



In the spirit, the angel took me [John] to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven.  
*Apocalypse 21:10*

**THE PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP NERI**

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

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The John Ingram Partnership  
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

**22 May 2022**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Year C**

*The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, will be in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery this week on Tuesday & Friday between 10am - 2pm. She can also be contacted Tuesday - Friday 10am - 2pm by email [stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk) or by telephone 0191 460 4274/07891 162205.  
Postal Address: St Mary's Presbytery, Malvern Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 9LL*

Saturday 21 May	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 22 May	9.00am	St Mary	Dennis Gibson (dec.)
<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Immaculate Heart</b>	Taylor Family
Monday 23 May			
Tuesday 24 May	11.45am	Immaculate Heart	Requiem Mass - Brian James Bartley RIP
Wednesday 25 May <i>St Bede the Venerable</i>			
<b>Vigil Mass for The Ascension of the Lord</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>St Philip Neri</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Thursday 26 May The Ascension of the Lord</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>St Mary</b>	George & Margaret Porteous (ann.)
Friday 27 May <i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>			
Saturday 28 May	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	Juliet Jameel (dec.)
Sunday 29 May	9.00am	St Mary	Bernard & Anne McKenna (ann.)
<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Immaculate Heart</b>	Joe Welsh (dec.)

*Sacrament of Reconciliation 5.00pm - 5.20pm on Saturday at St Philip Neri*

**RETURNING TO MASS AT PENTECOST** An invitation from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to 'Return to Mass at Pentecost' was approved on Friday 6 May 2022. This means that the obligation for Catholics to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation will be re-introduced from the Feast of Pentecost which we celebrate on Sunday 5 June. The bishops have said they understood that "there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass.... It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation." The bishops also state that whilst "virtual viewing" of Mass over the internet does not fulfil the obligation to go to Mass on Sunday or Holy Days of Obligation, "it may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply." The full statement can be viewed online [here](#).

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Juliet Jameel (mother of Eman Putrus), Brian James Bartley, Terry Spearman and Julia Gill who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** Raymond Deponio, 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: awaiting appointment). For the RVI and Freeman Hospitals in Newcastle, tel. 0191 233 6161 (Catholic Chaplain: Fr Mariadass 0191 273 3903).**

### Current Diocesan COVID Controls

**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
- Face coverings - those who wish to wear a face covering may do so during the celebration of Mass
- Social Distancing - there is no requirement for social distancing but we should continue to be sensitive to the wishes of other people
- Ventilation – it is still important to ventilate our buildings. This has the effect of diluting and dispersing viral particles
- Holy Communion will continue to be distributed under one kind

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

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/>

**WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY** is next Sunday 29 May and there will be a retiring collection at all Masses next weekend to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Media Office. In addition to promoting the Church's and the Bishops' message in the local, regional, national and international mass media, the Bishops' Conference Media Office helps journalists with their queries and to a better understanding of the Church's activities and witness. It also runs the Bishops' Conference website, which has been a primary source of information throughout the pandemic.

**VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF ABUSE DAY OF PRAYER 17 MAY 2022** To view information, resources and Bishop Robert's message for this Day of Prayer, please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/victims-survivors-of-abuse-day-of-prayer-tuesday-17-may-2022/>

**GIFT FOR LIFE PLANT SALE - THANK YOU!** A huge thank you to everyone who made donations for plants last weekend - your generosity raised over £500 for our *Gift for Life* causes. Thanks also to our green fingered growers for nurturing and supplying the plants. A great team effort!

**GIFT FOR LIFE SUMMER SOCIAL SUNDAY 26 JUNE 2PM ST MARY'S HALL (AND HOPEFULLY GARDEN)** With our summer social event just 5 weeks away you can help make it a success by a) donating a raffle prize – boxes at the back of each church; b) making (or buying) a cake for the cake stall and c) telling your friends and turning up on the day. If you are donating a cake, or intending to be at the event, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church to give us an idea of numbers. Alternatively, drop us an e-mail on [giftforlife20@gmail.com](mailto:giftforlife20@gmail.com) Let's make this a real parish community celebration while raising funds for some really worthwhile causes.

**REPLACEMENT OF THE FRONTAGE TO ST MARY'S CHURCH, WHICKHAM** The poor condition of the wooden and glass frontage at St Mary's has recently been under review by the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). To date, the overall maintenance of the frontage has just been repairs but its deteriorating condition now means that the only responsible and sensible choice is to replace it. Consequently, the frontage is to be removed and UPVC double glazed units, finished in an Irish Oak coloured frame, will be constructed and installed. Plans and samples of the finish are available to view at the back of St Mary's Church this Sunday. Once the Diocese has approved the plans, work will commence as soon as possible. The new frontage will enhance the entrance to the church, require less maintenance over time, ensure the building will be much more secure, and, importantly, the porch will be warmer.

**PPC MINUTES** The Minutes (and Agenda) of the PPC meeting held on 16 March are now available to read at the back of each church.

**FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE FOOD BANK & REFUGEE PROJECT UPDATE** Please note if you're not able to or would rather not shop for the Food Bank we're happy to accept a cash donation to shop on your behalf. Every week 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/>

**We are currently short of most products - even if you can only supply 1 or 2 tins, please bring them along to church to help out.**

**Priority items:**

tinned meat (corned beef, pek, spam), hot dogs, meatballs, chopped tomatoes, fruit, soup, baked beans, custard, rice pudding, soup, kidney beans, chickpeas, all vegetables, potatoes & tuna, UHT milk, crisps, biscuits, tomato purée, antiperspirant, toothpaste & toilet roll.

**Other items we put into the weekly food bags:**

cooking oil, pasta sauce, sugar, long grain rice, jam, coffee, tea, shower gel, shampoo laundry powder/liquid, feminine hygiene (tampons) & all other non-perishable items.

