



RT REV SÉAMUS CUNNINGHAM
BISHOP OF HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE

DECREE

Of Amalgamation of the parishes of Immaculate Heart of Mary – Lobley Hill, St Mary – Whickham and St Philip Neri - Dunston

WHEREAS, the intention of the will of the donors, any restrictions on assets, including land, as well as any acquired rights, have been examined and taken into consideration. The Presbyteral Council was consulted on 8th March 2018, in accord with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law in relation to the modification of parishes and posed no objection;

WHEREAS, the parishes of Immaculate Heart, St Mary and St Philip Neri have been working toward greater co-operation for some years. They established a single Parish Pastoral Council and a single Finance Council to cover the needs of all three communities five years ago in an effort draw the parishes even closer together;

WHEREAS, in an effort to encourage a greater sense of being missionary disciples furthering the kingdom of God, these parish communities have petitioned to become amalgamated together so that the spiritual and missionary zeal may be further revitalised and unified by becoming one single parish family.

WHEREAS, after a review process over a number of years and with the approval of the partnership of parishes in the John Ingram Partnership, it has been recommended that the parishes of Immaculate Heart of Mary – Lobley Hill, St Mary – Whickham and St Philip Neri - Dunston should merge due to their reasonable proximity and as an enhancement of collaborative ministry with the pastoral planning efforts of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle;

WHEREAS, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and that it is advantageous for the future existence of these communities to merge one into the other,

I HEREBY DECREE an extinctive union, following the canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which the three distinct public juridic persons of Immaculate Heart of Mary – Lobley Hill, St Mary – Whickham and St Philip Neri - Dunston are so amalgamated as to form one aggregate, a new parish, with all the patrimonial goods and rights which belonged to the previous aggregates, it also accepts the liabilities of the previous aggregates.

The new parish (public juridic person) shall be named Our Lady and St Philip Neri and the parish church will be Immaculate Heart, Lobley Hill. The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Immaculate Heart, Lobley Hill. The sacramental

registers along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall be preserved at the premises of Immaculate Heart, Lobley Hill. The territorial boundaries of the former parishes of Immaculate Heart of Mary – Lobley Hill, St Mary – Whickham and St Philip Neri - Dunston will henceforth be the combined boundaries of the new parish of Our Lady and St Philip Neri.

This decree becomes effective on Easter Sunday, i.e. 1st April 2018, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to parishioners at the aforementioned parishes, including displaying in an appropriate place so that the parishioners can read it as they enter or exit the church. It will also be available on the website, www.rcdhn.org.uk. Canonical recourse may be made within the peremptory time limit of ten (10) business days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (CIC canon 1734 §2).

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Bishop's House in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle on the 8th day of March in the Year of Our Lord 2018.



Rt Rev Seamus Cunningham
Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle



Rev Fr Simon Lerche
Diocesan Chancellor