

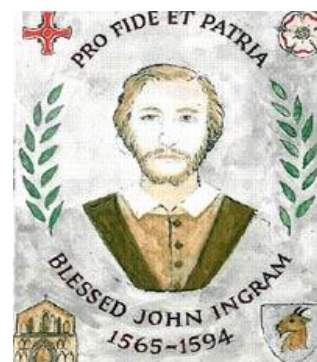


The word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. Cf. Luke 3:2

THE PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP NERI

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

Parish Priest Canon Peter Leighton
Parish Telephone 0191 460 4274
Parish E-mail stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk
Parish Website www.theparish.org.uk
Diocesan Website www.diocesehn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

5 December 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

Year C

The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, will be in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery this week on Tuesday and Friday between 10am - 2pm. She can also be contacted Tuesday - Friday, 10am - 2pm by email stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk or by telephone 0191 460 4274/07891 162205.

- CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES For details of our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses and how to book in for these, please see the notice on the final page of the newsletter.
- Live broadcasts of Mass from various locations and at various times can be found via the Diocesan website www.diocesehn.org.uk and on the following website: www.churchservices.tv
- As part of the pastoral care of parishioners and others during the 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 pandemic. 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.

Please note public weekday Masses this week are on Wednesday and Friday as indicated below.

Saturday 4 December

Vigil Mass 5.30pm St Philip Neri Bernard & Joe Oxley (dec.)

Sunday 5 December 9.00am St Mary Marjorie Gray (ann.)

Second Sunday of Advent (Year C) 10.30am Immaculate Heart People of the Parish

Monday 6 December

Tuesday 7 December *St Ambrose*

Wednesday 8 December 9.30am Immaculate Heart Mr & Mrs W Jukes (dec.)

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday 9 December

Friday 10 December 10.30am St Mary Requiem Mass - George Turnbull RIP

Saturday 11 December

Vigil Mass 5.30pm St Philip Neri People of the Parish

Sunday 12 December 9.00am St Mary Paul Elliott (dec.)

Third Sunday of Advent (Year C) 10.30am Immaculate Heart Deceased Members of the Choir

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 9.00am on Wednesday at Immaculate Heart

Readings at Mass this week: Advent Week 2

This Sunday, in the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Hanna Kolb into the Family of the Church

RECENTLY DECEASED Please remember in your prayers Fr Peter Smith and George Turnbull who have died recently. The Requiem Mass for George Turnbull will be celebrated at 10.30am on Friday 10 December at St Mary's Church followed by cremation at Mountsett Crematorium. May they rest in peace. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Raymond Deponio, Julia Gill, Barney Hayes, Clare Jolly-Lingard, Maria Thi Kien Chiene Le, Kath Lee, John Leitch, Pauline Mulholland, Astrid Muse (Gower), Joseph Relph, Freya and Neave Ruddick, Barbara Stephenson, Simon Turnbull.

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).

Current Diocesan COVID Controls

The decisions outlined below have been made giving consideration to the following points:

- the increasing local infection rate
- the increasing number of hospital admissions
- the reducing efficacy of the vaccine
- the slowing uptake of the vaccine in the 18-30 age range
- Health officials in the region have advised that maintaining COVID control measures such as social distancing and face coverings throughout the autumn/winter period will be vital to controlling COVID infections

Until further notice, arrangements for our three churches will be as follows:

- Stewards will continue for the time being
- Hand sanitiser will continue to be offered as you enter and leave church
- Face masks are recommended to be worn whilst in church
- Social distancing is 1 metre (minimum) between households/bubbles
- Test, track & trace system is still recommended. To facilitate this, there is a poster on display in each church with the church's QR code which can be scanned using the NHS COVID-19 app (to download the app to your mobile phone, visit www.covid19.nhs.uk). Otherwise, please provide you name and contact details to one of the stewards as you arrive at church
- Booking-in for the Saturday Vigil and Sunday morning Masses is no longer required
- Altar Servers, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers may resume their ministries
- Hymn books and Mass cards may be used
- Congregational singing may resume (N.B. face masks should be worn whilst singing)
- The Sign of Peace remains suspended for the time being
- Holy Communion will continue to be distributed under one kind and at the normal time during Mass (i.e. before the Concluding Prayer and Blessing)
- If anyone would like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession, please speak to Fr Peter

