

Government advice for England:

You can attend places of worship for a service. However, you must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble. Maintain strict social distancing at all times.

St Mary's and St Thomas' Credit Union: The **AGM** is usually held at the end of January, However because of the pandemic regulations this has to be postponed. Details of when, where and how the meeting will be conducted will be advised as soon as possible. Regulations state a meeting must be held before 31st March.

Thursdays 18 February – 25 March, 7.30 – 8.30pm

In 2015, Pope Francis published his ground-breaking letter on the environment *Laudato Si'*. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to join us for a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource **Global Healing**. These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home. Suitable for all concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action. jane@catholicclimatemovement.global

Pakistan appeal: **Religious books** (adult and children); **Religious items** (rosary, medal, cross etc); **Non-prescription medicines** (not in bottles) or any items for first aid and medical treatment.

Durham University Centre for Catholic Studies has opened applications for Postgraduate Scholarships and Bursaries, which will pay towards tuition fees. Also, The Mater Ecclesiae MA Scholarship – one 2-year award for a new part-time student on the MA in Christian Theology (Catholic Studies pathway) to include part-time full tuition fees. Details: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/ccs/study/bursaries>

Universe and Catholic Times - you can get the paper delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you.

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DIGITAL COPY: 12 Months (£55)

Northern Cross: £36 a year for home delivery or £20 for the digital edition. 01325 464008 editor.norcross@btconnect.com

Every Call Counts is a local telephone befriending service for anyone over the age of 18: 01325 329934

Home visits are not allowed, but please call 01325 313611 or 07923683046 if you need anything.

Collections: If you would like to make contributions by **standing order** (makes the work of the counters much easier!) then please send an email or text message or telephone and that can be arranged. Same also if you are a tax payer and do not have a **Gift Aid Certificate** at the moment (this brings in an extra 25% on top of your contribution).

Saint Mary,
Saint Thomas,
All Saints,
Sacred Heart,
Saint Joseph,

Aycliffe
Shildon
Ferryhill
Chilton
Coundon



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

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16 / 17 January 2021: Sunday 2B



The call of Samuel (and his response) prepares us for the call of the first disciples of Jesus.

Imagine the boy lying by the Ark of God, in close proximity to all that was considered sacred, hearing a voice call: 'Samuel!' Was it really a call, was it Eli the old prophet calling, or was it just the wind in the pillars of the Temple?

We are told 'Samuel did not yet know the Lord; the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.' We too may find it hard to discern the call. When we think we know all there is to know it can make it harder to hear and accept new, unexpected words from a God who sought us first, who never gives up, who continues to call until we learn how to listen.

Like the disciples, when we truly meet the Lord, we must make time to get to know him and recognise His presence in our lives before we can share his joy with others. Do we find God in the unfamiliar voices and uncomfortable situations?

Sat	12.00	Aycliffe	Our parish family
16	16.00	Shildon	Alessandro Rossi
Jan	17.30	Aycliffe	Cath Aither
Sun	09.00	Coundon	Ian and Al Moore
17	10.00	Aycliffe	Dougie Horton
Jan	10.30	Ferryhill	Dunlavey and Barrigan family
	13.00	Aycliffe	Polish Language Mass
	18.00	Aycliffe	Patricia Hanson

Here I am, Lord

Some of our hymns are frankly dangerous, but they are also a great way of teaching and praying. You want kids to learn the green cross code, or anything else that needs to become part of the hardwiring that drives their behaviour? - then wrap up the message in a song and you're probably home. Even better if the tune is good. So what about "Here I am, Lord"? We're putting ourselves at God's disposal. It's based on chapter 6 of the book of the prophet Isaiah with echoes of Samuel in today's first reading. The Lord needs someone to listen to people's pain, look after the poor, those with disabilities, people whose lives are bleak and dark.

Look no further - I'm your man. Send me. Really? Do we know what we've just sung? What if he takes us at our word? I'd look and feel shameful if I had to say "Lord, I didn't really mean it".

