



Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.'  
*John 14:1-2*

## THE PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP NERI

Immaculate Heart of Mary ▪ Lobley Hill

St Mary ▪ Wickham

St Philip Neri ▪ Dunston

Parish Priest Fr Peter Leighton 0191 460 4274

Parish E-mail [stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk)

Parish Website [www.theparish.org.uk](http://www.theparish.org.uk)

Diocesan Website [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)



The John Ingram Partnership  
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

## Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A) 10 May 2020

The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, can be contacted by email [stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk)  
or by telephone 07891 162205 during office hours, Tuesday - Friday, 10am - 2pm

### CORONAVIRUS - IMPORTANT NOTICE

- Until further notice, all churches are to remain closed and public liturgies, including Mass, are not to be celebrated in our churches. Because of this exceptional situation, the obligation for the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday or Holyday of Obligation and to fulfil Easter Duties at this time is removed.
- Fr Peter will celebrate Mass without a congregation on Sundays for the People of the Parish and also on weekdays without a congregation as announced in the weekly parish newsletter (see below). Whilst parishioners cannot be physically present for these Masses, they can join in the celebration of Mass by making a Spiritual Communion while the Mass is being celebrated. N.B. Sunday Morning Mass at 9.00am is available each Sunday and can be viewed on our YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3webHIXzcgamFoHdfuCFLO>
- Please note all parish meetings /gatherings are suspended until further notice.
- During this time of trial, our homes will now become the centre for daily prayer for many people. Home becomes a 'house church' and daily reflection on the readings for Mass and the Rosary would be two good sources of direction for prayer and reflection. Please see the diocesan website [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk) for further information and resources.
- Live broadcasts of Mass from various locations and at various times can be found at the following website: [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv)
- As part of the pastoral care of parishioners and others during this COVID-19 lockdown, a number of qualified counsellors and listeners have generously made themselves available to anyone who may be troubled by the negative effects of the situation. These counsellors and listeners can be contacted through the St Mary's Cathedral Listening Service on 0191 232 6953 and the Northumberland Listening Service on 07732 980740.

**Fr Peter will celebrate Mass without a congregation on Sunday and also on the following weekdays:**

#### **Fifth Sunday of Easter 10 May**

Monday 11 May

Tuesday 12 May

Wednesday 13 May

Thursday 14 May *St Matthias*

Friday 15 May

Saturday 16 May

#### **Sixth Sunday of Easter 17 May**

People of the Parish

Edward & Mary Ann Arnold (ann.)

Mary Olga Maddison (dec.)

Peter McLoughlin (dec.)

Mary Coyne (dec.)

Pauline Fletcher (dec.)

Tom Airey (ann.)

People of the Parish

***Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, St Cuthbert, St Philip Neri, Blessed John Ingram - pray for us***

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** Matty Bullock, Raymond Deponio, Barney Hayes, Maria Thi Kien Chiene Le, John Leitch, Liz McKenna, Pauline Mulholland, Astrid Muse (Gower), Joseph Relph, Geoff Taylor. ***If you or any members of your family are going into hospital and would like to see the Catholic Chaplain, please ask a member of the ward staff to let the Catholic Chaplain know. For the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, you can contact the Chaplaincy Department Office directly, tel. 0191 445 2072 (Catholic Chaplain: Rev. Peter Jones). For the RVI and Freeman Hospitals in Newcastle, tel. 0191 233 6161 (Catholic Chaplain: Fr Mariadass 0191 273 3903).***

**RECENTLY DECEASED** Please remember in your prayers Edward (Eddie) Bambrough who died recently. May he rest in peace. Amen.

**PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE** The annual returns for the year ended March 2020 are in the process of being completed and it is pleasing to report that total funds have increased from £264,325 to £285,459. Of this figure £279,707 belongs to the Parish with £4,933 being held for *Gift for Life* and £819 for special collections that are due to be paid in April/May. The £26,190 increase in parish money compares to a £19,805 increase last year. This £6,385 improvement is mainly attributable to a reduction in repairs expenditure and an increase in rental income from St Mary's Presbytery, Whickham. However, it must be noted that these benefits were eroded somewhat by a 10% fall in offertory collections over the year from £71,485 to £64,273. Part of this decline is due to the required closure of churches in the final 2 weeks of March which would account for about £1,680 of the shortfall. Also, this weekend is the eighth week of the required closure of churches and means we are now missing loose plate and envelope collections of approximately £6,720! Whilst we are more fortunate than many other parishes which are not as financially blessed as ours, this is still a considerable concern against a backdrop of falling collections. Admittedly, the impact is not as severe as it would have been a few years ago when most offertory monies were collected in the form of cash and perhaps now is the ideal time for more parishioners to consider making their regular financial contributions by standing order. If you would like to transfer to this method of giving, please make arrangements with your bank. The Parish account details that you will need are:

*DHN Gateshead: Our Lady and St Philip Neri*

*Sort code: 40-34-45 Account number: 21167936*

*Reference: insert your own name; commencing: e.g. 6th of each month; frequency: each month, quarterly or annually.* Once again, thank you for your continuing generosity in supporting the mission and maintenance of our parish.

