

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday 2nd Dec Sat. 6.00 pm Vigil	St. Cecilia's	Decd Members of Whelan & Farrell Families
8.00 am	Convent	Sr. M Loreto (R.I.P)
10.30 am	St. Mary's	People of the Parish
5.00 pm	St. Mary's	Miriam Barraclough (R.I.P)
Monday 3rd Dec 9.30 am	Convent	In Thanksgiving (D & S)
12.05 pm	St. Mary's	Alice Agnes Cheal (R.I.P)
Tuesday 4th Dec 9.30 am	Convent	Ints of Fr. Martin Wheaten
12.05 pm	St Mary's	Dec'd Members of Todd & Lamb Family
1.45 pm	St. Mary's	Funeral Service of Ellen Pickering
7.00 pm	St. Cecilia's	Dec'd Members of Mc Conville Family
Wednesday 5th Dec 9.30 am	Convent	NO MASS/SERVICE
12.05 pm	St. Mary's	Leo & Iris Smith (R.I.P)
Thursday 6th Dec 9.30 am	Convent	NO MASS/SERVICE
12.05 pm	St. Mary's	Lilian Dalkin (R.I.P)
Friday 7th Dec 10.00 am	St. Cecilia's	Adoration & Benediction
12.05 pm	St. Mary's	Dec'd Members of Sayer Family
5.30 pm	Convent	Theresa & Lawrence Spence (R.I.P)
Saturday 8th Dec 9.30 am	Convent	Ints of Patricia Rutter
11.00 am	St. Mary's	Margaret Sweeney (R.I.P)
Sunday 9th Dec 6.00 pm (Saturday Evening)	St. Cecilia's	Michael Carney (R.I.P)
8.00 am	Convent	Richard Foster (R.I.P)
10.30 am	St Mary's	Violet Gibson (R.I.P)
5.00 pm	St. Mary's	Miriam Barraclough (R.I.P)

Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays in the Mercy Chapel (Confessions): 10.15 – 10.45 am and 11.30 – 12.15 pm
St. Cecilia's confessions: Before Mass, or by appointment.



OUR LADY of MERCY

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Parish, Sunderland.
Made up of:

St. Mary's Church, 27 Bridge Street, Sunderland, SR1 1TQ
St. Cecilia's and St. Patrick's Church, Ryhope Road, Sunderland, SR2 7TG
St. Anthony's Convent, Tunstall Road, Sunderland, SR2 7JR
Sunderland University Catholic Chaplaincy (Located at St. Mary's)

Telephone: (0191) – 567 5354

Parish Email: stmaryscatholicparish@hotmail.com

Parish Twitter: @St_MarysRC

Parish Website: www.sunderlandcatholic.com

Parish Priest: Fr. Marc Lyden-Smith
Assistant Priest: Canon A.H. Barrass (*Retired*)
Parish Deacon: Rev. Eddy Barker
Parish Sister: Sr. Raphael

2nd December 2018 – 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Part of the Catholic Partnership of Monkwearmouth, Sunderland. In the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

From both St. Mary's and St. Cecilia's churches: Please remember especially in your prayers....

Pat Lawrence, John Turnbull, Doreen Duffy, Pat Henty, Valerie, Janet Buckland, Jackie Turner, Breda Gleeson, Rebecca Amundsen, Avril Hogg, Simon Nyoike, Margaret Graham, Maureen Walton, Catherine Marshall, Molly South, Nicholas Wilson, Stephen Hall, Eddie Ashburner, Jean Liddle, Ann-Marie Rain, Christopher Browne, Norah Morris, Ann Forster, Luca, Mary White, Peter, Clara, Patrick Barraclough, Bernadette Lawson, Cecilia Harper; Molly Donkin, Patricia Rutter, Hannah O'Neill, Ann Felton, and John McConville who are all sick at this time AND Sr M Loreto and Ellen Pickering lately dead. May They Rest In Peace.

Parish Lottery

First Prize – Allison Thompson, Second Prize – Steve Crawford, Third Prize – Ann Smith. Congratulations to you all. ☺

If you would like to join the Parish Lotto for £1 a week, you are very welcome to do so – see Fr. Marc and you could be a winner.

STILL TIME TO JOIN – and be entered into the Christmas SUPER DRAW

The Parish Office is usually open Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 11.45 am. Sister Raphael will endeavour to assist with all relevant enquiries, including Baptism and Marriage enquiries, Mass Intentions, Planned Giving & Gift Aid donations and any forthcoming events in St Mary's and our Parish centre

Rise - Morning Prayer

Anyone wishing to start off the week with Morning Prayer is very welcome to St. Mary's Parish Centre at 8.00am. Morning Prayer will be followed by breakfast at 8.15am. Students especially welcome.

"Giving" Carol Service

On Sunday 16th December at 3.00pm in St. Mary's Church, we will have a "Giving" Carol Service, followed by mince pies and hot drinks in the Parish Centre.