Start with our hesitancy. We learn by doing and we're asking the Lord to lead us. It sounds OK but we do like to be in control, some days wanting to direct God rather than genuinely seeking his guidance. Our God loves this messy world - that's why he sent his Son to save us from doing ourselves in. We're offering to help. It's why we're here. In a nutshell, we're given to the world, to those crushed by injustice, sickness, loneliness and a heavy catalogue of hardship. Our job description as Jesus' students is increasingly to serve, to stand up for honesty and fairness, to offer practical support where we can, certainly not to get in God's way.

Alongside the exploitation and neglect we witness, we'll understand how partial and self-inflicted some of the world's problems are, if we have more than an ounce of self-awareness.

If we're in touch with our own wounded humanity, it's a head start in caring for others. *Here I am, Lord*, means taking calculated risks. Like Andrew and his pal, disciples of John the Baptist, we need to spend time with the Lord. Notice Andrew first addressed Jesus as 'Rabbi' or 'Teacher'. By the next day he was telling Simon Peter, his brother, 'We've found The Messiah'. That's a big jump.

They sat and talked - the rest is history. They told others, who told more others, and they told yet more others and the others told me, told you, and we must tell others too.

At the end of each day, check out what you did with the Lord, what worked, what was OK, and ask him about tomorrow. Just talk to him. Thanks.

Please pray for all the sick

Eileen Brownbridge, Mary Eales, Cathy Bolton, John Amos, Jean Bolton, Eileen Walsh, Blanche Collingson, Ann Lee, Lynda Whelbourn, Phyllis Musgrave, Terry Cheesmond, Janet Holmes, Raymond Lowey, Julie Kirkbride, Jacob, Vilna Woolhead, Doris Irwin, John Regan, Elaine McCartney, Joan Hartnell, Savannah Philips, Claire, John Garnham, Alfie Pennington, Suzanne Winship, Jamie Spence, Helen Hall, Frank Morrell, Coulson family.

This week

Tuesday, 1.30pm (and 7pm) at St Joseph, Coundon:

Mon	10.00	Aycliffe	Mary Hoban
Tue	10.00	Aycliffe	Mia Fletcher
	13.30	Coundon	Exposition and Rosary.
	19.00	Coundon	Exposition and Rosary.
Wed	09.15	Ferryhill	Thiva and family - Thanksgiving
	10.00	Shildon	Fr David Milburn (LD)
Thu	09.30	Coundon	Terence McMullen
	10.00	Aycliffe	Cruddace and Stockton families
	11.00	Shildon	Funeral service Faith Violet Mary Breeze
Fri	10.00	Aycliffe	Winniw Shaw
Sat	09.30	Coundon	Leah and George Shaw
	10.00	Coundon	Exposition and confession

Exposition and Rosary.

Thursday, 11am in St Thomas' Church, Shildon:
funeral service for **Faith Violet Mary Breeze**.

Friday, 1pm at Durham Crematorium:
cremation service for **Brian Stelling**.

Next week-end:

Third Sunday of Year B

There are many important aspects to the call of the disciples by Jesus, but what we get today, from the beginning of Mark's gospel, is that the time was now right (John had been arrested) and the opportunity was there for people to begin following Jesus. But it could not afford to be anything half-hearted; it had to be a full commitment. That's why we are told that they left their nets and followed him. They had to make a clean break and commit themselves to the task at hand. We know from the gospels that in fact they continued fishing, but the emphasis is made here that they had to make a real commitment to Jesus. That is the calling for each one of us. We need to be committed to the call.

Many people are committed these days to overcoming a virus - we must have the same dedication and belief that the road we are travelling leads to success.

Sat	12.00	Aycliffe	Patricia Hanson (LD)
16	16.00	Shildon	Rossi family (deceased)
Jan	17.30	Aycliffe	Winnie, Patrick, Dennis, Vince, Liz and Pat McCormick
Sun	09.00	Coundon	Billy Hutchinson
17	10.00	Aycliffe	Mary and William McKeating
Jan	10.30	Ferryhill	Neil Hood (anniversary)
	<u>11.30</u>	Aycliffe	Polish Language Mass
	18.00	Aycliffe	Josephine Shorten