#### **SUPPORT FOR PARISHIONERS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS**

**PANDEMIC** A number of parishioners are offering support to other parishioners who are vulnerable or self-isolating. If you or a friend or relative would welcome a phone call, a bit of shopping, want the newsletter dropping through your letterbox etc. please phone 07570 045976. Your request will be passed to a trusted parishioner who will contact you to discuss your request. **It would be helpful if those parishioners who have contact with others who are not able to access the newsletter online could alert them to this item.** Thank you.

**FUN ACTIVITIES** In the online weekly newsletter we are now including various activities for example, a quiz, puzzle, word search or crossword etc. for you to enjoy – click [here](#) to view. Answers will be supplied at the bottom of each page or the following week. If you have any tried and tested recipes, craft, gardening, exercise, gardening tips etc. you would like to share with everyone we will do our best to include them if you send them to the parish email address [stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk)

**CELEBRATIONS** As an additional way of communicating during these challenging times, if you or a member of your immediate family have an upcoming celebration that you would like to be mentioned in the newsletter please email this to the Parish email address [stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk) Please note that due to GDPR restrictions we can only print your own name or a person/child for whom you are parent/guardian. Anybody else will need to provide permission in the form of an email or telephone call.

**URGENT FOOD DONATION APPEAL - PLEASE HELP** We have identified a number of families within our church family who are financially struggling during this COVID-19 lockdown (and if you know of any others in need please feel free to contact the mobile number given below). We would like to support our community on a regular basis during their time of need, therefore it would be amazing if, as a parish, we could help and ease this worrying situation for people with regular donations. So, whilst doing your weekly shopping, if you can, **PLEASE** buy an extra store cupboard item (or two) and donate to one of three drop off points (details below) - Katie Wilkinson (07837 386760) has agreed to collect the food items from these points then organise distribution on a weekly basis to those in need. Any surplus food items will be taken to Corpus Christi Church in Gateshead which is the coordinating point for a wider distribution across the John Ingram Partnership. Our Partnership has a large number of refugees, asylum seekers and families living in poverty and this is our opportunity as Christians to support these people who are in real need and so make a difference to their lives.

#### **Drop off points:**

Dunston area - John Pinchen, 316 Dunston Road, Dunston.

Lobley Hill area - Maveen Pereira, 41, Beechwood Gardens, Lobley Hill.

Whickham area - Katie Wilkinson, 1 Mayfield, Whickham (mobile 07837 386760) - you can leave donations in the back garden.

Knock and simply leave your donations by the door.

**Some Suggested Food items:** Tinned meat (e.g. corned beef), tinned fish (e.g. tuna), tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, tinned chickpeas, tinned/long life carton custard, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauces, baked beans, pasta, rice, dried lentils, cooking oil (e.g. sunflower), biscuits, cereals, sugar, tea, coffee, fruit squash, jam - **basically, any non-perishable food items!** Thank you.

**PETER McLOUGHLIN RIP** Peter was a parishioner of St Philip Neri Church all of his life. A very devout, unassuming man with a wonderful sense of humour. Apart from the last 5 years or so when he became ill, on any day that the church was open, Peter would almost certainly be the first person you saw as you entered St Philip Neri and the last as you left. He opened up and locked up and did everything in between i.e. lights, heating, preparing the sanctuary, altar and vestments for all of the priests, vacuuming, cleaning, ensuring candles were lit and available etc etc. All the things that everyone took for granted until Peter became ill. Now these tasks are covered by a number people. He was also a member of St Philip Neri SVP Conference for over 60 years, visiting and taking the Blessed Sacrament to many many people over the years. Peter was also a much loved brother to Monica and Nora and will be greatly missed by them and all of his family. It is sad that Peter is unable to have a Requiem Mass in his beloved church, but in true Peter fashion he wouldn't want to make a big deal out of it. Rest in Peace Peter - from a very grateful group of parishioners at St Philip Neri.

