



The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

John 4:25-26

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

12 March 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

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 and can be contacted by email stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk or by telephone 0191 460 4274
Postal Address: St Mary's Presbytery, Malvern Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 9LL

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 11 - 19 March 2023

Saturday 11 March	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 12 March	9.00am	St Mary	Paul Riley (dec.)
Third Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Joan Stephenson (dec.)
Monday 13 March			
Tuesday 14 March	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	Northern Brethren Fund
Wednesday 15 March	9.30am	St Philip Neri	Northern Brethren Fund
Thursday 16 March	9.30am	St Mary	Joe & Bernard Oxley (dec.)
Friday 17 March <i>St Patrick</i>	6.30pm	Immaculate Heart	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Saturday 18 March <i>St Joseph</i>	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 19 March	9.00am	St Mary	Juliet Jameel (1 st ann.)
Fourth Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Special Intention (DS)

Weekday Readings
Season of Lent Week 3

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Raymond Deponio, Barney Hayes, 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).

LENTEN ALMS 2023 RETIRING COLLECTION There will be a retiring collection to support Lenten Alms at all Masses this weekend **11/12 March**. A message from Moira Ashman, CEO St Cuthbert's Care: *This Lent, we hope to call upon your generosity once again to help us raise funds to purchase a small vehicle across our two nursing homes. Your continued support allows us to offer the little extras that mean the world to our residents – for this I am deeply grateful. Thank you. We currently have vacancies at our two nursing homes in Newcastle and Sunderland. If you or anyone you know would like more information, please contact Gill Ennis, our registered manager, on 07779 248 185 and she will be delighted to help. My very best wishes. Moira ashman.*

LENTEN REFLECTIONS The Diocesan Vicariate for Faith & Mission has now produced the first booklet of Lenten reflections for this year. The reflections have been contributed by a mix of clergy, religious and lay people to express the richness and variety of our diocesan community. The dedicated Lenten reflection page on the diocesan website can be found here: <https://bit.ly/DHNLent2023>

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM THE LOVE CHRISTMAS PROJECT TEAM Love Christmas 2022 reached people in a really meaningful way thanks to churches like yours - and it's part of something bigger. **Love Your Neighbour** is a national collection of churches, charities, and organisations. Together, we're working to rebuild communities and inspire others to practically help their neighbours.

We wanted to take the time to thank the Parish of Our Lady and St Philip Neri for being one of the many churches that reached thousands as part of Love Christmas 2022. Even through the increasing isolation and deprivation we are seeing, it was inspiring to see how local communities, churches, businesses and schools rallied around those who needed support. Up and down the country, people expressed their love for their neighbours with kindness - Bags of Kindness. The results were clear - communities were lit up and hope was ignited in the lives of so many. Local acts had a national impact. This momentum is continuing. In total, over **100,000 Bags of Kindness** were packed and distributed by churches – with huge support from schools and organisations. **Over 1,000 of you came together!** This really is incredible. But the numbers only tell half the story. **What was really special was the impact that receiving a Bag of Kindness had.**

CONFIRMATIONS 2023 All young people in our parish who will be in Year 7 or above from September 2023 are invited to join in a preparation programme for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation later this year. The programme is being run in conjunction with St Mary & St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Stella. The preparation sessions will be on Thursday 7, 14 & 21 September (6.00pm - 6.45pm), all taking place at St Mary & St Thomas Aquinas Meeting Room, Stella (NE21 4LR). **Application & Parental Consent forms are available at the back of our three churches. Please return Application & Parental Consent forms by next weekend 18/19 March. Any queries, please contact Canon Peter.**

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 16 March.**

PARISH FOOD BANK AND REFUGEE PROJECT UPDATE
N.B. We are short of most produce - even if you can only bring along 1 or 2 tins please bring them along to church to help out.

FOOD ITEMS IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY: tinned chickpeas, kidney beans, baked beans, rice, custard, sweetcorn, carrots cooking oil.

OTHER priority items: ketchup, mayonnaise, tinned potatoes, garden peas, crisps UHT milk, dried pasta, cereal, sweets, feminine hygiene.

Items we put into the weekly food bags: gravy granules, tomato purée, tinned soup, meat, meatballs, sweetcorn, shampoo, pasta sauce, quash, teabags, coffee, sugar, biscuits, toothpaste, antiperspirant, laundry powder/liquid, washing up liquid, toilet roll, 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

MARY'S PLACE/MERCY HUB The Asda Green Tokens Scheme is supporting various local charities, giving different amounts of money to each charity, depending on the number of votes received. Voting can take place online without requiring a visit to an Asda store. Mary's Place (The Mercy Hub), is asking for people to vote online to help us increase our funding for those in need in these difficult times. You can vote at www.asda.com/green-tokens and select **Gosforth** from the drop-down box. Each person will be able to vote once every seven days. Please vote for the **Mercy Hub** every week and encourage friends and families to vote for us. It could make a difference of £200 to our finances. Thank you.

