



Elizabeth said "Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled." Luke 1:45

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

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Parish Website www.theparish.org.uk

Diocesan Website www.diocesehn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

19 December 2021

Fourth 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 back page of the newsletter. **N.B. The 5.00pm Mass at Immaculate Heart Church on Christmas Eve is now fully booked and there are very few places left for the 7.00pm Mass at St Mary's.**
- 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.

Saturday 18 December			
Vigil Mass	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 19 December	9.00am	St Mary	Prayer Shawl Group
Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Freddy Bambrough (ann.)
Monday 20 December			
Tuesday 21 December	9.30am	St Mary	Requiem Mass - Audrey Gleeson RIP
Wednesday 22 December			
Thursday 23 December	9.30am	St Mary	Edward & Mary Ann Arnold (ann.)
Friday 24 December	5.00pm	Immaculate Heart	Matthew Bullock (dec.)
Christmas Eve The Nativity of the Lord	7.00pm	St Mary	People of the Parish
Saturday 25 December	9.30am	St Philip Neri	Gerard & Kathleen Cailey (dec.)
Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord	N.B.	No Saturday Evening Vigil Mass*	
Sunday 26 December	9.00am	St Mary	People of the Parish
The Feast of the Holy Family	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Michael Short (ann.)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am on Thursday at St Mary's

Readings at Mass this week: Advent Week 4 & Christmas Season

***Advance Notice: Please note there will be no Saturday Evening Vigil Mass at St Philip Neri Church on Saturday 1 January**

RECENTLY DECEASED Please remember in your prayers Audrey Gleeson, Fr Peter Smith and Fr Kevin Daly who have died recently. 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
- 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:

- **If you are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 you should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person**
- Stewards will continue for the time being
- Hand sanitiser will continue to be offered as you enter and leave church
- **From 10 December, face coverings are compulsory whilst in church (unless you have an exemption)**
- 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 your 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
- 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) and the Government, please follow the links below:

www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/

www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship

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

THANK YOU FROM THE TURNBULL FAMILY *Mary and the family would like to offer their sincere thanks and appreciation to Canon Peter, Canon Simon, John Hebron, Watson Funeral Directors, Tony & Sue Sacco, Jen Jones, Philip Cunningham, the church stewards and all the parishioners, family and friends who attended the wonderful celebration of George's life at his Requiem Mass. He would have been immensely proud. God Bless to you all and your families. Kind Regards, The Turnbull family*

THANK YOU FROM TED AND ROSALINE REAY *We would like to thank you all for your kind wishes and thoughtful messages. Sunday 12th was difficult for us both but we felt the power of your prayers and managed to get by. We look forward to seeing you all again in the future - you will always be in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless. Love Ted and Rosaline xxx*

DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS It would be greatly appreciated if Parishioners from all three churches could donate at least £1 toward Christmas flowers to enhance the decoration of our three churches over the Christmas period. Thank you.

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 this Sunday 19 December (envelopes can be posted through the presbytery letterbox at Immaculate Heart).** 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 avoid touching items unnecessarily and to help keep each other safe, please sanitise your hands before looking and after purchase. Your support is greatly appreciated as each purchase made helps support our parish.

RED MISSION BOXES are now due to be emptied in all three churches. Boxes or the contents in a labelled envelope can be brought to church and given to Denise Hebron at St Philips, Kathleen Cunningham at St Marys and Lilian Gray at Immaculate Heart or left at the back of church if Lilian is unavailable. If you wish to donate directly to *Missio* you can do this via the *Missio* website <https://missio.org.uk/donate> Please make any cheques payable to 'Missio-Mill Hill' and send to: Red Box, Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY SHEETS Back, by popular demand, our Bumper 2021 Christmas Activity Sheets. We've all types of quizzes, picture rounds, word searches, family activities, children's makes and mindfulness colouring pages for you to enjoy. We've also included an answer sheet so you won't need to wait to check it with your answers. Find them all under the parish newsletter link on the website. Good Luck and Enjoy. Merry Christmas ☺

THE NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR 2022 is now available and on sale at the back of church this weekend price £3.00.

