe@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:stmary.aycliffe@diocesehn.org.uk)

Ave Integrated Healthcare Limited (CQC-verified and certified) provides high-quality **Social and Health Care** tailored to individual needs, such as dementia care, learning disabilities and respite services. Services include:

Companionship and support at home; Respite care.  
 Overnight care to ensure safety and comfort;  
 Person-centred support for dementia sufferers;  
 Learning disability support – empowering individuals;  
[aveintegratedhealthcare@mail.com](mailto:aveintegratedhealthcare@mail.com) or 07307375692



If you would like to receive this newsletter direct to your email box, please scan the QR code here, and click on the link. Good luck!

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

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

Fr Anthony Cornforth, 01325 313611, 07923683046

[stmary.newtonaycliffe@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:stmary.newtonaycliffe@diocesehn.org.uk)

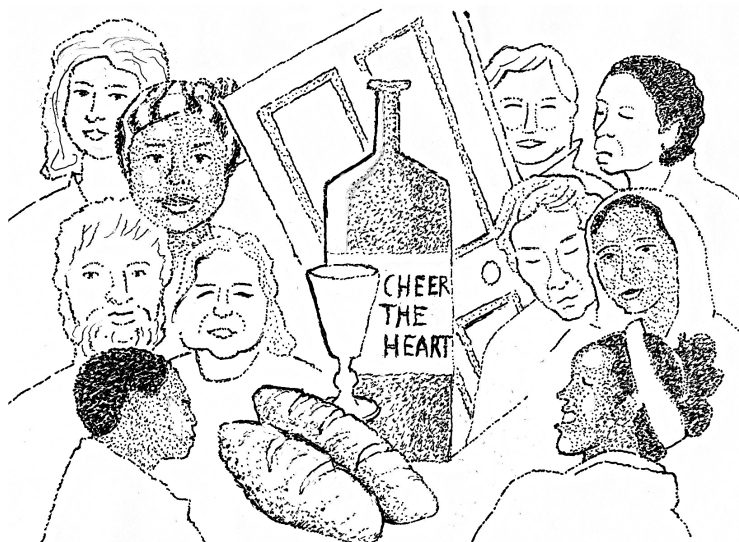
Fr Augustine Ofoma 01740 651343

[allsaints.ferryhill@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:allsaints.ferryhill@diocesehn.org.uk)

Sister Anna Ryan, 01388 602030

[www.aycliffeshildoncatholic.com](http://www.aycliffeshildoncatholic.com)

**23 / 24 August 2025: Sunday 21c**



## Welcome in

Jesus, our Temple, opens the door to people from every place and race, even if they have not heard his Word nor celebrated Eucharist. When face to face with God, we may be surprised who is not there, and even more surprised who is. Those we thought had no chance, holding other beliefs or none, and outcasts will be at the Kingdom's table.

At risk is anyone rejecting his loving discipline and judgement; who does not acknowledge his message is God's own, or do not live it; and a danger lurks in extreme self-satisfaction, losing this one chance to get in the boat.

Happy those who see wisdom in the narrow gate, who hear him and live their lives for others; who take the opportunity now to build a loving relationship with him and follow his footsteps to Jerusalem. Why wait, or dither over which path to take? Jesus has already made the choice for us.

Sat	12.00	Aycliffe	<b>Winnie Harman (A)</b>
23	16.00	Shildon	<b>Kitty (A) and John Collins</b>
Aug	18.00	Chilton	<b>No intention requested</b>
Sun	09.00	Coundon	<b>People of the Parish</b>
24	10.00	Aycliffe	<b>Patricia Hanson (B)</b>
Aug	10.30	Ferryhill	<b>James, Alice, Leonard, Damien Gee</b>
	<u>11.00</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	<b>Baptism Scott Patrick Milburn</b>
	18.00	Aycliffe	<b>Our parish family</b>

## Sharing our time and experiences

Jesus enjoyed getting together with people from all kinds of backgrounds. Individuals in high places, people with dodgy histories, and the gossips, stirrers and the curious with questions and opinions seeking comment. Today's Gospel kicks off a good example.

On his way to Jerusalem, the Lord stopped and taught in towns and villages, to whoever cared to listen. We have a paternal God, compassion personified, who loves and loves and whose understanding is expressed in forgiveness. Jesus' mixed audiences were fascinated and wanted more.

The Pharisees' preferred outlook required compliance to rules rather than a God of love. For them, that was too excusing, their minds favouring control. Lurking somewhere in all of us lie questions about our final days and beyond. Jesus was no stranger to requests about what we can expect. Here, someone asks, "Will many be saved?" Somewhere in the question lies the hope that we'll be included. Jesus' reply points the questioner and us in a personal direction. Effectively, "Forget about the numbers. What about you?"

