



Jesus said, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see... the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

Cf. Matthew 11:4-6

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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Diocesan Website www.diocesehn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

11 December 2022

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)

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 10 - 18 DECEMBER 2022

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.)
Monday 12 December			
Tuesday 13 December <i>St Lucy</i>	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	George Turnbull (dec.)
Wednesday 14 December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30am	St Philip Neri	Deceased of the Rossi Family
Thursday 15 December	9.30am	St Mary	Bob Payne (dec.)
	10.45am	St Philip Neri	Funeral Service - Ann Shirley Appleby RIP
Friday 16 December			
Saturday 17 December	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 18 December	9.00am	St Mary	Moira Andison (dec.)
Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Lawrence Regan (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, Wednesday at St Philip Neri and Thursday at St Mary's

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Ann Shirley Appleby who has died recently. May she 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, 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).

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 is a retiring collection for Advent Alms at all Masses this weekend 10/11 December.

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 next 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.

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.

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: UHT milk, squash & tinned tuna.

OTHER priority items: tinned fruit, pasta & mayonnaise.

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

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.

PARISH BOUNDARIES Following recommendations from the Diocesan Boundaries Commission and consultation with parishes, partnerships and the Council of Priests, Bishop Robert has now issued the decrees establishing the (revised) boundaries of each parish within the diocese. A map showing the boundaries of Our Lady and St Philip Neri Parish is on display in each of our three churches together with a copy of the Bishop's decree for our parish.

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.

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!

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 reflections for the third and fourth weeks of Advent can be downloaded from bit.ly/DHNAdvent2022 or by searching for #DHNAdvent2022 on Facebook.

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

THE NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR 2023 is now available and on sale at the back of church this weekend price £3.00.

LET'S CHAT: ALL THINGS ENERGY Gateshead Council are running a number of free energy advice sessions this winter throughout December, January and February where you can chat with experts on how to save on your energy bills. For specific dates, times and venues please see the poster at the back of church or by visiting <https://www.theparish.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Energy-Advice-Sessions.pdf>

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 this 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.oc.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 this 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 this Sunday 11 December 2022.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 15 December.**

Jen's Weekly Prayer - Advent III

I am alone and yet I am not afraid.
I have stepped out into a different path
and I do not know where my journey will end.
I do not understand the great mystery,
which surrounds me,
Yet I know that I am safe, I rejoice.
Today I hold within my arms a sleeping infant.
I am weary, yet uplifted, confused yet strangely calm.
My life is entering another phase on its journey,
I must make haste and travel yet again
and seek a land I do not know.
Once more I must visit the unknown, where will it lead?
Whom shall I meet on this journey?
We are no longer alone,
I have known great love and much confusion.
I do not always understand the task
which comes my way.
I have watched my sleeping infant grow
into a fine and worthy adult.
Unafraid, yet challenging those who do not understand
the wisdom of his words.
My mothering arms wish to hold him as I once
held the child, I cherish my precious Moments
and I can revisit my memories and enjoy
the tenderness of our family relationship.
Too soon, my tormented heart cries, too soon.
Why must I lose him now?
Time has been too short. I see my sleeping child
to blot the pain of what is now before me.
Yet I know that though they kill him
they will not silence him.
Even in those final moments
he thought of others and of me.
He gave me to his special friend,
to love me and care for me.
A true gift of love from a truly loving son.
My journey now follows many and widening paths.
The love which he gave me, freely and without condition
is all around.
Take his love and share it with those you meet.
Make your journey worth the risk.
Be alive and use the moment.
Reach out, in the certain knowledge that you
will always be unconditionally loved and heard.

Jen Jones ©

First Reading*Isaiah 35:1-6. 10*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalm 145:6-10. R/ cf. Isaiah 35:4*

Response: Come, Lord, and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Second Reading*James 5:7-10*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.

Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation*Isaiah 61:1(Luke 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel*Matthew 11:2-11*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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 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, Whickham