



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP NERI

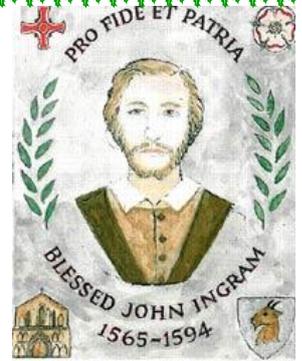
Immaculate Heart of Mary ▪ Lobley Hill  
St Mary ▪ Whickham  
St Philip Neri ▪ Dunston

Parish Priest Fr Peter Leighton 0191 460 4274

Parish E-mail [stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk)

Parish Website [www.theparish.org.uk](http://www.theparish.org.uk)

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



The John Ingram Partnership  
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

"Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus."

Luke 1:31-32

20 December 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year B

The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, can be contacted this week by email [stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk) or by telephone 07891 162205 on **Tuesday 10am - 2pm**

- PLEASE SEE NOTICE ON THE NEXT PAGE ABOUT THE PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS AT IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE Fr Peter will continue to celebrate daily Mass without a congregation except for the arrangements detailed on the next page. If you would like to attend Mass on the dates listed, please take particular notice of the 'booking-in' system. For those unable to attend Mass, Christmas Eve/Day Mass and Sunday Morning Mass will be available our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3webHIXzcgamFoHdfuCFLQ>
- Live broadcasts of Mass from various locations and at various times can be found at the following website: [www.churchservices.tv](http://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.

*Mass times listed below indicate Masses to be celebrated in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and for which you should 'book-in' (see over page)*

<b>Sunday 20 December Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sea Sunday)</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<i>Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>		
Monday 21 December		Priest's Intention
Tuesday 22 December		Bob Payne (dec.)
Wednesday 23 December	<b>9.30am</b>	Edward and Mary Ann Arnold (ann.)
<b>Thursday 24 December The Nativity of the Lord (N.B. fully booked)</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Joe Welsh (dec.)
<b>Friday 25 December The Nativity of the Lord</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
Saturday 26 December <i>St Stephen</i>		Priest's Intention
Sunday 27 December <b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	People of the Parish

*Weekday Readings at Mass w/b 21 December - Advent 21- 24 December  
N.B. Please remember that, until further notice, the obligation for the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday or Holyday of Obligation is suspended.*

**Canon 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, Barney Hayes, Maria Thi Kien Chiene Le, John Leitch, Liz McKenna, Pauline Mulholland, Astrid Muse (Gower), Joseph Relp, Barbara Stephenson, 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).**

**ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE Mass Times at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church:**

Sunday 20 December 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	10.00am
Wednesday 23 December Weekday of Advent	9.30am
Thursday 24 December Christmas Eve	7.00pm
<b>(N.B. the Christmas Eve Mass is now fully booked)</b>	
Friday 25 December Christmas Day	9.30am
Sunday 27 December Holy Family	10.00am
Wednesday 30 December Octave of Christmas	9.30am
Friday 1 January Mary, Mother of God	10.00am
Sunday 3 January 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas	10.00am
Wednesday 6 January Epiphany of the Lord	9.30am
Sunday 10 January Baptism of the Lord	10.00am

**In order to ensure that all those attending Mass can have a seat and be safely accommodated inside the church, there is a dedicated telephone 'booking in' system - the telephone number is 07388 814715 and you will be able to contact this number Monday - Wednesday, 11am - 6pm. Please be advised that this number does not accept text messaging and there is no facility to leave a message.**

*For those who have booked-in and are attending Mass, the church will be opened half an hour before the published Mass times. The wearing of a face covering is mandatory unless a person has an exemption from this. When travelling to and from church, please observe strict social distancing from anyone not in your household and when you come into church, please maintain social distancing (2 metres). A one-way system is in place, plus hand sanitisers at the entrance (Main Doors) and exit (Day Chapel). Once in church please be guided by the volunteer stewards. Also, you will see a poster on display with Immaculate Heart's QR code which can be scanned using the NHS COVID-19 app if you have downloaded it onto your mobile phone. Please feel free to scan this code but note contact details will also still be requested, manually noted and safely stored for 21 days.*

**Sunday Morning Mass and Christmas Eve/Day Mass will also be available online and can be viewed on our YouTube channel [here](#)**

**SEA SUNDAY** This Sunday 20 December is Sea Sunday (transferred from last July), when the Church prays for and supports all those who live and work at sea. Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency which supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. If you would like to support the work of Stella Maris, envelopes are available at the back of Immaculate Heart Church or, to donate online, please visit [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate) or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Thank you.