**Every Thursday volunteers are in Immaculate Heart Church between 9.30am-10.30am so parishioners can drop donations off then 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 386760 or email [teachkate1@gmail.com](mailto:teachkate1@gmail.com)

**OUR LADY & ST WILFRID'S PARISH, GATESHEAD** is holding a special sharing table to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on **Friday 3 June from 12 midday** in their beautiful garden. There will be music, raffles, hopefully sunshine and lots of amazing food ALL are invited and welcome so please come along, bring something for the shared table and join the fun. (Address: Sunderland Road, Gateshead NE8 3QR.)

**THE NORTHERN CROSS May edition** is on sale this weekend, price £1.50.

**PARISH FINANCIAL STATEMENT** The parish annual returns for the Financial Year ended March 2022 have been completed and we are pleased to report that total funds have increased slightly from £303,354 to £305,876 and include balances held on our Parish Current account, St Mary's Hall Current account and our Parish Deposit account held centrally with the Diocese. Of this figure £292,757 belongs to the Parish with the sums of £7,758 and £5,361 being held on behalf of Gift for Life and the Foodbank projects. Offertory collections of £50,873 are 18.5% higher than last year as our churches opened again after lockdown but the Gift Aid claim of £8,511 is 36% down as it relates to the 2020/21 Financial Year when the churches were closed or attendance was restricted during that Financial Year. With the gradual return to normality it is only to be expected that we have seen increases in utility costs, repairs, staff wages, church requisites and general administration fees while our contribution to the Diocese in the form of a levy on income increased from £12,811 to £13,148.

Significant donations made by the parish during the year were £6,000 to Joe's Place (St Joseph's, Gateshead) towards the cost of a new kitchen and £3,000 to Outreach Housing to help fund the purchase of a property in Gateshead to accommodate refugees.

It is worth noting that we are in a more fortunate position than we would have been a few years ago when all offertories were collected via the church plate. The move to standing orders by many parishioners has certainly helped the parish through the uncertainty of the past 2 years and we thank you all for your continued financial support.

If any parishioners do not yet contribute by planned giving or standing order and would like to do so, please contact the Parish Office, email [stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk) or tel. 0191 460 4274. If you have access to internet banking, you can, if you wish, set up a standing order online for your regular contributions. The details required to do this are:

*Payee: DHN Gateshead: Our Lady and St Philip Neri*

*Sort code: 40-34-45*

*Account number: 21167936*

*Reference: insert your own name*

*Commencing: indicate commencement date*

*Frequency: each week/month/quarter/year*

You can also donate online directly to our Parish account via the diocesan website [here](#)

**DIOCESAN VACANCIES** The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

**Property Surveyor** – full-time, fixed term contract – 2 years. Flexible working is available. Closing date for applications: 1 June 2022

**IT Project Manager** – full-time. Fixed term contract – 12 months.

Closing date for applications: 2 June 2022

Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact us 0191 243 3301

**LAUDATO SI WEEK** Pope Francis invites Catholic communities around the world to participate in **Laudato Si' Week 2022 from May 22-29**. The week long global event will mark the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark Encyclical on creation care and unite the world's 1.3 billion Catholics in listening and responding to the cry of God's creation. **We will celebrate Laudato Si' week within our Diocese by celebrating a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at 7pm on Monday 23 May**. Bishop Robert will preside at the Mass and Fr Chris Hughes will give the homily on hearing the cry of the poor and the earth. Music will be provided by pupils from Sacred Heart High School, Fenham. Everyone is welcome to attend this special Mass focusing on creation care. To view the Encyclical, please visit <https://www.laudatosi.va/en.html>

**THE TYNESIDE CIRCLE OF THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION** is restarting after the pandemic closure in St Cuthbert's Church Hall, North Shields NE29 0JB. Our first meeting at the new venue will be on Wednesday 25 May at 7.30pm for a talk by Father Chris Hughes entitled "Can Theology Be Practical? Encouraging Reflective Discipleship". All are welcome.

**CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: A MASS FOR PENTECOST** The Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion (CHARIS) is organising a Mass to be celebrated on Saturday 28 May at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. Praise and Worship at 1pm followed by Mass at 1.20pm. After the Mass, members of the Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion will offer a Pentecost blessing. All welcome.

#### **Jen's Weekly Prayer**

Our family land is woven with many paths  
we can walk alone or join with others on the journey  
these paths can converge, run parallel or disappear.

The choice of path is ours.

Sometimes we need the company of fellow travellers  
and we welcome their warmth and being.  
Yet there are many occasions when alone  
is all we seek to find the other self within  
to touch the self which seeks no paths  
which finds no roads but stretches for the hand  
to engage the traveller in a journey of enlightenment.

Our family is infinite yet at the same time finite.

The boundless energy of changing force  
which takes us forth from each encounter  
to the brink of new challenges.

Our task is to travel not stand still.

To reach for the peaks enjoy the valleys  
as they breathe life again.

And take the gentle look of reason  
when she shows the way.

© Jen Jones

*During the month of May,  
please pray the Rosary for peace in Ukraine*

**First Reading***Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2. 22-29*

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demand and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm***Psalms 66:2-3. 5-6. 8 R/v.4*

**Response: Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.**

1. O God, be gracious and bless us  
and let your face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth.  
and all nations learn your saving help.
2. Let the nations be glad and exult  
for you rule the world with justice.  
With fairness you rule the peoples,  
you guide the nations on earth.
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
May God still give us his blessing  
till the ends of the earth revere him.

**Second Reading***Apocalypse 21:10-14. 22-23*

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temples, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation***John 14:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'  
Alleluia!

**Gospel***John 14:23-29*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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