



John preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
Matthew 3:1-2

THE PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP NERI

**Immaculate Heart of Mary ▪ Lobley Hill
 St Mary ▪ Wickham
 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

4 December 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

Year A

The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, will be in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery this week on Tuesday between 10am - 4pm & Friday between 10am - 2pm.

She can also be contacted Tuesday & Wednesday 10am - 4pm & Friday 10am - 2pm by email 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

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 3 - 11 DECEMBER 2022

Saturday 3 December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 4 December	9.00am	St Mary	Joe & Bernard Oxley (dec.)
Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Joe Welsh (dec.)
Monday 5 December			
Tuesday 6 December	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	Muriel Staunton (dec.)
Wednesday 7 December <i>St Ambrose</i>	<u>11.00am</u>	St Mary	Giuse Vu Hong & Maria Vu nai (ann.) <i>Senior Citizens Mass</i>
Thursday 8 December	9.30am	St Mary	Pauline Archbold (dec.)
<i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>			
Friday 9 December			
Saturday 10 December	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 11 December	9.00am	St Mary	Audrey Isobel Gleeson (ann.)
Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Tony Tempest (dec.)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

5.00pm - 5.20pm on Saturday at St Philip Neri

9.00am - 9.20am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart and Thursday at St Mary's

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

9.00am - 9.25am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart and Thursday at St Mary's

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Raymond Deponio, Barney Hayes, Clare Jolly-Lingard, Maria Thi Kien Chiene Le, Kath Lee, John Leitch, Cheryl Anne McDonald, Pauline Mulholland, Astrid Muse (Gower), Joseph Relph, 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: Revd Paul Nichol). For the RVI and Freeman Hospitals in Newcastle, tel. 0191 233 6161 (Catholic Chaplain: Fr Mariadass 0191 273 3903).

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 18 December** and don't forget to indicate in which church you would like the candle to be lit. Completed envelopes can be placed in the collection baskets at weekend Masses or posted through the letterbox at Immaculate Heart Presbytery.

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.

SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY 2022 VOLUNTEERS Our final planning meeting is at St Mary's Hall, on Monday 5 December at 10am. Hope to see you there. Thank You!

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.

PRIORITY ITEMS IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY: tinned fruit, crisps, biscuits & UHT milk.

OTHER priority items: tinned meatballs, chopped tomatoes, baked beans, peas, sweetcorn, carrots, potatoes, tuna, meat, crisps, pasta & pasta sauce, shower gel.

Items we put into the weekly food bags: all tinned produce plus dried pasta, cooking oil, gravy granules, ketchup, mayonnaise, tomato purée, teabags, coffee, sugar, biscuits, toothpaste & antiperspirant, feminine hygiene, shampoo, laundry powder/liquid, washing up liquid, plus all other non-perishable items.

Every Thursday, volunteers will be in church between 9.30am - 10.30am so parishioners can drop off donations 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

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR AT IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH We are privileged to have been chosen as a site to house this Community Defibrillator. It is one of four purchased through an amazing fundraising campaign in our area. As a parish, our contribution is to take responsibility for the guardianship of this unit. We have been assured that this is not an onerous or time taking task. Ideally, two guardians are required for contact purposes. John Hebron has offered to be one of these, therefore ideally it would be great to have a second guardian who attends Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. If you are interested in volunteering for this role, please contact John Hebron on 07818 443799 who will explain what it entails. An awareness session about the use of the defibrillator is to be arranged for everyone who is interested in the National Defibrillator Network. No medical knowledge is required!

CHRISTMAS CARDS are now on sale at the back of each of our churches.

Gift for Life Christmas Cards and Decorations are also now available Once again this year we have high quality Christmas Cards and lovely angel decorations for sale after weekend Masses. The cards are £3 for a pack of 8 and glass angels are £3.50 each or 3 for £10 with all profits going to support our *Gift for Life* causes. Grab yours while stocks last! Thank you.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) The agenda and the approved minutes of the PPC Meeting held in September are now available to read in each of our churches.



ADVENT ALMS 2022 A message from Moira Ashman, CEO of St Cuthbert's Care: *This Advent, we once again hope to call upon your generosity to help us to raise funds to purchase a newer vehicle for our two nursing homes. Your support will allow us to offer more regular outings throughout the year, ensuring our residents' lives remain as varied as possible, with the fresh air and change of scenery offering no end of benefits for good mental health. We appreciate this winter will be difficult for many and urge you only support us if you are able to do so. Thank you.*

There will be a retiring collection for Advent Alms at all Masses next weekend 10/11 December.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS The Diocesan Vicariate for Faith & Mission has produced a series of reflections on the Scripture Readings used throughout our Advent preparations. The reflections have been written by members of the Diocese and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect. The First and Second Weeks of these Advent reflections can now be downloaded from the Diocesan website - bit.ly/DHNAdvent2022 or by searching for #DHNAdvent2022 on Facebook. The second part of the Advent reflections for Weeks Three and Four will be available shortly.