LOCAL PLACES SERVING FREE MEALS A list of local places serving free meals is posted at the back of each church and can be viewed on the link on the parish website homepage www.theparish.org.uk

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Sixth Form students from Cardinal Hume School invite you to Stations of the Cross based on *Laudato Si'*, the 2015 Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis asking us to hear the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor. All are welcome at St Peter's Church, Kells Lane, Low Fell NE9 5HY on **Wednesday 22 March at 7.00pm**. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please come along to pray with and support our young people.

DIOCESAN VACANCY The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancy:

Administrator, Vicariate for Faith and Mission (maternity cover) - full-time. Closing date for applications: 15 March 2023. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS APPEALS PANELS

The Diocesan Department for Education is looking for volunteers to serve on Admission Appeals Panels for Catholic schools. Appeal Panel members hear parents' appeal cases when, occasionally, they feel that the school they have been allocated for their child is not appropriate or practical. If you: are interested in education and want to get involved though you do not need to be a teacher; have excellent listening skills, combined with the ability to put people at ease and make balanced decisions; have the time to offer (usually appeals last half a day, a day, or two at each sitting); are willing to undertake training to understand the rules of school admissions; then this is an excellent way to serve Catholic schools. For more information and to obtain an application form, please email education@diocesehn.org.uk or <mailto:education@diocesehn.org.uk> or tel. 0191 243 3313. Thank you.

HOLY ISLAND SVP VINNIE CAMP 2023 Are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2023? Let them join us for a week on Holy Island, They'll stay in our Centre and be looked after by DBS checked and trained helpers who will ensure they have a safe, fun time. We do lots of interesting and enjoyable activities such as rock pooling, longball, football, rounders, walking, craft and art, table tennis, long ball, quizzes and competitions and marathons as well as laser tag, silly sports, sandcastle building, swimming and scavenger hunts. Girls and boys can be aged 9-12 and it is a great way for them to meet new people and make friends from all over the North East. A week's all-inclusive holiday costs £150 and can be paid in instalments. In some circumstances children may be able to receive partial or full funding to attend. If you're interested, or know of a child who could benefit from such a holiday, please visit our website for further details at <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island>

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2023 Following three years when the Covid Pandemic caused the cancellation of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, pilgrims will return to Lourdes this year. The Pilgrimage will travel to Lourdes Friday 28 July to Friday 4 August 2023. **Booking forms are now available via the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage website:** <https://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk/news/booking-forms-pilgrimage-2023/>

Jen's Weekly Prayer

Suffused with deep pink clouds the late afternoon sky
glowed, this glow spread its unique beauty
across the landscape below.

Trees. Plants. Grass. the very fabric of the earth.
was transformed by a lustrous glow of gold
which shimmered.

A vision out of time. a wondrous precious moment.

As we approach the early days of spring help us
to become more aware of the tiny snippets of excitement
and joy we can experience around us.

The early cry of bird song on the breeze, the busy building
of new nests as birds call to each other.

New buds warmed by the sun making their
early joyful offerings to us.

We are enlivened by all of these encounters. they assist us
as we listen to the many and varied problems
surrounding and consuming so many lives.

Calm those who are worn down by fear or pain,
grant to them and to us the strength and courage
to continue challenging systems which suppress freedom
and may light hope love and peace
envelope and enfold us all.

Jen Jones © March 2023



THE SEASON OF LENT gives us all a wonderful opportunity through our Lenten prayer, fasting and alms-giving to be renewed and refreshed in preparation for the celebration of Easter, 'The Great Feast.'

STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 6.30pm on the following Fridays during Lent:

Friday 17 March at Immaculate Heart, Friday 24 March at St Mary's, Friday 31 March at St Philip Neri

CHRISM MASS Holy Thursday 6 April

11.00am at St Mary's Cathedral

EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday 6 April

6.30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at Immaculate Heart

Good Friday 7 April (Day of Fasting & Abstinence)

3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St Mary's

Holy Saturday 8 April

5.30pm Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter at St Philip Neri

Easter Sunday 9 April

10.00am Mass of Easter Morning at Immaculate Heart

First Reading*Exodus 17:3-7*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said, 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalms 94:1-2. 6-9. R/v.8*

Response: O that today you would listen to his voice:

'Harden not your hearts.'

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Second Reading*Romans 5:1-2. 5-8*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*cf. John 4:42.15*

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Lord, you are really the saviour of the world;

give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel*John 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you give this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews.

But the hour will come - in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything,' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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