

STEPHEN



Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand. 'I can see heaven thrown open' he said 'and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' Acts of the Apostles 7:55-56

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

29 May 2022

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Year C

The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, will be in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery this week on Tuesday & Wednesday between 10am - 2pm. She can also be contacted Tuesday & Wednesday 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 28 May	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	Juliet Jameel (dec.)
Sunday 29 May	9.00am	St Mary	Bernard & Anne McKenna (ann.)
Seventh Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Joe Welsh (dec.)
World Communications Day			
	N.B.	No Public Weekday Masses this week	
Monday 30 May			
Tuesday 31 May	11.00am	St Mary	Funeral Service - Terry Spearman RIP
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary			
Wednesday 1 June St Justin			
Thursday 2 June			
Friday 3 June St Charles Lwanga and Companions			
Saturday 4 June	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 5 June	9.00am	St Mary	Special Intention (PD)
Pentecost	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Staunton Family (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 via the link on the home page of the Parish website [www.theparish.org.uk](http://www.theparish.org.uk)

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Fr Joseph Park, Juliet Jameel (mother of Eman Putrus), Terry Spearman and Julia Gill who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen. The Funeral Service for Terry Spearman RIP will be on Tuesday 31 May, 11am at St Mary's Church. The Requiem Mass for Julia Gill RIP will be on Tuesday 14 June, 10.45am at Immaculate Heart Church.

**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 this Sunday 29 May and there will be a retiring collection at all Masses this 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. As we emerge from the pandemic, communications will become even more important as we seek to re-establish more regular patterns of worship and continue to promote our Gospel values.

**LAY TRAINING FUND** Next weekend 4/5 June, there will be a retiring collection at all Masses for the Diocesan Lay Training Fund.

**THE DIOCESAN SUBMISSION TO THE UNIVERSAL SYNOD** has been completed and published. it can be viewed online at: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/diocesan-submission-to-universal-synod/>

**GIFT FOR LIFE SUMMER SOCIAL SUNDAY 26 JUNE 2PM ST MARY'S HALL (AND HOPEFULLY GARDEN)** With our summer social event just 4 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.

**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)

**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.

**PRAYER SHAWL GROUP** There won't be a Prayer Shawl Group meeting in June. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 5 July. Happy knitting/ crocheting until then!

**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.)

**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](#)

**MONTHLY PRAYER VIGIL AT DERWENTSIDE IMMIGRATION REMOVAL CENTRE** A monthly interfaith prayer vigil has been held outside the barrier to the Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre since August. During the last few weeks, women have been moved into the Centre which is now England's main IRC for women and will eventually detain 80 women who are seeking asylum. The prayer vigils will continue - both to pray for the women and to stand in solidarity with them. As a faith community, we are called to witness to justice and compassion. Please participate in the prayer vigil if you can. **The next vigil is planned for Sunday 5 June.** The vigil begins at 3.00pm and the short prayer service incorporates a time of silence. The postcode for the centre on Corbridge Road, Medomsley is DH8 6QY. To avoid disruption to local residents, park away from the site if you can. If you are unable to join in person, please join in prayer from home at 3.00pm. For more information, contact Liz Archibald at [lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com](mailto:lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com)

**CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL MINISTRY – STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2022** Are you currently involved in Church ministry but wish you knew more about your faith? Do you sometimes lack confidence and feel you could benefit from further training and formation? Do you want to grow in your faith and ministry and perhaps find new ways to share your gifts with others? We have a course designed just for you. The Certificate in Pastoral Ministry is an online, two-year learning experience created with the busy person in mind. It will take you on a journey of discovery about key aspects of the Catholic faith while helping you to reflect upon your own ministry and the ministry of others. To find out more join us online for one of our information evenings: Tuesday 14 June 2022 or Wednesday 22 June 2022 from 7.30pm – 9.00pm. To register your interest for one of the information evenings, or if you would like further information, please email [adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk).

**THE VISIT OF THE RELICS OF SAINT BERNADETTE OF LOURDES** In this much-anticipated national pilgrimage, we look forward to welcoming the relics of Saint Bernadette to St Mary's Cathedral on 1-2 October. More details will follow later.

**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.

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS** Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter 4/5 June to the Parish Office by **10.00am on Wednesday 1 June.**

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

As we reach a new point on our journey from Easter clothed within your wondrous light of hope empower us to wrap those who are facing extraordinary hardship and suffering because of conflict and aggression with love and support. Fear, anxiety, suffering, pain, loss, separation are the daily trials for many across our planet at this strange and unnatural time. Their journey has as yet not ended in resurrection. Wrapped in your consoling balm of love help them to remain resolute in the knowledge that they are heard, loved and valued. Comforted by love grant them the strength to believe that they will emerge back into the luminous light of peace once again renewed restored and strengthened their resurrection complete.

*Jen Jones © May 2022*

**First Reading***Acts of the Apostles 7:55-60*

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand. 'I can see heaven thrown open' he said 'and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' At this all the members of the council shouted out and stopped their ears with their hands; then they all rushed at him, sent him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses put down their clothes at the feet of a young man called Saul. As they were stoning him, Stephen said in invocation, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and said aloud, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'; and with these words he fell asleep.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm***Psalm 96:1-2. 6-7. 9. R/vv.1.9*

**Response: The Lord is king,  
most high above all the earth.**

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,  
the many coastlands be glad.  
His throne is justice and right.
2. The skies proclaim his justice;  
all peoples see his glory.  
All you spirits, worship him.
3. For you indeed are the Lord  
most high above all the earth,  
exalted far above all spirits.

**Second Reading***Apocalypse 22:12-14. 16-17. 20*

I, John, heard a voice speaking to me: 'Very soon now, I shall be with you again, bringing the reward to be given to every man according to what he deserves. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Happy are those who will have washed their robes clean, so that they will have the right to feed on the tree of life and can come through the gates into the city.'

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to make these revelations to you for the sake of the churches. I am of David's line, the root of David and the bright star of the morning.

The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' Let everyone who listens answer, 'Come.' Then let all who are thirsty come; all who want it may have the water of life, and have it free. The one who guarantees these revelations repeats his promise: I shall indeed be with you soon. Amen; come, Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation***John 14:18*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;

I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy.

Alleluia!

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.

**Gospel***John 17:20-26*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Holy Father,

I pray not only for these,

but for those also

who through their words will believe in me.

May they all be one.

Father, may they be one in us,

As you are in me and I am in you,

so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.

I have given them the glory you gave to me,

That they may be one as we are one.

With me in them and you in me,

may they be so completely one

that the world will realise that it was you who sent me

and that I have loved them as much as you love me.

Father,

I want those you have given me

to be with me where I am,

so that they may always see the glory

you have given me

because you loved me

before the foundation of the world.

Father, Righteous One,

the world has not known you,

but I have known you,

and these have known

that you have sent me.

I have made your name known to them

and will continue to make it known,

so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,

and so that I may be in them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**EUCCHARISTIC FESTIVAL On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, Sunday 19 June, there will be a Eucharistic Festival at Ushaw College, Durham, 3.00pm - 4.30pm.** Bishop Robert invites us to this 'special opportunity to demonstrate publicly our love and devotion for the Eucharist.'

The Festival programme includes:

A Eucharistic Procession, Sermon, & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Refreshments will be served following the event in the College Refectory, or you can bring a picnic. There will be free entry in the Ushaw Historic House, Gardens and Grounds from 2.30pm.

**Booking for this event is required, so if you would like to attend, please sign up on the lists at the back of each church by next Sunday 5 June.**