



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  
**Retired Priest** Fr Michael McKenna 0191 488 2274

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



The John Ingram Partnership  
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' John 1:23

The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, will be available in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery Tuesday 10am – 12pm, Wednesday 10am – 4pm, Thursday & Friday 10am – 2pm ☎ 0191 460 4274 ✉ [stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk)

Sunday 17 December 2017

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Year B

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES

<b>Saturday 16 December</b>			
<b>Vigil Mass</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>St Philip Neri</b>	Gerard Mulholland (ann.)
<b>Sunday 17 December</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>St Mary</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Immaculate Heart</b>	Deirdre Louise Taylor (dec.)
Monday 18 December	9.15am	Immaculate Heart	<i>Service of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Tuesday 19 December	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>St Philip Neri</u>	Requiem Mass – Maria Thi Nai Vu
	3.00pm	St Mary	<i>Carols by Candlelight St Mary's School attending</i>
Wednesday 20 December	10.00am	St Philip Neri	Priest's Intention <i>St Philip Neri School attending</i>
Thursday 21 December	9.30am	St Mary	Joseph Welsh (dec.) <i>St Mary's School attending</i>
	10am & 2pm	St Philip Neri	<i>Carols by Candlelight St Philip Neri School attending</i>
Friday 22 December	10.00am	St Mary	Edward & Mary Ann Arnold (dec.)
<b>Saturday 23 December</b>			
<b>Vigil Mass</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>St Philip Neri</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 24 December</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>St Mary</b>	Priest's Intention
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Immaculate Heart</b>	Mulligan & McPhee Families
<b>Sunday 24 December</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>Immaculate Heart</b>	Bob Payne (dec.)
<b>Christmas Eve The Nativity of the Lord</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>St Mary</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 25 December</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>St Philip Neri</b>	Private Intention
<b>Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord</b>			

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday at St Philip Neri 5.05pm – 5.20pm 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



Congratulations and prayerful good wishes to Christine Hannah and Anthony Coff who were married at St Mary, Whickham on Saturday 16 December 2017



This Sunday we welcome into the Family of the Church Phoebe Keating who is being baptised at St Mary, Whickham

**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, 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. For the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, you can contact the Chaplaincy Department Office directly tel. 0191 445 2072.**

**RECENTLY DECEASED** Please remember in your prayers Maria Thi Nai Vu, Christina McWilliams, Adrian Devlin and Alan Gray who have died recently. The Requiem Mass for Maria Thi Nai Vu will be held at St Philip Neri Church, Dunston this Tuesday 19 December at 10am followed by cremation at Saltwell Crematorium, Gateshead. The Funeral Service for Christina McWilliams will be held at Saltwell Crematorium, Gateshead this Friday 22 December at 12 noon. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**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 this Wednesday 20 December** and don't forget to indicate in which church you would like the candle to be lit.

**GUILD OF ST STEPHEN** Please pray for Niamh Wood and Tiari Nicole Kisten who will be admitted to the Altar Servers' Guild of St Stephen during 9.30am Mass next Sunday 24 December.

**SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY** Elizabeth and Kath would like to thank all who helped with the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party last Saturday.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** There is still one unclaimed prize from the raffle. It is a yellow ticket, number 403 for Lil Robson.

**WISH TOKENS** Please keep collecting the wish tokens over the Festive holidays. They will be in the Evening Chronicle until mid-January. Thank you.

**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](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk) so we can ensure our records are up to date. Thank you.

**ADVENT ALMS APPEAL 2017** There will be a retiring collection at all Masses this weekend to support this year's Advent Alms Appeal. To mark Pope Francis' first World Day of the Poor, St Cuthbert's Care is asking 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.

**QUIET TIME BEFORE MASS** In order to encourage a '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
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
Tuesday December 19	3pm	Carols by Candlelight in St Mary's Church
Thursday December 21	9.30am	Whole School Mass in St Mary Church

<b>CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES AT OUR THREE CHURCHES (Carols will be sung 30 minutes before the Christmas Eve Masses and 20 minutes before the Christmas Day Mass)</b>		
<b>Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill</b>
	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Mass at St Mary, Whickham</b>
<b>Monday 25 December Christmas Day</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass at St Philip Neri, Dunston</b>

**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](http://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 AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH LEAM LANE NE10 8QS** *The opportunity for Advent Confessions* will be offered from 6.30pm to 8pm this Thursday 21 December.

**CHRISTMAS DAY VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH** The SVP Conference at Corpus Christi Church 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](mailto:c.bambrough@virginmedia.com)

**CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS for St Philip Neri RC Primary School, Dunston 2019-20** Where changes to admission arrangements are intended, all schools are required to consult before these are determined and published. Please visit [www.stphilipneriprimary.org](http://www.stphilipneriprimary.org) to find the policy for consultation for 2019-20. A consultation response form is available by request from the school. The governing body will consider all comments received before they determine the arrangements for 2019

**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.

**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/>

**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.

**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](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk) or post through the presbytery letterbox at Immaculate Heart **by 10am on Thursday 21 December at the latest**. Please remember to add your contact details in case we have a query.

**First Reading***Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm***Luke 1:46-50. 53-54. R/ Isaiah 61:10*

*Response: My soul rejoices in my God.*

1. My soul glorifies the Lord  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.
3. He fills the starving with good things  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy.

**Second Reading***1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation***Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.  
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel Reading***John 1:6-8,19-28*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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