



Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'
Matthew 23:1.12

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

5 November 2023

Thirty First 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 and Friday 10am - 2pm. She can also be contacted by email stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk or by telephone 0191 460 4274 on Tuesday & Wednesday 10am - 4pm and Friday 10am - 2pm. Postal Address: St Mary's Presbytery, Malvern Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 9LL

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 4 - 12 November 2023

Saturday 4 November	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 5 November	9.00am	St Mary	Holy Souls of Mitchell & Turnbull Families
Thirty First Sunday of the Year (Year A)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Freddy Bambrough (dec.)
Monday 6 November			
Tuesday 7 November <i>St Willibrord</i>	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	Deceased of the McPhee Family (AC)
Wednesday 8 November	9.30am	St Philip Neri	The Holy Souls
Thursday 9 November <i>Dedication of the Lateran Basilica N.B.</i>		<i>No Mass Today</i>	
Friday 10 November <i>St Leo the Great</i>	9.30am	St Mary	Priest's Intention
Saturday 11 November <i>St Martin of Tours</i>	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 12 November	9.00am	St Mary	Philip Arkless (ann.)
Thirty Second Sunday of the Year (Year A)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Maria Foy (dec.)
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>			

Weekday Readings Ordinary Time Week 31 Year 1

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Baptisms

This Sunday, in the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Evan Joseph Rath into the Family of the Church

RECENTLY DECEASED Please remember in your prayers Angela Milda Maria Corrigan, Dennis Michael George and David Leonard Linfoot who have died recently. The Requiem Mass for Angela Corrigan will be at 9.45am on Monday 13 November at Immaculate Heart Church followed by cremation at Mountsett Crematorium. The Requiem Mass for David Linfoot will be at 11.15am on Friday 17 November at St Mary's Church followed by cremation at Mountsett Crematorium. May they rest in peace. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK Veronica Coleman, Ann Crompton, Raymond Deponio, Barney & Veronica Hayes, Maria Thi Kien Chiene Le, John Leitch, Dickie Lindsley, Godfrey Mallett, Cheryl Anne McDonald, Nora Miller, Pauline Mulholland, Margaret Murphy, Astrid Muse (Gower), Mary Reid, Joseph Relph, 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).

CLERGY TRAINING FUND COLLECTION 2023 The Fund remains open until Sunday 26 November and there are envelopes at the back of church for any donations you may wish to make.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2023/2024 If your child is currently in Year 4 (or above) and they are not attending a Catholic School and you would like them to prepare to celebrate their First Holy Communion in 2024, please contact the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart as soon as possible, e-mail stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk or tel. 0191 460 4274, providing your name, address, telephone number and email address. Thank you.

CALLING ALL SENIOR MOMENTS CHRISTMAS PARTY VOLUNTEERS 2023! If you are interested in helping with the planning, organisation and preparation of the Seniors Christmas Lunch, please join us at 10am on Tuesday 14 November at St Mary's Hall, Whickham. If you are unable to attend, but are interested in helping, please contact Denise Hebron 07554 445679 or Katie Wilkinson tel. 07837 386760. Thank you.

SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY Our Christmas Party this year is on Wednesday 6 December at St Mary's Hall. Mass will be celebrated at 11.15am followed by lunch and festivities in St Mary's Hall. There are lists at the back of each Church - if you would like to attend, please put your name on the list by 25/26 November Also, if you know of anyone who would like to attend but is unable to get to church, let us know and we may be able to arrange transport for them. Contact details are Denise Hebron 07554 445679 or Katie Wilkinson tel. 07837 386760. Thank you.

GIFT FOR LIFE '100 CLUB' - NUMBERS STILL AVAILABLE
The good news is we've had a great start with people purchasing numbers for the '100 Club' – the even better news is you still have time to get yours! The first draw will take place on Sunday 3 December and numbers will be available after weekend Masses at our 3 churches until 26 November. Payment is in advance for the year either by cash or cheque (payable to *Our Lady and St Philip Neri*) and is £24 per number. A '100 Club' in the parish will be a different way of fundraising for the causes you all so generously support in Kenya, India and more locally. The prize level will depend on the number of participants who sign up and will be notified in the parish newsletter before the first draw. By way of an example, if there were 100 numbers bought, there is likely be a first prize of £50 and a second prize of £25 each month. Please have a word with one of the *Gift for Life* Group members or drop us an e-mail on giftforlife20@gmail.com to let us know if you would be interested in participating or to find out more. Thank you for your very generous support.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING (PPC) The next PPC meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 22 November 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

PARISH HALF-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT The Parish Financial Report for the 6 months April - September 2023 has been prepared and reveals parish funds have fallen by just under £7,000 to £251,845.