For the most recent guidance published by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) please follow the links below:

[CBCEW-COVID-Step-4-Guidance-150721b.pdf](#)

[COVID-19: guidance for the safe use of places of worship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

If you would like to join our group of dedicated volunteer stewards, please contact Katie Wilkinson tel. 07837 386760 or email teachkate1@gmail.com

SYNOD 2021-2023

Pope Francis and the Synod Office in Rome are inviting the whole Church to become *Synodal*. We are invited to journey together, listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the lives of the people we meet. The whole Synod will be a two-year process beginning in every diocese in October 2021 and moving on to a national then international listening exercise. For further information, please visit the diocesan website www.diocesehn.org.uk

A message from Fr Peter:

We have now begun our time of reflection and listening as a parish community, responding to Pope Francis' invitation to the Universal Church to engage in the Synod. The purpose of this time is to listen to the gift of the Holy Spirit speaking in our hearts as we continue our journey of faith as the Church amidst the joys and sorrows of our time. The third and final leaflet in our series of consultations is now available so please take one this weekend and then take the opportunity to gently reflect on the questions in the leaflet, being attentive to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. Please return the leaflets by next weekend 11/12 December. Thank you.

ADVENT ALMS 2021 A message from Moira Ashman, CEO of St Cuthbert's Care: *This Advent, we ask you to consider supporting St Cuthbert's Care. Our charity provides frontline registered care services for people with complex disabilities, residential homes and fostering for young people and two Catholic nursing homes for older people. All Advent donations will help to purchase gifts for all our residents in our care this Christmas, along with new electronic devices to help our older residents keep pace with our digitised world. Your support is precious to us and helps us to continue to provide outstanding care and peace of mind to families. Thank you so much. For further information and to donate, please visit: www.stcuthbertscare.org.uk*

Next weekend 11/12 December there will be a second collection at all Masses for Advent Alms, supporting the work of St Cuthbert's Care.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL CANDLES If you would like a candle to be lit during the Christmas season in memory of your deceased 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 19 December** and don't forget to indicate in which church you would like the candle to be lit.

INDIVIDUAL CHRISTMAS CARDS (and others) are now available to purchase from Immaculate Heart & St Mary's churches. Boxed cards also available at St Mary's. Please refrain from touching any items unnecessarily and when making purchases from our stalls, please sanitise your hands before looking, and after purchase, to help keep each other safe. Your support is greatly appreciated as each purchase made helps support our parish.

THE NORTHERN CROSS is again available as a print copy and the December edition is on sale at the back of church this weekend price £1.50.

FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE FOOD BANK & REFUGEE PROJECT We have a very regular cohort of amazing parishioners who either donate food or money each week. This appeal is to ALL parishioners - even if you can only donate one or two items it will make such a huge difference to our continued support to a number of vulnerable families in our own area. We follow the Trussell Trust guidance for the items we provide, please click on the link for more details - <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/emergency-food/food-parcel/>

Items we REALLY NEED please: tinned tomatoes, potatoes, fruit, hot dogs, meatballs, custard, rice pudding, tuna, bottles of cooking oil, sugar, fruit squash, feminine hygiene products, biscuits & sweets for the kids.

Other items we put into the weekly food bags: tea, coffee, biscuits, cereal, tinned mince, stewing steak, soup, baked beans, corned beef, tomato purée, washing/laundry powder, shampoo, shower gel, washing up liquid, washing up liquid, spray cleaner, toilet rolls, kitchen roll etc.

Every Thursday volunteers are in Immaculate Heart Church between 9.30am-10.30am so you can drop donations off then or whenever you attend church. Any queries, please contact Katie Wilkinson 1 Mayfield, Whickham either via mobile 07837 386760 or email teachkate1@gmail.com



A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL PUPILS AND FAMILIES AT ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL A few weeks ago, Mr Wheatley and his staff introduced an ongoing 'Support the Parish Foodbank

& Refugee Project' initiative within school. Pupils and their families were invited to donate food items that the Foodbank hands out on a regular weekly basis. Their generous haul was collected on Wednesday 13 October and taken to Immaculate Heart ready to be distributed on Thursday 14 October. The generosity of the pupils and families will make a significant difference to the support the parish provides to struggling families in our parish and to Refugees. The outreach work being undertaken by our young parishioners is an incredible inspiration to us all. THANK YOU!