Depending on your age, you may remember a time when a certain exclusiveness was attributed to Catholics and their salvation. Thankfully, Church teaching has corrected this. Our God offers salvation to all. Jesus came to save the world, not privileged groups. It's not who you know, what team you support, but who you are and how you live. We're called to love, as our Father loves, and as Jesus lives and shows. He knows it's not easy, but in his own picture language, he asks that we strive to enter by the narrow door, to choose what is often not a simple or straightforward path.

*This Gospel could be a healthy reminder to us. A prompt to look again at comfortable or casual assumptions about our efforts, our outlook, our lifestyle and relationships.*

Superficial contacts with Church and our faith practice repay visiting periodically. We might reflect on the challenge as well as the comfort and support of Jesus' presence with us, directing us to live on his terms and not always as some of our rather settled habits may dictate. We can always learn more about loving. Jesus advises and recommends the struggle. I can acknowledge that, and make decisions about what I do today and further tomorrows. Identifying next steps increases the chance of good things happening. Go gently but surely.

You're not on your own *Escomb Partnership Note*

## Please pray for all the sick

Mark Hugill, Lynda Whelbourn, Veronica Birchall, Terry Cheesmond, Christine Bainbridge, Francene Kaye, Benjamin, Rita Neasham, Raymond Lowey, Rose Hankey, Julie Kirkbride, Vilna Woolhead, Frank & Joan Billingham, Alaine McCartney, Sandra Garnham, Mary Horton, Lola Rose Frank Morrell, Coulson family, Coleen Ogden, Janet Holmes, Alfie Pennington, Suzanne Winship, Hannibal Gonsalves, Jamie Spence, Anne Nicholson, Bernard Molyneux, Rose, Heather Belcher, Stephen Russ, Marie Nichol, Sharon Pape, Frances Bainbridge, Victoria Hart, Olwen Henshall, Yvonne Beaton, Matthew Pape, Tommy and Jeanette Nevin, Joseph Niall Love.

## Masses this week

Mon	09.30	Coundon	<b>Sisters of Mercy (deceased)</b>
25	09.40	Aycliffe	Rosary
Aug	10.00	Aycliffe	<b>Frances Matthews (B) and Kevin McGowan (B)</b>
Tue	09.15	Ferryhill	<b>Phil Burgess (birthday)</b>
26	09.50	Aycliffe	Divine Mercy
Aug	10.00	Aycliffe	<b>Doreen Young</b>
	19.00	Coundon	Rosary and Exposition
Wed	09.15	Ferryhill	<b>No intention requested</b>
27	09.30	Shildon	Exposition
Aug	10.00	Shildon	<b>Maureen Palmer (sick)</b>
Thu	09.30	Coundon	<b>Edward Wigley</b>
28	10.00	Aycliffe	<b>Frances and Richard Lynch, and John Baird</b>
Fri	09.15	Chilton	<b>No intention requested</b>
29	09.30	Aycliffe	Exposition
Aug	10.00	Aycliffe	<b>Mary Harris (nee Toner) (RIP)</b>
Sat	09.30	Coundon	<b>The Brady clan</b>
30	10.00	Coundon	Exposition and Confession
Aug	12.00	Aycliffe	<b>Joe and Ann Gordon and family</b>
	<u>13.30</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	<u>Nuptial mass</u> <b>Maria Elizabeth O'Hanlon and Connor Ryan Foster</b>
	16.00	Shildon	<b>Our parish family</b>
	18.00	Chilton	<b>No intention requested</b>
Sun	09.00	Coundon	<b>People of the Parish</b>
31	10.00	Aycliffe	<b>John Baird (In thanksgiving)</b>
Aug	10.30	Ferryhill	<b>Deceased members of the choir</b>
	18.00	Aycliffe	<b>Julie and Robert Fletcher</b>

Rest in Peace: **Mary Harris, Lilian Wright, Angela Lloyd.**

This Sunday, 11am at St Mary's:

Baptism of **Scott Patrick Milburn**

Thursday, 7pm at St John's Church:

**Shildon Churches Together** meeting. All welcome

Saturday 30 August, 1.30pm at St Mary's: Nuptial Mass for **Maria Elizabeth O'Hanlon and Connor Ryan Foster**

Sunday 31 August:: Collection of biscuits, tomatoes, chick peas etc for **refugees**. Thank-you for your continued support of people who are in need.

Sunday 7 September, 12.30 pm at St Mary's: next **Polish language mass.**

Sunday 7 September, 6pm at Crook Methodist Church: welcome service for **Rev Elizabeth Catford** (Ferryhill CT).