

Introduction: John the Baptist again takes centre stage but in a different mood from last week – in prison, he wants to know if Jesus is the one they are awaiting. Jesus’ answer is enigmatic. John is told to read the signs for himself.

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6. 10 - The prophet looks forward to a day when those who are blind will see, those who are deaf will hear and those who are lame will “leap like a deer”.

Second Reading James 5:7-10

Be patient, says the writer. Take the example of a farmer waiting for the crop to ripen. Impatience will not hasten the Lord’s return.

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

In prison and nearing death, John sends messengers to ask who Jesus is; Jesus replies that John must read the signs for himself.

Please pray for Winifred Burke, lately dead
and for all whose anniversaries occur about this time:

DECEMBER

15 John Keefe **16** James Leo Lowery, Pauline Daly **18** Kathleen Jones
19 Sarah Strathdee, Mel Brown **20** Marian Beesley

	St Andrew’s	St Mary’s
Attendance/Collection	203/ £524.95	73/ £170.06

Join the parish’s SVP group – we need you

To find out more contact us, email:svp@standrewscottam.org.uk
or come along to our regular meetings, each 2nd Monday in month.

New members always welcome.

Confirmation Mass Bishop Paul will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Andrew’s Cottam on **Thursday 18th June 2020** at 6.30pm

First Holy Communion Details of the preparation programme &

Application forms are now at the back of church.

Parishes of St Andrew & Blessed George Haydock, Cottam, and St Mary, Lea Town

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) 15th December 2019

Parish Priest: Canon Adrian J. Towers VF

114 Hoyles Lane, Cottam, PR4 0NB

Tel: (01772) 726166 E-mail: parishpriest@standrewscottam.org.uk

Deacon: Rev. John W Cliffe

Tel: 01257 264445 johncliffe@standrewscottam.org.uk

Baptisms and Marriages by Arrangement.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday (4.30pm to 5pm) or on request.
Please call in to the Presbytery or speak to Canon Adrian before or after Mass.

WEBSITE: www.standrewscottam.org.uk

The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator

Tel: 01772 728433. Website:www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

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See how the farmer
awaits the precious
yield of the soil.

James 5:7

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art by Julie Lonneman

SATURDAY 14th December

5.30pm (St Andrew's) Norman Gourley (6589)

SUNDAY 15th December – Gaudete Sunday

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9.00am (St Mary's) Janet & Terry Entwistle (6632)

10.30am (St Andrew's) People of the Parish

NO Afternoon Devotions

6.00pm (St Andrew's) Sheila Catterall (6640)

MONDAY 16th December

9.15am (St Andrew's) Rosaleen M^cBride (6590)

TUESDAY 17th December - NO MASS

WEDNESDAY 18th December

9.15am (St Andrew's) Jenny & Robin Barnes (6626)

THURSDAY 19th December

10.30am (St Andrew's) Requiem – Winifred Burke

FRIDAY 20th December

9.15am (St Andrew's) Kathleen M^cGuinness (6591)

SATURDAY 21st December

9.15am (St Andrew's) In Memory of Leonard Hallmarsh RIP (6625)

5.30pm (St Andrew's) Holy Souls

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Mary's Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm. St Mary's will be open at these times and anyone who wishes to pay a visit and spend some time in prayer are most welcome.

Friday Adoration Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each Friday 8.00am to 9.00am at St Andrew's, to pray for vocations to the Priesthood in our Diocese.

Mass Intentions All Mass offerings and intentions are most welcome. If you require a Mass on a particular day, please let Canon Adrian know or place the intention, offering and details in an envelope on the collection plate at the back of church.

IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

Sign up for our Parish ALPHA Course starting on 14th January 2020

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December

(St Andrew's) Children's Vigil Mass 5.30pm

(St Andrew's) **Mass During the Night 8.30pm (PLEASE NOTE TIME)**

Carols from 8.00pm

Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December

(St Mary's) 9.00am (St Andrew's) 10.30am

Note There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day

Christmas Flowers Donations for flowers to decorate both churches for Christmas will be gratefully received. Appeal for greenery, any type of evergreen especially ivy, conifer, holly or laurel. Please leave, after Monday 23rd December, at the back door of the Haydock Room at Cottam.

St Andrew's Church Cleaning for Christmas Please come along on Saturday **21st December** at 10.00am to help prepare the church for Christmas.

St Mary's Christmas Raffle raised the Grand Total of £595. Many Thanks to those who donated prizes, bought tickets, baked cakes, made Christmas Tree decorations, helped on the day AND for two generous donations. The proceeds of the raffle will be split between Lea St Mary's Primary School and the school in Kerala, where Sister Litty taught.

Advent Course - The Mystery of God by Bishop Barron on the Wednesdays of Advent (December 18th) 7.00 - 8.00 p.m., showing two of the sections each evening. In the Haydock Room, Cottam.

Chat & Play (St Andrew's) meet at 10.00am Fridays (term time only).

Seekers Youth Group St Mary's, Lea Town each Friday (Term Time Only) 4pm to 5.30pm.

'The God Who Speaks' Advent Series Thursday **19th December**. 7.30 – 9.30pm, St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Preston. **'Liturgy: God speaks through the Advent and Christmas Liturgies'** by Maria Hall who, following many years as a teacher, is now a consultant in Pastoral Liturgy, Music and RE. Maria has a Masters Degree in Theology specialising in Liturgy and is currently Director of Music at St Wilfrid's, Preston.

Carol Service The Chaplaincy at HMP Kirkham are holding a Christmas Carol Service at the Welcome Centre, on Monday 16th December at 6.00pm for refreshments and 6.45pm for the Service. Please confirm if you wish to attend on 01772 675625 or email ChaplaincyKirkham@hmpr.gsi.gov.uk. Please note photo-ID (Passport or Driving License) will be required to gain admission.