Income is primarily made up of offertory collections of £28,120 and rental income of £11,742 from the presbytery, hall and cottage at St Mary's, Whickham. Fundraising, donations and votive candles contribute a further £2,352.

Expenditure is spread over a number of categories including utilities (£9,390), staff wages (£9,041), clergy costs (£6,134), diocesan levy (£5,360), repairs (£4,326), insurance premiums (£3,770), gardening services (£2,990), Joe's Place donation (£1,494), anniversary celebration expenses (£1,177) council tax (£1,049) and various church requisites and parish office costs (£4,468).

One benefit still to be received during the second half of the financial year is the Gift Aid claim for the 2022/23 tax year which should, hopefully, be in excess of £10,000. On the downside is an anticipated increase in spend on repairs with both Immaculate Heart and St Philip's church heaters in need of replacement and the spectre of St Philip's roof repair also hangs over us.

Therefore, your ongoing generosity in the form of offertory collections is vital for us to continue to maintain our buildings in the best condition possible and, of course, to support our missionary outreach. While it is pleasing to report that the offertory figure of £28,120 quoted above is a £768 (+2.8%) increase on the same time period last year, it is actually £4,275 less than the pre-Covid closure collections of April to September 2019 - hence the difficulty in growing parish funds. As a separate item, the parish continues to hold monies on behalf of Gift for Life, Foodbank and special collections which total £12,640 at the end of September.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 November 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.

PARISH FOOD BANK AND REFUGEE PROJECT UPDATE
We welcome ALL non-perishable produce - even if you can only bring along 1 or 2 tins, please bring them along to church to help out.

FOOD ITEMS IN SHORT SUPPLY: UHT milk, tomato ketchup, tomato purée, sugar, washing up liquid, spray cleaner, shampoo, anti-perspirant.

OTHER priority items: all tinned vegetables i.e. peas, carrots, sweetcorn, potatoes, hotdogs, meatballs, chopped tomatoes, baked beans; rice pudding, custard, meat (mince, corned beef, pek), tuna, cereal, dried pasta, pasta sauce, long grain rice, biscuits, crisps, gravy granules, squash, cooking oil, mayonnaise, teabags, coffee, feminine hygiene (especially tampons), toilet rolls, shower gel, laundry powder/liquid, toothpaste.

Other items we put into the monthly food bags for the Refugee Project: chickpeas, kidney beans.

Every Thursday volunteers are in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church between 9.30am - 10.30am so parishioners can drop donations off 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, via mobile 07837 386760 or email teachkate1@gmail.com

LOVE CHRISTMAS - GET INVOLVED - ADVANCE NOTICE

Every Christmas the parish offers support to those in need at Christmas, and this year we intend to continue with this invaluable outreach work, again under the umbrella of the ecumenical UK Charity 'Love Christmas'. Last year our parish supported over 300 individuals during the Christmas season. The parish would like to repeat the previous years' amazing effort of supplying Christmas food hampers, presents to all recipients of the weekly Foodbank plus Brigitte Jones will be liaising and organising the *Angel Tree Project* for children identified as at risk of not receiving a gift this Christmas (**for ease - exactly the same as we did last year - the gifts donated via The Angel Tree will include the 46 children from the food bank families we support**). Finally, *Gift for Life* intend to sell handmade Christmas decorations and Christmas cards to help with their ongoing fund raising for this worthy project (dates of sales to be announced).

So how can you become involved?

- At the back of church there will be a list of special food items for the Christmas food hampers which you can buy - remember if you would prefer someone else to shop for food or gifts on your behalf, please feel free to donate cash - there'll be a box at the back of each church for any food donations purchased.
- You can opt to take a tag from the Angel Tree and donate a gift (please leave all gifts unwrapped but with the age & gender gift tag attached)
- You can also buy some Christmas cards to support the parish *Gift for Life* project.