LOVE CHRISTMAS Thank you just doesn't seem enough in response to the overwhelming donations that our parishioners have made to the parish Christmas appeal 2021! As a parish we are supporting 18 households on a regular weekly basis but for Christmas you have also provided a Christmas food hamper which includes a fresh turkey crown, sausage meat & pigs in blankets and each family member will receive a gift on Christmas Day knowing that in their time of need they are surrounded by a loving caring Christian community.

Contributions to the Angel Tree have also been phenomenal! Finally, the excess Christmas hamper produce, plus over forty gifts, have been donated to the SVP 'Vinnies' Christmas appeal.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS!

Last Wednesday an amazing group of parishioners came along to Immaculate Heart to help 'Santa' prepare for Christmas. They attended in the morning and evening to sort, wrap and pack hampers - it was incredible to have such a wonderful response to the parish requesting help - you're all amazing!

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 fruit, custard, rice pudding, UHT Milk, cereal, jam, feminine hygiene & laundry powder/gel

Other items we put into the weekly food bags: squash, tea, coffee, biscuits, tinned tomatoes, soup, baked beans, potatoes, mince, stewing steak, corned beef, tuna, sugar, tomato purée, cooking oil, shampoo, shower gel, washing up liquid, spray cleaner, toilet rolls, kitchen roll etc.

Every Thursday volunteers are in church between 9.30am - 10.30am so parishioners can drop donations off here if they wish - please come in to say 'Hello' and see what we're up to.

Any queries please contact Katie Wilkinson, 1 Mayfield, Whickham either via mobile 07837 386 760 or email teachkate1@gmail.com

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST AND THE SYNOD 2021-2023

For information and resources concerning the Diocesan Year of the Eucharist and the Synod 2021-2023, please visit the Diocesan website:

<https://diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/year-of-the-eucharist/>

<https://diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/synod-2021-2023/>

Many thanks to all of you who responded to the Synod leaflets/questions. These will now be collated and summarised so that your responses can be shared via our newsletter/website and also with the wider diocesan consultation.

Jen's Weekly Prayer

A winter sun spreads a startling tapestry of colour to emblazon the late afternoon sky.

Pink clouds float on a pale turquoise backdrop spreading and increasing in their intensity to illustrate once again the spectacular light and beauty of our universe which we can share and treasure even in these shorter winter days.

We can spread our illuminated cloth of light and colour by our smiles, our actions the giving of ourselves our gifts to others in the every day struggles, difficulties and sadness which cloud our lives at different times.

Our gifts freely given like the spectacular sunset can brighten and warm those who are in pain hurt or troubled.

As we approach the end of our advent journey help us to be prepared to reach out and share our varied precious individual gifts with others and celebrate the great gift of unconditional love

first seen in a stable yet radiating through time and space to be with us in all of our moments of sadness, pain, happiness and joy.

Jen Jones © December 2021

Synod Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

First Reading*Micah 5:1-4*

The Lord says this:
 You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 the least of the clans of Judah,
 out of you will be born for me
 the one who is to rule over Israel;
 his origin goes back to the distant past,
 to the days of old.
 The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
 till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
 Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
 to the sons of Israel.
 He will stand and feed his flock
 with the power of the Lord,
 with the majesty of the name of his God.
 They will live secure, for from then on
 he will extend his power to the ends of the land.
 He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Responsorial Psalm***Psalm 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R/v.4*

**Response: God hosts, bring us back;
 let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
 shine forth from your cherubim throne.
 O Lord, rouse up your might,
 O Lord, come to our help.
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
 look down from heaven and see.
 Visit this vine and protect it,
 the vine your right hand has planted.
- May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
 the man you have given your strength.
 And we shall never forsake you again:
 give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second Reading*Hebrews 10:5-10*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

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 1:39-45*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

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. **Please note the Christmas Eve 5.00pm Mass is now fully booked and there are very few places left for the 7.00pm Mass at St Mary's.** If you wish to book in for the Christmas Eve 7.00pm Mass or Christmas Day 9.30am Mass, 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 (N.B. Fully booked) 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