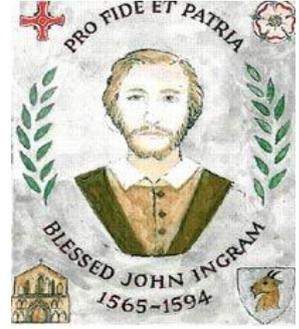


THE PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP NERI

Immaculate Heart of Mary ▪ Lobley Hill
St Mary ▪ Wickham
St Philip Neri ▪ Dunston



The John Ingram Partnership
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle



The Ascension of the Lord

'Not only are we confirmed today in our possession of paradise but in Christ, who is the head of our body, we have begun the triumphal entry into the heaven of heavens.' *Pope St Leo of Rome, 5th Century*

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A) 17 May 2020

The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, can be contacted by email 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/UC3webHIXzcgamFoHdfuCFLQ>
- 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 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
- 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:

Sixth Sunday of Easter 17 May	People of the Parish
Monday 18 May	Private Intention
Tuesday 19 May	Joseph Borthwick (ann.)
Wednesday 20 May	Mabel Porter (ann.)
Thursday 21 May <i>The Ascension of the Lord</i>	Bernard & Anne McKenna (ann.)
Friday 22 May	George & Margaret Porteous (ann.)
Saturday 23 May	Joe Welsh (dec.)
Seventh Sunday of Easter 24 May	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.

The ASCENSION OF THE LORD is celebrated this Thursday 21 May. Please note that in the current circumstances, the usual obligation to attend Mass on this day is suspended. Mass will be live streamed from St Mary's Cathedral at 12 noon and 7.00pm and may be viewed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel [here](#).

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 £286,096. Of this figure £280,344 belongs to the Parish with £4,933 being held for Gift for Life and £819 for special collections that are to be paid in April/May. The £26,828 increase in parish money compares to a £19,805 increase last year. This £7,023 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 ninth week of the required closure of churches and means we are now missing loose plate and envelope collections of approximately £7,560! 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.

Given the present situation, perhaps now might be 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, or to make a one-off contribution, 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.

FOOD APPEAL UPDATE A heartfelt thank you for your generosity of all donated food items - we certainly have thoughtful and giving parishioners. Thanks also to Whickham, Dunston and Lobley Hill SVP groups for their much welcomed support. The donations were all sorted and distributed on Thursday 14 May to families in our parish area and a large donation of mixed items was taken to the central collection point at Corpus Christi, Gateshead for wider distribution across the Partnership.

The parish would very much like to continue with a weekly distribution to those who need support during this national crisis however this can only be achieved with your continued generosity. Although we now have a good foundation of store cupboard stock please continue to support the parish appeal by maintaining a regular donation. Donations can still be made at the drop off points - details below.

We believe that many more people, parishioners, neighbours, low salaried, the elderly, would benefit from some extra support. Please contact the appeal via the parish telephone or mobile number below so this support can be given. A request can be made anonymously as parishioners don't need to identify who requires extra support, we just need to know how many are in each household. If you know of anyone, please request a food donation on their behalf and then you can act as a 'go-between' and courier by delivering the items whilst maintaining privacy and dignity.

Drop off points -

Dunston area - John Pinchen, 316 Dunston Road, Dunston (leave in the porch)

Lobley Hill area - Maveen Pereira, 41, Beechwood Gardens, Lobley Hill, (leave in the porch)

Whickham area - Katie Wilkinson, 1 Mayfield, Whickham (mobile 07837 386 760) you can leave donations in the back garden

Knock and simply leave your donations by the door

We do have some gaps in the following areas - tins of rice, fruit, meat, hot dogs, tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, jam, ketchup, toiletries (toothpaste, shampoo etc) feminine hygiene products, laundry products and coffee

ON-LINE ZOOM QUIZ SUPPORTING GIFT FOR LIFE – SUNDAY 24 MAY AT 7.30 PM Join your fellow parishioners and their families and friends for a fun-filled night of quizzing! If you think you know your Vesuvius from your Venezuela, your Shakespeare from your JK Rowling, and your Canonisation from your Consubstantiation - here's your opportunity to prove it! Not only that, at a time when our friends in Kenya and India are desperately in need of extra support, a small voluntary donation to participate in the quiz will go into our *Gift for Life* fund and help them out too. The quiz night will take place via Zoom and you need to sign up in advance. Contact us on giftforlife20@gmail.com for more details and/or to register. If you're not familiar with Zoom and need help getting set up we can do that as well. Please get involved – and spread the word. Thank you.

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 We hope you're enjoying our weekly activities. Please let us know if there's anything in particular you'd like to see. All activities can be found on the parish website (just under the link for the current week's newsletter).

In addition, If you have any tried and tested recipes, craft, exercise, gardening tips, book recommendations etc. you would like to share with everyone we will do our best to include them. Please send them to the parish email address 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 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.

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.

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](#)

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.

Weekly Prayer

Spirit of enlightenment God of surprises
Give me the courage to live my life
To be open to opportunities.
All life is a journey down uncharted road.
Sometimes the destinations are known, sometimes they remain a mystery.
From the known and the mystery guide and strengthen us to travel and not stand still.
To be in harmony and not disharmony
To welcome old and new friends on the way;
Give us the wisdom to try and the strength to continue when we fall.
Show us how to shed our tears, forgive, laugh and heal.

JJ 1997/8 (revised 26/4/08)

First Reading*Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17*

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalm 65:1-7. 16. 10. R/ v.1***R/ Cry out with joy to God all the earth.**

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might.
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me.

Second Reading*1 Peter 3:15-18*

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*John 14:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'
Alleluia!

Gospel*John 14:15-21*

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:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day

you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

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.