



The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.' *Matthew 1:20*

**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

**18 December 2022**

**Fourth 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](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk) or by telephone 0191 460 4274/07891 162205.*

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**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 17 - 25 DECEMBER 2022**

<b>Saturday 17 December</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>St Philip Neri</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 18 December</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>St Mary</b>	Moira Andison (dec.)
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Immaculate Heart</b>	Lawrence Regan (dec.)
Monday 19 December			
Tuesday 20 December	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	Matthew Bullock (dec.)
Wednesday 21 December	9.30am	St Philip Neri	Private Intention (TD) <i>St Philip Neri School Attending</i>
Thursday 22 December	9.30am	St Mary	Edward & Mary Ann Arnold (dec.) <i>St Mary's School Attending</i>
Friday 23 December			
<b>Saturday 24 December</b>	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Immaculate Heart</b>	Joe Welsh (dec.)
<b>Christmas Eve The Nativity of the Lord</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>St Philip Neri</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 25 December</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>St Mary</b>	Michael Short (ann.)
<b>Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord</b>			

***N.B. Carols will be sung before the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses***

***Sacrament of Reconciliation***

*5.00pm - 5.20pm on Saturday 17 December at St Philip Neri  
9.00am - 9.20am on Tuesday 20 December at Immaculate Heart*

***Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament***

*9.00am - 9.25am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart*

**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).***

**RESIGNATION OF BISHOP ROBERT** On Monday 12 December, Bishop Robert's resignation as Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle was announced at St Mary's Cathedral. Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool and Metropolitan of the Northern Province of Dioceses, made the announcement and read a letter from Bishop Robert which will also be read at Masses this weekend and can be viewed on the [diocesan website](#). Archbishop Malcolm has been appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese by the Holy See and he will have episcopal oversight of the Diocese until a successor to Bishop Robert is appointed. Please keep Bishop Robert and Archbishop Malcolm in your prayers.



**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.*

**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 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 Masses this weekend or posted through the letterbox at Immaculate Heart Presbytery.

**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 ITEM: UHT milk, tinned tuna, tinned fruit, & 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](mailto:teachkate1@gmail.com)

**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.

**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, the decrees establishing the (revised) boundaries of each parish within the diocese have now been issued. 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 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.

**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](http://bit.ly/DHNAdvent2022) or by searching for #DHNAdvent2022 on Facebook.

**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>

**THE EMMAUS BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE** Whilst family and friends can be immensely supportive in coping with a bereavement, sometimes a bereaved person may wish to talk to someone outside of their immediate circle. The Emmaus Bereavement Support Team, trained in the Ministry of Consolation, is available to support those who wish to talk about their loss. As the post-COVID restrictions have eased, support can now be offered face to face once again. The Emmaus Bereavement Support Service number is 07732 980740 - please leave your name and number and a member of the team will get in touch with you. Emmaus information cards are also available at the back of each of our churches.

**LOVE CHRISTMAS - THANK YOU!** To all who contributed, in whatever way they could, to this year's outreach appeal for donations to the Angel Tree, Christmas Hampers or purchasing cards a heartfelt thank you!

Every year our parishioners demonstrate their unbelievable level of support to families who may struggle during this special season, pouring out their Christian love and thinking of others. Your generosity will ensure that there will be smiles and happiness in some homes that otherwise experience little joy throughout the year due to ongoing hardship. They will know that within their community there are people who have made this special effort purely because of love and concern for 'their neighbour'.

**ANOTHER THANK YOU!** To Santa's Little Helpers who gathered on Tuesday 13 December, both in the morning and evening, to sort & wrap all the wonderful donations handed in over the past few weeks for the Angel Tree, Christmas hampers and gifts for our Food Bank families. Volunteering your time and effort is priceless, the parish could achieve very little without this greatly appreciated generosity of precious time.

Due to the parishioners' phenomenal response to Love Christmas, the 'little helpers' were kept very busy. However, this huge amount of work was completed by these incredible helpers with a smile and a happiness in the knowledge they were helping others. Thank you doesn't seem enough but your commitment is very much appreciated and the completed work could not have been achieved without you.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR FROM CAFOD** - Mark Maughan CAFOD Community Participation Co-ordinator for the Diocese writes:

*Thank you for your incredible support throughout the year, I look forward to making more of an impact alongside you in 2023. The Church relies on people getting involved. Our Church, our world needs you. Could your New Year's resolution be getting more involved in the life of our Church? What aspects of Church brings you life or joy? Could you give a bit of time to help those parts flourish? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help in your parish, bringing people together to help build a better world or by visiting local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the diocese? Could you support local volunteers or share your office skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See [cafod.org.uk/Volunteer](http://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer) for more information or get in touch with [mmaughan@cafod.org.uk](mailto:mmaughan@cafod.org.uk) Wishing you a Merry Christmas and all the best this New Year!*

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS** Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office by 10.00am on Thursday 22 December.

**Jen's Weekly Prayer - Advent IV**

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 everyday 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*

**First Reading***Isaiah 7:10 - 14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm***Psalm 23:1-6. R/cf. vv.7. 10*

**Response: Let the Lord enter!**

**He is the king of glory.**

1. the Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its people.  
It is he who set it on the sea;  
on the waters he made it firm.
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things.
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

**Second Reading***Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation***Matthew 1:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us' Alleluia!

**Gospel***Matthew 1:18-24*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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**  
(N.B. Carols will be sung before each Mass)

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