

## Update from Fr David and the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle regarding COVID / Omicron continued

### The arrangements for St Aidan's, St Bernadette's, St Columba's

Over the Christmas period places for Masses will be on a first come first served basis. Please ensure you sanitise your hands on entry to the church.

Fr David requests that the one way system is adhered to. Please remain in your seats until directed by the stewards to go to communion.

At the end Mass please wait in your seat until the stewards indicate for you to leave the church.

**NHS Test and Trace** – The Government is still encouraging certain venues, including places of worship, to keep a record of those attending to support the NHS Test and Trace programme. The QR Code is still available on the door to your right as you enter the church. There is also a QR code near to the gate on the carpark.

### Reverse Advent Calendar

This year throughout Advent, instead of opening our Advent calendar doors to receive a gift each day, we are asking parishioners to collect items for the Reverse Calendar. Maybe our extended family, friends or neighbours might like to get involved too. You are invited to keep an Advent Box in your homes so that each day you can add your gifts. The third week of Advent Gifts are as follows:

Monday - Crisps	Tuesday - Long Life Milk
Wednesday - Treat	Thursday - Female Toiletries
Friday - Snacks for Kids	Saturday - Male Toiletries
Sunday - A TREAT!	



At the end of each week of Advent, please bring in the contents of your box to church so they can find their way to the foodbank to help those in need. St Columba's parishioners may just want to donate food items in the usual way by leaving them at the back of the church. Your support is appreciated. Thank you!

## Copies of the Northern Cross are now available at the back of church.

To date we have just 20 Christmas cards for prisoners. If you are able to write just two cards for prisoners at the Northumberland Prison it would be appreciated. Please sign your card with your initials only and also include the name of your parish church and leave them at the back of church.

On the envelope write: Catholic Chaplain.

St Aidan's is advertising a **New Year's Day Walk** at 10.30am beginning at the Rising Sun Country Park. From 12.00pm there will be bacon and sausage sarnies available at the church. Please sign up for the walk at St Aidan's or email to let us know if you would like refreshments and sandwich. This is so Ellen knows the numbers she is catering for.

**Festive Family Film Night** - This will take place on Thursday 30th December at 6.00pm.

### UN International Day for Migrants

We live in a troubled world where people are having to flee from persecution and danger on a daily basis. Your support can help bring Christ's healing love into some very difficult situations. The Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project offers a warm welcome and provides basic support for those seeking asylum and refuge in our community and has offered a caring heart, a listening ear and a helping hand to some of our region's most vulnerable people. Follow the link for more information: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/services/caritas/justice-peace-refugee-project/>

### Baptism - The next session for parents who would like their child baptised will be January 27th 2022 at 6.30pm at St Columba's.

If you are seeking to have your child baptised and are regularly attending Mass, then please ask Fr David for a baptism application form and once filled in and returned he will advise you on how to take the next steps.

To request a baptism for your child you need to come along to Saturday Mass 5.00pm at Our Lady and St Columba, Sunday 10.00am at St Aidan's or St Bernadette's Sunday 11.30am. Please keep yourself informed by regularly looking at our newsletters which are on the website: [www.wallsendcatholic.church](http://www.wallsendcatholic.church)

If you do not already regularly attend Mass then after doing so for a few weeks, please introduce yourself to Fr David Smith and, if appropriate, you will be given a baptism application form. Once the form is returned you will be given a date to attend for a baptism catechesis session. Once that is completed then you will be offered dates from which you can choose the most suitable for your family. Fr David looks forward to baptising your child and welcoming them in to the community. Thank you!