**TERESA KELLY RIP** We have received this message of thanks from the family of Teresa Kelly: *Teresa Kelly's family would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support this week. To know that she was loved by so many people is lovely - she taught at St Mary's School for 35 years and touched many lives in Whickham. Had the circumstances been different it would have been very special to celebrate Teresa's life with you all in church, it was uplifting and heartwarming to see such a crowd standing outside the church on such a cold afternoon. Thank you.*

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL CANDLES IN IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH AND VIRTUAL MEMORIAL CANDLE** If you would like a candle to be lit during the Christmas Season in memory of your deceased loved ones and for them to be remembered in a virtual online memorial presentation on our parish website, Facebook page and on YouTube, please print the name(s) of your loved one(s) and include your donation. You can drop off your envelopes through the letterbox at Immaculate Heart Presbytery. **Please hand in your envelopes by this Sunday 20 December.** Candles will be available for you to take home in early 2021. **The Virtual Memorial Candle will be available to view later on the evening of Christmas Eve on our [YouTube Channel](#) and also via our [Facebook Page](#).**



**VIRTUAL ANGEL TREE - THANK YOU!** On Monday morning, a delivery of donated parishioners' toys and money from the Angel Tree Appeal was made to The Salvation Army at Tennyson Court, Gateshead. Over 100 gifts and £300 was gratefully received by Lieutenant Tony Kakande (Pastor). Another successful year for The Angel Tree which was started by Brigitte Jones 40 years ago! Thank you to everyone who contributed.



**2020 - A YEAR AGO REMEMBER** Covid-19 brought fear, dreadful illness, untimely death, devastated families within our own parish and across the world. Never have the words of Fr Sarves rung so true "It is not what we preach that changes hearts, it is what the people experience from our doing." The outreach activities within our parish have continued: at home, through the amazing response to the food bank and also through *Gift for Life* aiming to support the most vulnerable and desperate in society. We have given life-saving support to the homeless and refugees in Newcastle, and to our long-standing projects in India and Kenya and this is all due to the wonderful commitment of parishioners. Once again our thanks and prayers that you will continue this generosity. The response to the sale of Christmas cards has resulted in a sell-out! The sale of 2021 calendars is going well but make sure to get yours as they are great! (available at back of church or by emailing [giftforlife20@gmail.com](mailto:giftforlife20@gmail.com) or tel. 07951 046717 for delivery.) Receive a blessing from Sr Victoria: 'May God bless all of you for your continued support through Gift for Life. It has made a huge impact here in Kenya.'

**CHRISTMAS FUN ACTIVITIES SHEETS** We've got a bumper Christmas edition this week with 10 activities for all ages including quizzes, word searches, picture round, word puzzles and decorations to make to name but a few. All activities can be found on the parish website together with the previous week's answers (just under the link for that week's newsletter). We hope you take a look and enjoy. However you're celebrating this year, wishing you all a Happy and Holy Christmas.

**MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ROBERT** As we approach Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work for your parish and the diocese in this time of pandemic. To those who have helped to keep our churches open for Mass and those who have reached out to the less fortunate I want to say a big thank you. It is by our faith and unity that we can be a sign to the world of the love Christ showed us in becoming one of us in the holy season. I would like to wish you and your family a happy and peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