CROCHETED POPPY SALE FOR THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Thank you to all who brought poppies raising a fantastic £263 in total! Well done to all who supported this and well done to Wendy who paid all the money in for the British Legion - see the back of church at Immaculate heart for info. Well done everyone and what a fabulous and generous parish we are!

COUNTERS URGENTLY NEEDED Can you help and join the St Mary's counting team? Due to illness or changes in circumstances for some parishioners, we've lost a number of our counters over lockdown. We therefore need new volunteers please. It doesn't take long, it's not complicated, you won't be on your own and it's straight after Sunday morning Mass at St Mary's. Please help to support our parish. The more volunteers we have on the rota, the less everyone will need to do. Thanks for your support. Kindly contact David on 07979 574166.

LOVE CHRISTMAS UPDATE This Christmas we are collecting for the Foodbank recipients - gifts, for the children, and food items for the hampers and our Angel Trees in each church offer parishioners a chance to buy gifts for children who are at risk of not receiving a gift this Christmas. Plus, tree decorations are still available to buy in support of **Gift for Life**.

Here's how you can support all our outreach work:

- At the back of each church there's a food list of special items for the hampers - extras are available please take one - please hand all food items in **by the weekend of 11/12 December** there's a box at the back of each church for these donations.
- There's a list of the Foodbank children's gender and age - once you have chosen a name, please cross it off the list. These gifts do not require wrapping and must be handed in **by the weekend of 11/12 December** - please leave these at the back of each church.
- **Angel Trees** are now in each church - please take a label, or use your own, then wrap and return the gift by **Sunday 12 December**.

We appreciate some parishioners may still be isolating or perhaps would prefer someone else to shop - please feel free to donate cash and volunteers will shop on your behalf.

Some amazing parishioners have already volunteered to meet at **Immaculate Heart Church at 10am & 6.30pm on Wednesday 15 December** to wrap and pack hampers - if you'd like to help please come along.

HOLY ISLAND VINNIE CAMP 2022 The SVP Holy Island Camp will be running holidays for children in 2022. We urgently need new volunteers to help in the kitchens, preparing food, washing up and clearing the dining hall. We also need caretaking staff who would be able to carry out a cleaning role. All helpers will be required to obtain a free Diocesan DBS check and some training. If you are interested, please visit the SVP website: www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island/about-camp

Jen's Weekly Prayer

Darkness is more prevalent as winter begins its journey.
Trees are bare the bright colours of autumn vanished.

We can remain in this heavily shaded place
or look forward to the light of the brightest star of all.

The light which guided a very young mother
and her husband on their long journey
and brought us the greatest gift of all love.

Journeys need preparation but for some
their journey must be immediate.

For those who have to flee wars, injustice, persecution,
loss of freedom their hope of light may be dimmed
yet they move forward in hope for new beginnings.

Our Advent journey is one of joy of looking forward
to a wonderful coming, anticipation, new beginnings
and an opportunity to reflect back

and accept new challenges from within ourselves.

May the Holy Spirit guide us as we travel
to our known and yet unknown roads ahead
and be filled with light of love and peace.

Jen Jones © December 2021

First Reading*Baruch 5:1-9*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be,

'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God**Responsorial Psalm***Psalm 125. R/v.3****R/ What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.***

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song.
carrying their sheaves.

Second Reading*Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Gospel Acclamation***Luke 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*Luke 3:1-6*

The Lord be with you

And with your spirit

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill will be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture Readings from *The Jerusalem Bible* © 1966 by Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd.

Responsorial Psalm from *The Psalms: A New Translation* © 1963 The Grail (England) published by HarperCollins.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES AT OUR THREE CHURCHES N.B. Booking in for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses is required in order to ensure that all those attending these Masses can be safely accommodated inside the church. Beginning on Monday 6 December, if you wish to book in for the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Masses, please telephone 07388 814715, Monday - Wednesday, 11am - 6pm only. Please be advised that this number does not accept text messaging and there is no facility to leave a message.

Friday 24 December Christmas Eve The Nativity of the Lord	5.00pm 7.00pm	Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill Mass at St Mary's, Whickham
Saturday 25 December Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord	9.30am N.B.	Mass at St Philip Neri, Dunston No Saturday Evening Vigil Mass
Sunday 26 December Feast of the Holy Family	9.00am 10.30am	Mass at St Mary's, Whickham Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill