



NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISHES OF
 IMMACULATE HEART of MARY ▪ LOBLEY HILL
 ST MARY ▪ WHICKHAM ST PHILIP NERI ▪ DUNSTON

Parish Priest Fr Peter Leighton 0191 460 4274
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Parish Website www.theparish.org.uk

Diocesan Website www.rcdhn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
 Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

"Look, I am going to send my messenger
 before you; he will prepare your way."
 Mark 1:2

**The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, will be available in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery
 Tuesday – Thursday 10am – 2pm, Friday 9am – 11am ☎ 0191 460 4274 ✉ stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk**

Sunday 10 December 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

Year B

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 9 December			
Vigil Mass	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 10 December	9.30am	St Mary	Mark Roberts (dec.)
Second Sunday of Advent	11.00am	Immaculate Heart	Elizabeth Rose Thompson (dec.)
Bible Sunday			
Monday 11 December	9.15am	Immaculate Heart	<i>Service of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Tuesday 12 December	6.30pm	Immaculate Heart	Ian Robson (dec.)
Wednesday 13 December <i>St Lucy</i>	10.00am	St Philip Neri	Priest's Intention
Thursday 14 December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30am	St Mary	Colin Reed (dec.)
Friday 15 December	10.00am	St Mary	Priest's Intention
Saturday 16 December			
Vigil Mass	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	Gerard Mulholland (ann.)
Sunday 17 December	9.30am	St Mary	Joseph Welsh (dec.)
Third Sunday of Advent	11.00am	Immaculate Heart	People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday at St Philip Neri 5.05pm – 5.20pm

Tuesday at Immaculate Heart 6.10pm – 6.25pm Friday at St Mary 9.40am – 9.55am



Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Wednesday 9.30am at St Philip Neri

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday 9.30am at St Mary

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Marjorie Gray, James Roach, David Roach, Luke Roach, Christine Taylor, Terry Gardner, Alan Crame, Pauline Mulholland, Sheila Rickerby, Susan Wall, Paul Leonard, Kathleen Bruce, Peter McLoughlin, Isaac Dawson, Ray Deponio, Astrid Muse (Gower), Ann Camozzi, Lesley Gough, Susan Walker, Kai Thompson, Monica Meaney, Tammie Blair, Winn Brooks, Helen Bain, Don Kimber, Kathleen Buxton, Adrian Devlin, Liz McKenna, Fr Jim Doherty, Bernard Lyons, Mary Orr.

Please note that if you or 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.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2017 We have received a letter of thanks from *Missio* for the gift received on World Mission Sunday 2017. This gift will help to share the peace and love of Christ with people in South Sudan and other war-torn countries. Thank you for your generosity.

QUIET TIME BEFORE MASS Pope Francis has highlighted the need for silence before the celebration of Mass. He said the time before Mass 'is not a moment for chit-chat [but] a moment of silence.... a time for the heart to collect itself in order to prepare for the encounter with Jesus.... silence is so important.'

In order to encourage this 'spirit of silence' in our three churches, a bell will be rung a few minutes before the beginning of Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses to encourage us to observe a short period of quiet reflection and so better prepare ourselves for the great mystery we celebrate in the Eucharist.

ADVENT LITURGIES This year, during the special season of Advent in which we await and prepare for the celebration of the Nativity, we are delighted that both our primary schools are taking the lead in our Advent Liturgies. A very warm invitation, from both our schools, has been extended to all our parishioners to attend these special events. Please note these dates in your diary and, during this busy hectic period, take time out to engage with and remember the real meaning of Advent.

St Philip Neri's Primary School

Date	Time	Event and Venue
Thursday December	14 10am & 1.45pm	Key Stage 1 Nativity in school
Friday December	15 1.45pm	Early Years Nativity in school
Monday December	18 10am	Early Years Nativity in school
Wednesday December	20 10am	Whole School Mass in St Philip Neri Church
Thursday December	21 10am & 2pm	Carols by Candlelight in St Philip Neri Church

St Mary's Primary School

Date	Time	Event and Venue
Friday December	15 1.30pm – 3pm	Mini-Vinnies' Senior Citizens' Christmas Party
Tuesday December	19 3pm	Carols by Candlelight in St Mary's Church

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES AT OUR THREE CHURCHES		
Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve	5.30pm	Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill
	7.30pm	Mass at St Mary, Whickham
Monday 25 December Christmas Day	9.30am	Mass at St Philip Neri, Dunston

ADVENT ALMS APPEAL 2017 This Advent, to mark Pope Francis' first World Day of the Poor, St Cuthbert's Care is appealing for your financial support for their community work. Your generosity will help them to continue to distribute good quality clothing, bedding, toys, gifts and food parcels to the most impoverished and disadvantaged individuals and families across our diocese. **There will be a retiring collection at all Masses next Sunday to support this year's Advent Alms Appeal.**

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL CANDLES If you would like a candle to be lit during the Christmas season in memory of a loved one or loved ones, please write their name(s) on one of the envelopes at the back of our three churches, and include your donation. Please complete and return your envelopes by Sunday 20 December and don't forget to indicate in which church you would like the candle to be lit.

ANGEL TREE APPEAL Angel Trees are in each of our three churches - please take a label from a tree and buy a present suitable for the child detailed on that label. If you are unable to shop but would like to buy a gift please give the money to Brigitte Jones who has kindly offered to purchase the present. Please bring gifts to church before Sunday 17 December. Thank you for your generosity.

MY DAY BY DAY ADVENT 2017 booklets are available to purchase at the back of each of our churches. The booklets will help you to have a reflective and prayerful Advent and are priced at £1 each.

THE NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR 2018 is now available to purchase at the back of the church priced at £3.00 each.

SENIOR MOMENTS A big thank you to the anonymous donor who paid for everyone's Christmas lunch - 'You know who you are.' A Happy and Holy Christmas to all of our guests, see you on 3 January 2018.

KEY HOLDERS The Diocese requires an audit of key holders for all parish properties. If you are currently a key holder, could you please contact the Parish Secretary at Immaculate Heart as soon as possible, tel. 0191 460 4274 or email stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk so we can ensure our records are up to date. Thank you.

CAR PARK AT ST PHILIP NERI CHURCH The floodlight for the school car park next to St Philip Neri Church is currently awaiting repair. Parishioners using this car park when attending the Saturday evening Mass (or other evening services) are asked to be particularly careful and to be aware that parking your car there is at your own risk.

PARTNERSHIP MATTERS The latest edition of the bi-monthly *Partnership Matters* news update is now available on the front page of the diocesan website - www.rcdhn.org.uk It includes items on engaging young people in Partnerships, being a welcoming community and feedback from a recent meeting of Partnership chairs and much more. Contributions of news items from Partnerships are always welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, GATESHEAD will be holding an Advent Service on Tuesday 12 December at 7pm. Readings and Seasonal Music will be sung by 'The Westland Singers' and there will be a retiring collection for Aid to the Church in Need. All are welcome.

ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH LEAM LANE NE10 8QS *The opportunity for Advent Confessions* will be offered from 6.30pm to 8pm on Thursday 14 and 21 December.

CHRISTMAS DAY VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH The SVP Conference at Corpus Christi is organising a drop in event at St Joseph's Church, Gateshead on Christmas Day for people who may not have the opportunity of company or a hot meal. Volunteers are needed from 10am to 4.30pm. Are you able to help even for a couple of hours? For further information please contact Carole Bambrough 0191 478 2260 or email. c.bambrough@virginmedia.com

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then now is the time to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to do a U-turn on this promise to Catholics. To write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools, please visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/>

LIGHT UP A LIFE Dedicate a light on St Oswald's Hospice Remembrance Tree in memory of a loved one this Christmas. The lights will be unveiled at a special service this Tuesday 12 December 2017 at Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle. Doors open at 5pm and the Service starts at 6.30pm. There will be performances featuring the Newcastle Concert Band and special guests. To make a dedication please contact tel. 0191 246 9123, email. fundraising@stoswaldsuk.org or visit website www.stoswaldsuk.org/light-up-a-life

THE POPE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

The Vatican is currently carrying out a survey to collect the views of young people aged 16 - 29 about the Catholic Church. Pope Francis has said in a letter to young people: "The Church wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticisms. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls." Please take this opportunity to 'have your say' about your Church and its future visit the website: <https://survey-synod2018.glauco.it/limesurvey/index.php/147718> Please note, when you open this link it is in Italian, however, from a menu, in the top right hand corner, the web page can be translated into English.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK Father Brendan Kelly, from St Anne's Church, Low Fell, is organising a Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine in Knock from 10 to 14 September 2018. The approximate cost is £390 per person. The Pilgrimage will include travel from St Anne's Church including ferry, two excursions around the area and accommodation which is on a bed, breakfast and evening meal basis. There are single and twin en-suite rooms available. For further information, please contact Father Kelly tel. 0191 491 3722 or Pat tel. 07711 091563.

BBC FLOG IT! Flog It, the popular BBC One antiques series will be holding a valuation day event at Ushaw on Tuesday 12 December between 9.30am and 4pm. You are invited to bring along your antiques and collectables and have them valued free of charge by the team of experts. For further information please visit www.bbc.co.uk/flogit

DIOCESAN VACANCY The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies: 1. Parish Secretary, St Robert, Morpeth – 16 hours per week. Closing date for applications: 11 December. 2. Administration Assistant, St Mary, Sunderland – 4 hours per week. Closing date for applications: 12 December. For further information and details, visit the website www.rcdhn.org.uk or tel. 0191 243 3301, email human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please type or write the item with as much detail as possible (i.e. description of the event or notice, dates, times, venue, contact person, links to further information) and either email to stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk or post through the presbytery letterbox at Immaculate Heart **by 10am on Thursday 14 December at the latest**. Please remember to add your contact details in case we have a query.

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 84:9-14. R/v.8

*Response: **Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.***

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Second Reading

II Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4.6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.