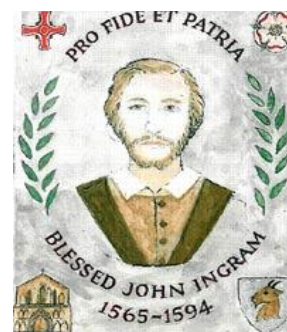




The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.' *Matthew 1:20*

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
Parish Website www.theparish.org.uk
Diocesan Website www.rcdhn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
 Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

*The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, is on annual leave and will return to the Office on Thursday 2 January (10am -2pm).
 Parish Office, St Mary's Presbytery, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Malvern Gardens, Gateshead,
 Tyne and Wear NE11 9LL ☎ 0191 460 4274 ✉ stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk*

Sunday 22 December 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year A

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 21 December

Vigil Mass

5.30pm

St Philip Neri

Allan John Smith (dec.)

Sunday 22 December

9.30am

St Mary

Edward & Mary Ann Arnold (dec.)

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

11.00am

Immaculate Heart

People of the Parish

Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers

Monday 23 December

9.15am

Immaculate Heart

Service of the Word & Holy Communion

Tuesday 24 December

5.30pm*

Immaculate Heart

Joe Welsh (dec.)

Christmas Eve The Nativity of the Lord

7.30pm*

St Mary

Tom Airey (dec.)

Wednesday 25 December

9.30am*

St Philip Neri

People of the Parish

Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord

**Carols will be sung before the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.*

Thursday 26 December *St Stephen*

N.B.

No Service/Mass today

Friday 27 December *St John, Apostle*

9.45am

St Mary

Requiem Mass – Marjorie Gray RIP

Saturday 28 December *The Holy Innocents*

Vigil Mass

5.30pm

St Philip Neri

Joe & Josie O'Keefe (dec.)

Sunday 29 December

9.30am

St Mary

James Christopher McMillan (ann.)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

11.00am

Immaculate Heart

People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday at St Philip Neri 5.00pm - 5.20pm

*Fr Peter wishes you and your families all the joys and blessings of the Christmas season.
 He also thanks you for your cards and gifts which he very much appreciates.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Matty Bullock, Raymond Deponio, Pat Flynn, Barney Hayes, Veronica Jackson, Maria Thi Kien Chiene Le, John Leitch, Peter McLoughlin, 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 265 5290).*

RECENTLY DECEASED Please remember in your prayers Marjorie Gray who died recently and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Friday 27 December at 9.45am at St Mary's Church followed by cremation at Mountsett Crematorium. May she rest in peace. Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES AT OUR THREE CHURCHES (N.B. Carols will be sung before the Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses)		
Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve	5.30pm	Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill
	7.30pm	Mass at St Mary, Whickham
Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day	9.30am	Mass at St Philip Neri, Dunston

FLOWER DONATIONS for flowers for the Christmas arrangement would be greatly appreciated in all three churches to enhance our Christmas arrangements. Please put your donation in an envelope and place on the collection plate.

UNCLAIMED PRIZE There is an unclaimed prize from the Christmas raffle - brown ticket number 193 for a bottle of champagne.

100TH BIRTHDAY THANK YOU Peggy Boyce and her family would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all who sent cards, gifts and good wishes to Peggy on her 100th birthday and all who helped her celebrate this wonderful milestone!! Special thanks to Fr Peter for his kindness and presenting the papal blessing, which will be treasured always. Many thanks again.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD A high quality Christmas card, with a design based on the beautiful stained-glass window in the Church Hall at St Mary's, is now on sale. A pack of 8 cards costs £3.50 with profits from sales going to *Gift for Life* and parish initiatives.

SENIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019 A huge thank you to all who helped out in anyway last Saturday - from providing fabulous music, table decorations, sherry, raffle prizes, lifts, lastly (but certainly not least) Fr Peter for enabling some of our less mobile parishioners to partake in the Mass with their church family, plus everything else. This day wouldn't be even possible without a whole team effort. Everyone, including helpers, seemed to enjoy themselves - whiling away their time chatting, socialising, eating, drinking, bingo and even some singing. For the first time Elizabeth Martin attended as a guest and enjoyed a much well-earned rest - we all wish you a speedy recovery and much gratitude for all you do. See you all same place, same time, same day next year and for those of you who missed out this year make sure you make it a priority next Christmas!



THE YEAR OF THE WORD: "The God Who Speaks" was launched on Sunday 1 December, the First Sunday of Advent. This year is devoted to raising the profile of Scripture amongst Catholics in England and Wales. For information about what has been planned so far please visit the special page on our Diocesan Website: <http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/yow%20god%20who%20speaks/godwhospeakscontacts.php>

REVISED DIOCESAN ACADEMY POLICY The Diocesan Academy Policy has been revised with the aim that our diocesan schools will become academies within one of four Diocesan education trusts by July 2022. Underpinning the Diocesan Academy Policy is the desire and need to ensure the promotion, preservation, protection and future development of Catholic education within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle so that it is fit for the mission of the Church. There are 156 schools in our diocese educating 53,600 children. 45 of our schools are currently academies. The implementation of this policy will happen in two stages: Stage 1: consolidation of existing academies and trusts into one base trust
Stage 2: conversion of voluntary aided schools to academy status within their regional trust
Whenever voluntary aided schools convert to academy status, they will join their single regional trust as equal partners with all schools within the trust. All schools in the region will be included in the process from the outset. In establishing these trust structures and having a single system in our Diocese, we aim to ensure that the children and young people in our schools will continue to receive the very best educational opportunities and life fulfilling experiences, within communities which have the teachings of Christ and his Church at the very centre. A Catholic trust model where every school has its place will mean that no individual school will be left isolated or vulnerable in a rapidly changing environment. It will ensure that the uniqueness of each individual school is celebrated and the unique contribution of each is recognised and appreciated. In order for this policy to be fulfilled, the Bishop expects all schools to continue to work together as a Diocesan family for the good of Catholic education in our Diocese. Through the trust structures the aim is to facilitate greater sharing, adding strength and capacity to our system and ensuring that all schools are supported and included. In this way we will better fulfil the mission of Catholic education within the Church.

Partnership Prayer



Risen Christ,
from your abundant grace,
pour out afresh your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese.
As we build on the deep foundations of faith
laid by the countless saints of these Northern lands,
by Aidan and Cuthbert, Hilda and Bede,
may our Partnerships continue the mission
of building your Kingdom on the earth:
to give living witness to your love,
and to your compassion and hope for our world.
We pray in trustful confidence
that your power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

First Reading*Isaiah 7:10 - 14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalm 23:1-6. R/ cf. vv.7. 10*

Response: Let the Lord enter!

He is the king of glory.

1. the Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its people.
It is he who set it on the sea;
on the waters he made it firm.
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Second Reading*Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ.

To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*Matthew 1:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us' Alleluia!

Gospel*Matthew 1:18-24*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.