PRIESTLY VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT EVENING The next Discernment evening will take place at the Cathedral on Tuesday 6 December at 6.00pm. Bishop Séamus will be our guest for the evening and this is the last evening before the Christmas holiday. If you would like to come along, or for more information, please contact the Vocations Promoter, Father Shaun Purdy, by Monday 28 November, so catering arrangements can be made. Please either call 01670 812200 or email vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk The evening will finish at 8.00pm

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT by Westoe Brass Band, The Diocesan Choir and Ensembles from St Joseph's Academy, Hebburn. To be held on Friday 9 December at 7.30pm at St Joseph's Catholic Church, High West Street, Gateshead, NE8 1LX. **Tickets are £5/£3.50** and only available on the door. U18s free admission. Cash and card accepted. Refreshments during the interval.

LOVE CHRISTMAS - GETTING INVOLVED! All the preparations for the annual outreach work 'Love Christmas' are now well underway.

- **Christmas Hampers** At the back of church there is the list of special food items required for the Christmas hampers which will be given to the Parish Food Bank recipients. Please put your special food donations in the box at the back of church. **All food donations must be in by next weekend 10/11 December. Please continue to support this outreach.**
- **Angel Tree** Please remember to collect a label, or two, from 'The Angel Tree' and be as generous as you can in buying gifts for the children of families supported by the Parish Food Bank. Plus all the remaining donations will go to other children across Gateshead who may be risk of not receiving a present this year. **(Please leave gifts unwrapped and include the gift tag taken from the tree.)**
- **Gift for Life** Amazing decorations and/or Christmas cards are again on sale at the back of each church in aid of Gift for Life this week.
- Remember if you would prefer someone else to shop for you then please feel free to donate cash.
- Lastly - Thank you for your consistent, continued support and unbelievable generosity in everything the parish participates in. Whichever way you choose to support the parish's Outreach Work this Christmas someone, somewhere will benefit and be very appreciative.

Any queries please contact either Katie Wilkinson via email teachkate1@gmail.com telephone 07837 386760 or Denise Hebron via email denisehebron@yahoo.co.uk telephone 07554 445679.

APPEAL FOR HELPERS TO WRAP PRESENTS! Please, please, come along to the packing and wrapping session on Tuesday 13 December (there'll be two opportunities for you - one following Mass at 10am, the second at 6.30pm). Why not become a Santa's Little Helper for a couple of hours at Immaculate Heart Church? Everyone really enjoyed being involved in this 'nice bit' last year. So don't be shy, you will be welcomed with open arms - **you, plus your scissors & sellotape if possible!**

ANGEL TREE APPEAL 2022 Brigitte Jones has organised this amazing outreach work for many years. The Angel Trees will be in each of our three churches and most of you will already know that the labels on the each of these trees bear the age and gender of a child at risk of not receiving a Christmas present. This year, for ease, we are including tags for the 44 children who receive weekly support from the Parish Food Bank and any remaining presents will go to other children in need around Gateshead.

We ask that those of you who can afford it to please take a label (or two), buy a gift, leave it unwrapped, and return it with the label to one of our three churches by Sunday 11 December.

If anyone wants to buy a gift but is unable to shop, we are very happy to accept cash and someone will shop on your behalf. **Please return all gifts to church by next Sunday 11 December 2022.**

NORTHERN CROSS The December edition of the Northern Cross is on sale this weekend price £1.50.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 8 December.**

Jen's Weekly Prayer - Advent II

The journey through Advent will be fraught with many challenges for so many peoples across the world. War, persecution, disasters of many kinds, manmade or natural, mar many landscapes. Pain and suffering, abandonment, hunger, thirst, lack of food lack of warmth in the coldest of temperatures. Each carrying their own burdens through this time guide us all to remain filled with light that we will find our way on these darkened roads. Enlighten all with the healing spirit of love to enable us a to keep reaching out to others in the simple everyday moments of our lives wherever we reside. There are monumental challenges facing the whole world but with courage we can make a difference in the small and large efforts we make to and for each other. The journey may be rough terrain but there will always be a green leafed tree, a grassy path to ease the journey if we look and see. Enable those who are living in fear to find strength and be filled with light. Those in pain, comfort, and to those in power give reason and enlightenment. Grant that when Advent ends, our world will be filled with the great light of peace, cooperation, stability and love we all yearn to find.

Jen Jones © November 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES AT OUR THREE CHURCHES

Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve The Nativity of the Lord	5.00pm 7.00pm	Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill Mass at St Philip Neri, Dunston
Sunday 25 December Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord	9.30am	Mass at St Mary's, Wickham

First Reading*Isaiah 11:1-10*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R/cf. v.7*

**Response: In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.
4. May his name be blessed for ever.
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name.

Second Reading*Romans 15:4-9*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following

the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

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*Matthew 3:1-12*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

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

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.