**FOOD APPEAL UPDATE & THANK YOU!** All volunteers have had a very busy time since the Parish Food Bank commenced way back in April. For eight months, parishioners have been supporting 18 households (13 families & 5 seniors) - in total you are generously supporting 65 people (41 children and 24 adults). During the past eight months, the volunteers have packed and handed out weekly bags which include not only food but toiletries, treats, laundry & cleaning products. **Since the food bank began, the bags handed out in total weigh in excess of 11.5 tons. Volunteers are now officially fit as fiddles after this weight training - in fact Fr Peter is thinking about introducing a gym membership fee for all the volunteers!** In November the volunteers discussed and decided that it would be wonderful if food bank recipients could have a Christmas which they might have otherwise found difficult to achieve. Once parishioners were told about this proposal the response was immediate - gifts for every individual and a special Christmas hamper for each household. The food, gifts and monetary donations have been overwhelming. Parishioners have donated over £1000 to help buy the necessary 'extras' for the 18 Christmas hampers. These hampers will ensure that each family will have a much happier Christmas, freed of some worries around gifts for their children and budgeting for a Christmas meal. Each hamper will include a turkey crown, sausage meat, pigs in blankets, a Christmas pudding, cheese selection, homemade Christmas cake (made by our own parish 'Mary Berrys'), Christmas crackers, sweets, tangerines plus many more goodies. The messages of thanks, received from the families, are really humbling, emotional and full of appreciation. Our parish has pulled together with this outreach work and without doubt is definitely making a significant difference to the lives of 65 people. It seems so little but thank you for your generous and continued support!

Please keep donating as our stores are quite depleted. The volunteers have already prepared bags for next week - all gifts are beautifully wrapped, hampers await fresh turkey crowns etc. before delivery which means that finally the week after Christmas all the tired and happy volunteers will be having a well-earned rest so they can return refreshed and raring to go on Thursday 7 January 2021.

**Over Christmas, donations can only be left at church following any Mass OR at the usual 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) if not in please leave any donations in the back garden.

**THE NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR 2021** is now on sale at the back of Immaculate Heart Church, price £3.00.

**ADVENT ALMS APPEAL 2020** A message from the Chief Executive of St Cuthbert's Care: *This year, due to the very trying ongoing circumstances, St Cuthbert's Care has been invited to deliver an online Advent Appeal via the Diocesan website. If you would like to support our charity's work, the diocesan link can be accessed through [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk). I am mindful of the financial pressures the pandemic has placed on many, so please, only support us if you feel able to do so. Thank you.*

**ADVENT RESOURCES FROM THE VICARIATE FOR FAITH AND MISSION** Advent is when the Church re-sets the calendar of our remembering and celebrates the saving work of Christ. Of course, this Advent is more challenging due to the pandemic. A set of resources has been created by clergy and laity from across the Diocese and is offered as a life-buoy, remedy and prayer book for the days ahead.

The resources will include: daily video prayer reflections, weekly Advent packs, weekly Advent videos and signposts to the many rich resources that are available online.

Are you thinking about running a prayer group during Advent? Find out how we can support you with access to various resources, training and safeguarding for prayer group leaders. Coming soon... an offering from the Diocesan Church Music Association.

To access these materials, please visit our [Advent Resources Page](#) - more will be added as they are made available. Do feel free to share and print out these resources for those without internet access.

#### **Jen's Weekly Prayer - Fourth Sunday in advent**

As we move towards the celebration of your birth  
May we acknowledge the tremendous tender love you  
gifted to us that day.

Love, a freely given gift, can be received and grow or  
wither with indifference.

Love which is nurtured and cherished cascades in an ever  
flowing river of constant love.

May we recognise the many acts of love which have been  
gifted to us by stranger, friends and loved ones in these  
most challenging of circumstances.

In thanks help us to truly greet each other with peace,  
hope and love in our hearts.

In return for these gifts, more precious than any jewels,  
because they bring comfort, hope, strength and balm each  
to the other in these demanding times.

To offer joy not disinterest, peace not anger.

A light of hope where there is darkness by our love in  
actions, smiles and words.

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**First Reading***Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'"

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm***Psalms 88:2-5. 27. 29. R/cf. v.2*

***R/ I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.***

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure.

**Second Reading***Romans 16:25-27*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation***Luke 1:38*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel***Luke 1:26-38*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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**Act of Spiritual Communion**

**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.**