



When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. *Luke 2:22*
The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) is celebrated on Thursday 2 February.

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

29 January 2023

Fourth Sunday of the Year

Year A

The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, will be in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery this week on Tuesday 10am - 4pm & Friday 10am - 2pm. She can also be contacted Tuesday, Wednesday 10am - 4pm and 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 28 January - 5 February 2023

| | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Saturday 28 January <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i> | 5.30pm | St Philip Neri | People of the Parish |
| Sunday 29 January | 9.00am | St Mary | Pauline Archbold (dec.) |
| Fourth Sunday of the Year | 10.30am | Immaculate Heart | Bob Payne (dec.) |
| Monday 30 January | | | |
| Tuesday 31 January <i>St John Bosco</i> | 9.30am | Immaculate Heart | In Thanksgiving (AB) |
| Wednesday 1 February | <u>10.45am</u> | <u>Immaculate Heart</u> | Requiem Mass - Norman Fairley RIP |
| Thursday 2 February <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i> | 9.30am | St Mary | George Turnbull (dec.) |
| Friday 3 February | | | |
| Saturday 4 February | 5.30pm | St Philip Neri | Gerard Cailey (ann.) |
| Sunday 5 February | 9.00am | St Mary | People of the Parish |
| Fifth Sunday of the Year | 10.30am | Immaculate Heart | Malcolm Robson (dec.) |
| <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i> | | | |

Weekday Readings: Ordinary Time Week 4 Year 1

Sacrament of Reconciliation

5.00pm - 5.20pm on Saturday at St Philip Neri, 9.00am - 9.20am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart & Thursday at St Mary's

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Norman Fairley who died recently and whose Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 1 February at 10.45am at Immaculate Heart Church. May he 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).

PARISH FINANCES The Parish Financial Report for the 9 months to December has been prepared with parish funds standing at £289,607. This includes a total of £15,410 being held on behalf of Gift for Life, Foodbank and Special Collections. Parish funds have declined by £3,150 since the start of April 2022.

Offertory Collections of £41,713 are +10% on the same period in 2021 and +35% on 2020 but 16.5% down on the near £50,000 received in 2019.

We have also received £10,000 in the form of will legacies from two deceased parishioners for which we are especially grateful.

Expenditure on major repairs has started to accelerate with a total of nearly £40,000 spent to date on among other items St Mary's Church frontage, a new boiler at Immaculate Heart presbytery and the gas main excavation and installation works currently underway at St Mary's.

Upcoming costs include the installation of a new gas boilers for St Mary's Church and Presbytery estimated at £36,000 and repairs to Dockendale Cottage roof of £18,000.

Still to be considered and finalised are the proposed replacement of St Philip Neri's roof and the heaters at Immaculate Heart Church. After a relatively quiet few years of major building spend we are in the middle of a period of significant investment which will erode the parish funds.

However, it is worth remembering that when the single parish was formed in 2018 our funds stood at £230,000 so we are still nearly £60,000 better off now compared to then and in a healthier financial position than many other parishes.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing generosity which is much appreciated.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 February in Immaculate Heart Church at 1.30pm. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting (the patterns are easy, and wool can be provided) or if you are interested in what we hope to do with this ministry, please come along. All are welcome! For further information, please contact Joan McCoy tel. 0191 488 4395.

WARM SPACES Whickham Volunteer Library is part of the Warm Space Initiative and as such has opened the Library Lounge for everyone to enjoy the space. Newspapers, jigsaws and games are on offer along with tea, coffee and biscuits. A warm welcome can be expected with dignity and respect. The Lounge is open whenever the Library is.

DAY OF REFLECTION FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS A Liturgical Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will take place next Saturday 4 February 2023, 10.30am-4.00pm with arrivals, registration and refreshments from 10.00am. The venue is The Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert, 37 High Street, Amble, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 0LE. Cost: £15.00 per person (this will be met by the Parish). Please bring a packed lunch - tea and coffee will be provided. **To reserve a place on this Day of Reflection, please contact the Parish Secretary (tel. 0191 460 4274 or email stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk) by 12 noon on Tuesday 31 January.**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING (PPC) The next PPC meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 15 February 2023. If you have any issues or queries you would like to raise, please contact one of your church representatives:

Immaculate Heart - Allen Bell, Ann Short, Wendy O'Reilly, Maveen Pereira

St Mary's - Phil Cunningham Janice Hall, Jen Jones, Tony Sacco

St Philip Neri - Denise Hebron, John Pinchen, Michael Waugh, Katie Wilkinson

Youth issues - David Khachikian & Joe Wheatley

Financial matters - Malcolm Shield

FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE FOOD BANK AND REFUGEE PROJECT UPDATE:

Priority items in very short supply: toilet roll, coffee, tinned potatoes, tuna, garden peas, UHT milk, dried pasta.

Other priority items: tinned rice, custard, fruit, carrots, sweets, crisps.

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

Every Thursday, volunteers will be in Immaculate Heart 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

CHRISTMAS CARDS APPEAL Thank you all so much for responding to the recent request for old Christmas cards. As you read this short note, Santa's little helpers are already busy cutting and stringing tags for next Christmas. Your generosity never fails to overwhelm us - the parish couldn't achieve all that it does without each and every one of you!

RED MISSION BOXES are now due to be emptied in all three churches. Money can be given to Lilian Gray at Immaculate Heart, Denise Hebron St Philip Neri and Kathleen Cunningham at St Mary's.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle has the following permanent vacancies:

Parish Secretary, St Peter, Low Fell - 10 hours per week.

Closing date: 10 February

Diocesan Offices, Newcastle, Management Accountant - full-time, permanent

Closing date: 6 February

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 2 February.**

First Reading*Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13*

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name
of the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.**Responsorial Psalm***Psalm 145:7-10. R/ Mt 5:3*

**Response: How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

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*1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called:
how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word,
how many were influential people, or came from noble
families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what
is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong
that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom
the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that
God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up
those who are everything. The human race has nothing to
boast about to God, but you, God has made members of
Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom,
and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As
scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about
the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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 Acclamation*Matthew 11:25*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.
Alleluia!

Gospel*Matthew 5:1-12*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down
and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This
is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall
be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and
speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice
and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**Jen's Weekly Prayer**

Love cascades like a dazzling gleaming waterfall
of hope and light.

On occasions the gleaming light may be obscured
as its mists cover its radiant form yet on others
we are captivated by the dazzling beauty as it sparkles
and swirls like diamonds in the sunlight.

The frozen water looks grey and cold
yet blooming close by is the hardy yellow flower
of the gorse bush which gleams as the sun highlights
its flowers brightening the day.

When our journeys are difficult
and we are weary, cold, in pain, afraid, troubled,
we do not always see the very simple beautiful gifts
laid at our feet.

Love is in the calm and healing gifts of nature
and the gentle words or touch of hand and arm
to give us strength to help us as we travel on our way.
These gifts are love for love comes in many forms
to calm and heal, it is a free and precious gift
which brings hope and light for us all to cherish
and to share, to plant and watch it bloom and spread.

Jen Jones © January 2023

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