



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP NERI
Immaculate Heart of Mary - Lobley Hill
St Mary - Whickham
St Philip Neri - Dunston

Parish Priest Canon Peter Leighton
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 Diocesan Website www.diocesehn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
 Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Jesus said, 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the works of the one who sent me.... As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'
John 9:4-5

19 March 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Year A

The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, will be in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery this week on Wednesday 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 18 - 26 March 2023

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)
Monday 20 March <i>St Cuthbert</i>			
Tuesday 21 March	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	Deceased of the Corrigan Family
	5.30pm	St Mary	<i>First Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>
Wednesday 22 March	9.30am	St Philip Neri	Priest's Intention
Thursday 23 March	9.30am	St Mary	Norma & Michael Kavanagh (dec.) <i>St Mary's School attending</i>
Friday 24 March	6.30pm	St Mary	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Saturday 25 March <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 26 March	9.00am	St Mary	Paul Riley (dec.)
Fifth Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Lawrence Regan (dec.)

Weekday Readings

Season of Lent Week 4

Sacrament of Reconciliation

5.00pm - 5.20pm on Saturday at St Philip Neri, 9.00am - 9.20pm and on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart
Please pray for the children from St Mary's School who will be celebrating their First Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday 21 March.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

9.00am - 9.25am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart and Wednesday at St Philip Neri

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).

ARCHBISHOP MCMAHON'S DIOCESAN INVESTIGATION The investigation commissioned by the Dicastery for Bishops has issued a survey to be completed by parishioners. This is an anonymous survey, all answers are provided in complete confidence, and you are asked to give your own individual views. The survey will run until Monday 27 March 2023 and can be accessed at <https://forms.gle/wevQ6zrj1t8SCxNq5>.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS The Diocesan Vicariate for Faith and Mission has produced a series of Reflections for each of the days of Lent and the Easter Triduum. The Reflections have been contributed by a mix of clergy, Religious and lay people to express the richness and variety of our diocesan community, and they can be found on the diocesan website here: <https://bit.ly/DHNLent2023>

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 the weekend of 1st/2nd April. Any queries, please contact Canon Peter.**

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.

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. 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.**

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 soup, custard, rice pudding, meat, tuna, fruit, pasta sauce, shampoo & UHT milk.

OTHER priority items: toilet roll, sweetcorn, carrots & cooking oil, ketchup mayonnaise, tinned potatoes, chickpeas, kidney beans, baked beans, garden peas, carrots, crisps, dried pasta, cereal, sweets, toilet roll, feminine hygiene.

Items we put into the weekly food bags: gravy granules, tomato purée, tinned soup, meat, meatballs, sweetcorn, toothpaste, pasta sauce, squash, teabags, coffee, sugar, biscuits antiperspirant, 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

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.

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/>

CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK (CSAN) are profoundly concerned about the Government's Migration Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 7 March 2023. This Bill, if passed, will not only deny those people fleeing war and persecution their right to seek safety in the UK and apply for asylum, but will punish them, based on how they came here, not whether they need protection. This would amount to an asylum ban. The Bill would:

- remove the right to seek refugee protection in the UK for those who arrive irregularly.
- breach the UN Refugee Convention, of which the UK is a founding signatory.
- fail to provide the safe routes we need now.
- leave thousands of men, women, and children in limbo, detained, and denied a fair hearing.

For further details please follow this link [CSAN Statement on the Illegal Migration Bill - Caritas Social Action Network - CSAN](#)

DAY OF PRAYER FOR LIFE On Saturday 25 March 2023 (the Solemn Feast of the Annunciation) there will be a Day of Prayer for Life - in particular for the unborn and for pregnant women. The Day will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and an opportunity to venerate the relics of St Gianna Molla at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle following the 10.00am Mass until 4.00 pm (organised by Catholic members of SPUC).

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 23 March.**

Jen's Weekly Prayer

As the sun warms and envelopes us in its strong rays we are like molten glass reworked, reshaped, coloured and transformed into strength, another form of healing to allow us to feel invigorated revived.

The plants and trees grow and stretch become not dormant bulbs or twigs but alive to give way to flower, bud, leaf and blossom.

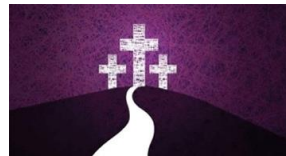
We can once again be filled with the healing joy if we take time to immerse ourselves in this beauty and be truly at one in the moment allowing ourselves to share a precious gift.

To be still and feel the sun, to truly immerse ourselves in springtime's beauty is to cherish the moment and allow ourselves to be healed and in that stillness be part of the greater healing, light filled whole.

Jen Jones © March 2023

A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Thank you God for the love of our mothers.
Thank you God for their care and concern.
Thank you God for the joys they have shared with us.
Thank you God for the pains they have borne for us.
Thank you God for all that they give us.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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 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*1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'are these all the sons you have?' he answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.**Responsorial Psalm***Psalms 22. R/v.1*

**Response: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff,
With these you give me comfort.
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
in the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Second Reading*Ephesians 5:8-14*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light.

That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Gospel Acclamation***John 8:12*

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel*John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see he said, 'he put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us, 'they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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