*Postscript:* Since reading the piece above, parishioners from Immaculate Heart of Mary have been in contact to say that for a number years, as well as St Philip Neri, Peter also attended the 11am mass on Sunday morning at Immaculate Heart and helped there too - doing sacristan duties before there was a rota, distributing newsletters and hymn books and also credit union duties. A true all-rounder!



**GIFT FOR LIFE APRIL – MAY UPDATE** *Even in lockdown your generosity is helping others “Thank you”.* The April – May Gift for Life Update is available. Please click [here](#) to read.

#### **DIOCESAN JUSTICE AND PEACE REFUGEE PROJECT**

In response to the Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project Appeal, Senior Moments Lunch Club of our parish has arranged, on behalf of our guests, to send a cheque for £210. Thank you. We hope our guests are keeping safe and well and we look forward to seeing you all as soon as we can! God Bless.

The Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project has had to temporarily close its doors due to Covid-19 but we are now sending out ‘digital vouchers’ to the mobile phones of destitute asylum seekers. The vouchers allow recipients to purchase goods to the value of £30 in relevant supermarkets. This way of operating is expensive as we are not able to utilise food contributions from parishes – so please continue supporting the project financially, ideally by Bank transfer – HSBC DHN DESTITUTE ASYLUM FUND Sort code: 40-34-18 Account number: 52854058. Cheques payable to D.H&N DESTITUTE ASYLUM FUND can also be sent to: Justice and Peace Refugee Project c/o Fr Adrian Tuckwell, St Anne's Presbytery, Half Fields Road, Winlaton, NE21 5RW. Thank you.

#### **VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

*Praying the Rosary for an increase in Priestly Vocations in our Diocese* The Diocesan Vocations Team has produced a *Rosary for Vocations* in which the seminarians for the Diocese have written *the reflections on the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary*. It is hoped that people will pray the Rosary for an increase of Priestly Vocations for the Diocese throughout the month of May. Please read or download the Rosary reflections [here](#).

***To whom shall we go - A Seven Session Discernment Programme for Men Considering Priesthood in Hexham & Newcastle Diocese*** Could Jesus be calling you to be Catholic Priest? Our online course of reflection and discussion is an opportunity to ask that question. Gathering as an online group, we will discuss what it means to discern a vocation, learn a little about the path to priesthood and enjoy fellowship in the process!

The course will take place using ZOOM at **7.15pm** on Mondays beginning **Monday 11 May**.

To express interest in joining our sessions, or to find out more, please contact Father Christopher Warren at [vocations@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcdhn.org.uk)

**PETITION FOR A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** Change.org is seeking signatories to a petition to the Prime Minister for a National Day of Prayer in the face of the Covid-19 crisis. For further information and to sign the petition please click [here](#)

**DIOCESAN DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK AND THEIR FAMILIES, NHS FRONT-LINE, SOCIAL CARE WORKERS AND OTHER KEY WORKERS** On Thursday 14 May 2020 there will be a Diocesan Day of Prayer for the sick and their families, NHS front-line, social care workers and other key workers. The day will be streamed online via the diocesan website ([www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)) and begins with Divine Office from St. Mary's Cathedral at 10.00am. The day ends with Bishop Byrne celebrating Mass for the sick and their families, and for NHS frontline, social care and key workers, at 7.00pm. Further information including liturgical and prayer resources will be made available on the diocesan website.

#### **Prayers during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

##### **Prayer for Health Staff**

Wondrous God, author of life, you fashioned us in your likeness and breathed into us the life which is your own.  
Be with those whose special care is the health of mind and body.  
Fill their hearts with awe for the life which is your gift and sustain them daily in your service, that their hands may bring to others the comfort of your healing touch.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### **Prayer for those Affected**

Merciful God,  
come to the help of your people.  
Be our shelter in this time of peril and strengthen the bonds of our community.  
Bring healing to all who suffer the ravages of disease and assist those whose skill and art can put an end to this affliction.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**First Reading***Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So that Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm***Psalm 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R/v.22*

**R/ May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.  
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,  
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love.
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep the alive in famine.

**Second Reading***1 Peter 2:4-9*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the world; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation***John 14:6*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.'

Alleluia!

**Gospel***John 14:1-12*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;

if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,

and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,

so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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**Spiritual Communion** *There are times when people are unable to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, such as during this present time of the Covid-19 pandemic. Even though some may not receive 'sacramental' Communion, all are united in some way by the Holy Spirit. The traditional idea of 'spiritual' Communion is an important one to remember and reaffirm. A deep spiritual communion is possible even when we do not share together the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. Please say this prayer of Spiritual Communion (based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori):*

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.**