Whichever way you chose to commit to this year's 'Love Christmas Project' someone, somewhere will be benefiting from your amazing generosity and they will be truly grateful.

Reminders:

- At the back of each church there's a food list of special items for the Christmas hampers. **Please note, food items need to be handed in by weekend 9/10 December** - there will be a box at the back of each church for these food donations.
- Each of our three churches will have an Angel Tree - please remember the gifts are for the food bank children plus the children identified by Social Services as being at risk of not receiving a gift this Christmas.

Finally:

Nearer to Christmas we will be announcing dates requesting volunteers to come along to Immaculate Heart Church to help wrap all the presents for our Food Bank & Social Services children plus helping to organise the Christmas food hampers. This huge task can only be successful with your brilliant support - last year's volunteers were absolutely amazing plus we all had a fun day.

Any queries please contact either Katie Wilkinson via email teachkate1@gmail.com telephone 07837 386760 or Denise Hebron via email denisehebron@yahoo.co.uk telephone 07554 445679.

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: A Service for those who mourn the loss of a child will take place on Sunday 19 November, 3.00pm at St Joseph's Church, Gateshead. All welcome.

ANNUAL SERVICE OF LIGHT SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 3PM You are cordially invited to join us for the annual Prayer Service, at St Mary's RC Church, Dockendale Lane, Whickham, on Sunday 19 November at 3pm. This candle-lit Service is to remember all our loved ones who have died in the Gateshead area and will be led by Revd Paul Nichol from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Chaplaincy Team and staff from St Bede's Hospice Unit. Light refreshments will be available in the Church Hall afterwards. Donations of biscuits or sweet mince pies would be welcomed and can be left at the back of church. Thank you.

GAUDETE! Calling all parish musicians - a workshop with Will Todd to learn his Mass setting, *Gaudete*. A free event open to all within the diocese - registration necessary. Sunday 12 November, St Joseph's Catholic Academy (Main Hall), Mill Lane, Hebburn, NE31 2ET, 2.30 - 4.30pm. *Gaudete* is a new Mass setting commissioned by the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust and is being made available for use in all parishes across our diocese. *Gaudete* will appeal to schools and parishes alike; it is tuneful and accessible and comes with a range of musical resources - including backing tracks for those parishes without many incumbent musicians. At the same time, it comes with both a melody and 3-part choir arrangement for the more musically ambitious parishes. The afternoon workshop will be led by the composer Will Todd, and it will consist of a learning session followed by a chance to meet/socialise with musicians from other parishes across the diocese. There will be an opportunity to learn the choral parts, or just sing along with the melody. Find out more about the composer at <https://willtodd.co.uk/>. You may have already attended one of Will's very popular workshops and singing days, or community events such as 'The Great Northeast Passion' in South Shields. Either way this promises to be a fun and rewarding afternoon. **Entry is free - with a retiring collection - but this event is likely to be popular and registration is vital. To register places please follow this link <https://diocesehn.org.uk/whats-on/event/a-workshop-to-learn-the-new-diocesan-mass-setting-gaudete/> or scan the QR code on the poster at the back of church. If you have any questions about the event, please contact the Diocesan Church Music Association at dcma@diocesehn.org.uk.**

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 9 November.**

Jen's Weekly Prayer

In the dark mists of pain and fear we need to find you.
When we are desolate from clouded and swirling doubts,
we cannot find the deep and healing place
which shelters you within.

You seem lost to us, we cannot see you.

Help us find the channel of your light
to bring us back to reason and to peace.

With you we can be strengthened and see
that challenges do not always mean adversity.
Give us the wisdom to find insight and clarity
to illuminate our darkness.

May the grey mists of fear be replaced
by streams of sunlight.

Guide us to those who will show us your love
and restore our strength.

Jen Jones @ October 2007

First Reading*Malachi 1:14-2:2. 8-10*

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalm 130*

R/ Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me.
2. Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul.
3. O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever.

Second Reading*1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13*

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*1 Samuel 3:9; John 6:68*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Gospel*Matthew 23:1-12*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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