



### The Ascension of the Lord

'Not only are we confirmed today in our possession of paradise but in Christ, who is the head of our body, we have begun the triumphal entry into the heaven of heavens.' *Pope St Leo of Rome, 5<sup>th</sup> Century*

## 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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The John Ingram Partnership  
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

14 May 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Year A

*The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, will be in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery this week on Tuesday 10am - 4pm and Friday 10am - 2pm. She can also be contacted Tuesday & Wednesday 10am - 4pm and Friday 10am - 2pm by email [stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto: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 13 - 21 May 2023

Saturday 13 May	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 14 May	9.00am	St Mary	Catherine & Elizabeth Wilson (ann.)
<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Matthew Bullock (ann.)
Monday 15 May			
Tuesday 16 May	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	Joan Stephenson (dec.)
<b>Wednesday 17 May</b>			
<b>Vigil Mass for The Ascension of the Lord</b>	6.30pm	Immaculate Heart	People of the Parish
<b>Thursday 18 May The Ascension of the Lord</b>	9.30am	St Mary	Joe Welsh (dec.) <i>St Mary's School Attending</i>
Friday 19 May			
Saturday 20 May	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 21 May	9.00am	St Mary	Bernard & Anne McKenna (ann.)
<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Geoff & Deirdre Taylor (dec.)

### *Weekday Readings Sixth Week of Eastertide*

#### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

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

#### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

*Tuesday 9.00am - 9.25am at Immaculate Heart*

#### **Sacrament of Baptism**

*This Sunday, in the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Lennon Andrew Jeffrey Moffitt into the Family of the Church*

#### **Thursday 18 May is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord and is a Holyday of Obligation**

*There will be 6.30pm Vigil Mass on Wednesday 17 May at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and 9.30am Mass on Thursday 18 May at St Mary's Church (St Mary's School attending)*

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Kathleen Lee who has died recently and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 31 May at 10.30am at St Mary's Church, followed by cremation at Mountsett Crematorium. May she rest in peace. Amen.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** Raymond Deponio, Barney Hayes, Maria Thi Kien Chiene Le, 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).*

**WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY** Next Sunday 21 May is World Communications Day, when we take up the command of Jesus to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the whole world. Vital to this is good communication - through our websites, publications and social media channels. The Bishops' Conference works hard to forge positive relationships with media outlets to communicate news relating to every aspect of the life of the Catholic Church and her people. **There will be a retiring collection to support this work at all Masses next weekend 20/21 May.** For further information, please visit:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/world-communications-day/21-May/>

**CANONICAL INVESTIGATION** The Executive Summary of Archbishop McMahon's Canonical Investigation following the resignation of Bishop Robert Byrne can now be viewed on the Diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/canonical-investigation-report-executive-summary/>

**THE RECENT RETIRING COLLECTIONS** for the Northern Brethren Fund (NBF) realised a total of £838.10 and for the Little Sisters of the Poor £1730.50. Many thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to these collections in support of our sick and retired priests and St Joseph's Home, Newcastle.

**GIFT FOR LIFE SUMMER SOCIAL - SUNDAY 11 JUNE 2.00pm IN ST MARY'S HALL (& HOPEFULLY GARDEN)** With our summer social event just 4 weeks away you can help make it a success by:

- a) donating a raffle prize - boxes at the back of each church
- b) making (or buying) a cake for the cake stall
- c) telling your friends and turning up on the day

If you are donating a cake, or intending to be at the event, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church to give us an idea of numbers. Alternatively, please drop us an e-mail on [giftforlife20@gmail.com](mailto:giftforlife20@gmail.com). Let's make this a real parish community celebration while raising funds for some really worthwhile causes. Thank you!

**THE NORTHERN CROSS** May edition is on sale this weekend, price £1.50.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING (PPC)** The next PPC meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 17 May 2023. If you have any issues or queries you would like to raise, please contact one of your church representatives **by this Sunday 14 May:**

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

**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:** mayonnaise, sugar, cereal, UHT milk, tinned tuna, crisps, biscuits, cooking oil, ketchup, sweets toilet rolls, spray cleaner, tampons.

**OTHER priority items:** pasta sauce, tinned meatballs, hot dogs, rice pudding, fruit, potatoes, baked beans, carrots, garden peas, sweetcorn, soup, meat (corned beef, Pek, mince etc), chopped tomatoes.

**Other items we put into the weekly food bags:** shampoo, laundry powder/liquid, washing up liquid, antiperspirant, feminine hygiene, tinned chickpeas, kidney beans, gravy granules, dried pasta, tomato purée, long grain rice, toothpaste, fruit squash, teabags, coffee, sugar, plus all other non-perishable items.

**Every Thursday, volunteers are 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](mailto: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 ([www.mercyhub.org.uk](http://www.mercyhub.org.uk)) 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](http://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.