At the Carol Service, children are invited to bring a toy that can be left in Church. All toys left in Church will be taken and given to special young people. This is a wonderful opportunity to think about those who have had a difficult start to life, and to show them that people care. All toys will be given to local charity 'Sunderland Carers Centre', who we worked with last year.

Please bring one brand new toy for a child of any age, and all children who bring a toy offering will receive a special treat.

I hope to see as many families as possible here.

Coffee Morning

This Sunday after the 10.30am Mass we have a coffee morning in the Parish Centre. We will also have our LAST EVER Traidcraft Stall, so don't miss out on bargains and gifts for Christmas.

Thank you for being here at Mass.

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary are celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Wednesday 5th December with a special Mass at 12.05pm in St. Mary's. All welcome

Faith in Politics

The Catholic Bishop's Conference are looking for applicants for young Catholics who want to take a gap year, to be Parliamentary and public affairs interns in Parliament. To find out more information and to apply visit: faithinpolitics.org.uk

Student Christmas Party

The Student Christmas Party will be on 14th December at 7.00pm in St. Mary's Catholic Centre. All welcome

Race Night

Date for your diaries: After the success of this year's event, and after many requests, we are having another PARISH RACE NIGHT. This will be on Saturday 19th January from 6.30pm in St. Mary's, with all profits going to the student fund. Tickets are £3 and includes pie and peas supper. You can also sponsor a horse for £3 and sponsor a race for £15. Why not have a race named after yourself: For example "The Margret Spoons Gold Cup". If interested text Mary on 078535815007 or email: sunderlandcathsoc@gmail.com

Today we begin our Advent journey together. This is a Holy Season for us to closer to God.

Christ Extravaganza

Brought to you by the Sunderland Youth Orchestra on Saturday 8th December at 6.00pm in St. Mary's Church. Join in Christmas Carols and hear festive favourites like 'The Snowman' and many more. Then join us for mince pies and refreshments in the Parish Hall. Tickets are £4 for entry with all money going to charity. Do not miss this Extravaganza!

St. Anthony's Girls

The senior choir of St. Anthony's Girl School will return to St. Mary's again this for their Carol Service on Wednesday 12th December at 6.30pm, followed by refreshments in the Hall afterwards. You can pay on the door for entry, but do not miss these very talented ladies performing in Church.

Over 60's

Can I remind you all that we have a wonderful over 60's group operating from St. Mary's Parish centre every Tuesday after the 12.05pm Mass. It is always open to new people coming along, so why not give it a try? You could be enjoying the fun, games, bingo or just a nice chat.

Parish Bank Details

If you would like to set up a STANDING ORDER with your bank and your parish; here are the details: Our HSBC Account, (Newcastle branch), is this:
Sort Code: 40-34-18
Account Number: 84456955.

Citizens Advice Sunderland

Are you worried about money? Struggling with debts or paying bills? If so, then Citizens Advice Sunderland can help! We provide free, confidential, independent and impartial advice to everyone living in Sunderland and Washington. As a local, independent charity we work with clients to resolve any debt issues they may have. We can provide budgeting advice, negotiate with creditors, handle both emergency and non-emergency debts and identify suitable strategies for the next steps.

But don't just take our word for it, here's what one of our many satisfied clients has said: "I received exceptional service at Citizens Advice Sunderland throughout my worrying time. Very, very helpful. Thank you so much."

For more information, pop into one of our offices or call our dedicated debt line on: **0191 415 8998**.

Our Offices:

5a Waterloo Place, Sunderland, SR1 3HT.

Unit 56, First Floor, The Galleries, Washington, NE38 7SD.

The Citizens Advice are also looking for volunteers are the moment. Could you be interested in helping them out?

To make a difference in your local community, gain new skills and meet new people **contact Hannah** on hannah.finney@citizensadvicesunderland.co.uk or telephone **0191 417 4048**.

Welcome to the Season of Advent



Weight Watchers

Could you do with losing a few pounds? If you would like to lose a little weight in the run up to Christmas this year, weight watchers runs every Saturday and Sunday morning in St. Mary's Catholic Centre.



"Microsoft support?
My windows won't open!"

University Carol Service

Is in the Minister on 10th December at 5.30pm. All welcome.

The Season of Advent: For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the first Sunday of Advent. In this new liturgical year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavours to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a 'vigilant' disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming. The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the 'Light' to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes, means to wait and to

watch so that the Word of Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives. As Blessed John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: "Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This 'vigilance' means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living 'wait'. To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in today's reading to the Romans: 'Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed'" (Rm 13:11). We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread (cf. Is 2:1-5). Moreover, we must change our conduct abandoning the works of darkness and put on the 'armour of light' and so seek only to do God's work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh (cf. Rm 13:12-14). Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian life style that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognize even the smallest sign of the Lord's coming because we don't know the hour in which He will arrive (cf. Mt 24:39-44)