**A DAY FOR CATECHISTS - A Day for exploring Catechesis, Accompaniment and Evangelisation.** Are you involved with Baptismal Preparation, First Holy Communions, Confirmations, Marriage Preparation, RCIA, Children's Liturgy or other faith sharing initiatives? We are excited to host the largest gathering of Catechists the diocese has seen in recent times. This will be a special opportunity to come together and renew our approach to sacramental preparation and faith-sharing post-pandemic. Whether you are a seasoned Catechist or just considering becoming one, we want you to join us. We will be sharing key principles from the new *Directory for Catechesis* and affirming good practices, as well as providing new ideas and inspiration. **Date and Venue: Saturday 15 July 2023, 10am - 3pm, at St Robert of Newminster Catholic School, Biddick Lane, Fatfield, Washington, NE38 8AF (refreshments included, please bring a packed lunch).** Individuals and parish groups welcome. To book your place(s), visit <http://bit.ly/DHNDQC23> or scan this QR code:



**DAY OF REFLECTION FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** The Diocesan Liturgical Formation Team is holding a **Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on Saturday 3 June 2023, 10.30am-3.00pm** - arrivals, registration and refreshments from 10.00am. The venue for this event will be St Michael's, Durham Road, Houghton-le-Spring, DH5 8NF and will cost £10.00 per person (this will be paid for by the Parish). Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. **To book your place, please sign up on the list at the back of church or contact the Parish Office ([stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk) / 0191 460 4274) providing your email address and contact telephone number by 12 noon on Tuesday 23 May 2023.**

**DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP** The Diocesan Environmental Group invite you to a series of events marking Laudato Si' week Sunday 21 – Sunday 28 May 2023. The week will begin with a special Mass on Saturday 20 May 2023 at The Cathedral Church of St Mary, Newcastle at 10.00am. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate creation and to reflect on how to protect it. Throughout the week we will be presenting special screenings of the film, 'The Letter'. For details please see the Diocesan website <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/a-series-of-special-events-mark-laudato-si-week-across-our-diocese/>

Details of the screenings:

Monday 22 May: at Cardinal Hume Catholic School, Old Durham Road, Gateshead NE9 6RZ with doors opening at 6.30pm and film showing at 7.00pm.

Tuesday 23 May: at St Wilfrid's, Waterloo Road, Blyth NE24 1EA at 7.00pm.

Wednesday 24 May: at Carmel College, The Headlands, Darlington DL3 8RW with doors opening at 6.30pm and film showing at 7.00pm.

Saturday 27 May: at St Cuthbert's Church, Albion Road West, North Shields NE29 0JB at 7.00pm.

The Letter is a powerful film produced by the team that made the Oscar-winning film My Octopus Teacher. It brings the message of Pope Francis's Laudato Si' to life through the stories of the people representing the voices of the poor, the youth, indigenous peoples and the natural world. This is a film that everyone should see and talk about in their families and communities, definitely not to be missed!

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES for the new Financial Year are now available at the back of each church.** If any parishioners do not yet contribute by planned giving or standing order and would like to do so, please contact the Parish Office, email [stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk) or tel. 0191 460 4274. If you have access to internet banking, you can, if you wish, set up a standing order online. The details required for you to do this are as follows:

*Payee: DHN Gateshead Our Lady and St Philip Neri*

*Sort code: 40-34-45*

*Account number: 21167936*

*Reference: insert your own name*

*Commencing: day/month/year*

*Frequency: weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually.*

**LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR JOB VACANCY** Registered Nurses Required. The Little Sisters of the Poor run a large residential care home for the elderly in Newcastle. This is a friendly, relaxed, well-equipped Home with over 105 staff. Day shift - 37.5 Hours per week, Shifts are 8am-4pm, 1pm-9pm. Night shift - 20 hours per week, 9pm-8am. Two References and an enhanced DBS check are required. For more information, please contact Lee-Marie on 0191 273 1279 or email [lee.marie@london.co.uk](mailto:lee.marie@london.co.uk)

**DIOCESAN VACANCY** The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint a Fundraising Manager to lead on the development and implementation of a Diocesan Fundraising Strategy to include trusts, foundations and legacies. The role is full-time and permanent. Closing date for applications Wednesday 17 May. Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

**PUBLIC LECTURE POSTPONED** Please note the Public Lecture due to be given by Professor Eamon Duffy at Holy Name Church, Jesmond on Saturday 20 May has been postponed.

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS** Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10am on Thursday 18 May.**

#### **Jen's Weekly Prayer**

The last pearl and faint peach light still gleams,  
the multi shades of violet, lilac, purple hues deepen.

These merging soft colours remind us  
that twilight falls to herald the night.

Their beauty is transient but captivating, it allows  
the darkened branches of the trees yet not in leaf  
to enhance us with their traceries of grace and splendour,  
the light behind them almost translucent.

They stand strong, patiently, silently,  
for their balletic performance is yet to come.

The night will not be without light  
for stars and moon will soon emerge and startle us  
with their sublime majesty landscape.

We too can stand strong as we move  
from one chapter of our daily lives to another.  
Change, challenge or adaption may be required  
especially for those facing struggles or dangers.  
We may not have yet fully learned our new steps  
but the rhythms will quickly become familiar  
for we will have guidance and support from the light  
and strength of the Holy Spirit and the warmth  
and comfort of those who care and cherish us,  
bringing love, hope and gentle peace.

*Jen Jones © May 2023*

**First Reading***Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17*

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm***Psalm 65:1-7. 16. 10. R/v.1***R/ Cry out with joy to God all the earth.**

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise.  
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;  
shall sing to you, sing to your name!  
Come and see the works of God,  
tremendous his deeds among men.
3. He turned the sea into dry land,  
they passed through the river dry-shod.  
Let our joy then be in him;  
he rules for ever by his might.
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.  
I will tell what he did for my soul:  
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer  
nor withhold his love from me.

**Second Reading***1 Peter 3:15-18*

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation***John 14:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'

Alleluia!

**Gospel***John 14:15-21*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day

you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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