



'Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.'
Mark 13:35

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

3 December 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Year B

*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 2 - 10 December 2023

Saturday 2 December	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	Kathleen & Gerard Cailey (dec.)
Sunday 3 December	9.00am	St Mary	Audrey Isobel Gleeson (dec.)
First Sunday of Advent (Year B)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	People of the Parish
Monday 4 December			
Tuesday 5 December	<u>10.00am</u>	Immaculate Heart	Requiem Mass - Edward Swanston RIP
Wednesday 6 December	<u>11.15am</u>	<u>St Mary</u>	Seniors Mass
Thursday 7 December	9.30am	<u>St Philip Neri</u>	Priest's Intention <i>St Philip Neri School attending</i>
Friday 8 December <i>Immaculate Conception of BVM</i>	9.30am	St Mary	George Turnbull (dec.)
Saturday 9 December	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 10 December	9.00am	St Mary	Audrey Isobel Gleeson (ann.)
Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Deirdrie & Geoff Taylor (ann.)

Weekday Readings Advent Week 1

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Baptisms

This Sunday, in the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Annabel, Christabel and Bella Imonikhe into the Family of the Church

***** The times of the Christmas Weekend Masses in the Parish are on the back page of the Newsletter *****

RECENTLY DECEASED Please remember in your prayers Edward Swanston, Godfrey Mallett and Edith Howstan who have died recently. The Requiem Mass for Edward Swanston will be celebrated at 10.00am on Tuesday 5 December at Immaculate Heart Church followed by cremation at Saltwell Crematorium. The Requiem Mass for Godfrey Mallett will be celebrated at 12 noon on Tuesday 12 December at St Philip Neri Church followed by burial at Garden House Cemetery. 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, 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).

ADVENT WALK WITH ME PRAYER BOOKLETS which give daily scripture readings and a reflection for each day of Advent are available at the back of each church, priced £1.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS The Diocesan Vicariate for Faith and Mission has produced an online booklet of Advent reflections, which can be found here: [Advent Reflections 2023 FINAL \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](https://diocesehn.org.uk).

GIFT FOR LIFE '100 CLUB' – FIRST DRAW THIS WEEKEND – AND CHRISTMAS CARDS TOO! Many thanks to everyone who purchased numbers for the Gift for Life '100 Club'. Subscriptions have now closed for this year and the first draw will take place after Mass at Immaculate Heart this Sunday (3rd December). The great news is that we are in a position to have 3 prizes each month of £50, £25 and £15. All profits will go to the causes you support in Kenya, India and more locally. Also, we have a small number of Christmas cards for sale - with prices kept the same as last year (£3 for 8 cards or 50p each) Thank you for your very generous support.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 December 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.

ST PHILIP NERI SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR St Philip Neri School is having a Christmas Fair in school on Tuesday 5 December 3.30pm - 5.00pm. Parishioners are very welcome attend. Any donations of toys, jigsaws, board games in good condition would be very gratefully received.

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. Contact details are: Denise Hebron tel. 07554 445679 or Katie Wilkinson tel. 07837 386760. Thank you.

IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE Any donations would be gratefully received for the Immaculate Heart Christmas raffle. All monies raised will go towards parish funds. Tickets can be purchased from Ann Bullock.

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.

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD *'Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come.'* Is the Lord awakening you to consider a vocation to the priesthood? Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter, Fr Shaun Purdy: 01207 299012 or vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk

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: dried pasta, long grained rice, tinned tuna, fruit, hot dogs, meatballs, meat (mince, corned beef, pek), cereal, crisps.

Other priority items: UHT milk, tinned garden pea, carrots, potatoes, sweetcorn, potatoes, meatballs, baked beans, soup, tomatoes, pasta sauce, biscuits, sugar, gravy granules, squash, mayonnaise, tomato ketchup, tomato purée, teabags, coffee, cooking oil, washing up liquid, spray cleaner & feminine hygiene (especially tampons), toilet rolls, anti-perspiration, shampoo, toothpaste & laundry powder/liquid.

Other items we put into the monthly food bags for the Refugee Project: tinned 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

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR - JOB VACANCIES Exciting opportunities are now available at St Joseph's Care Home (Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle) for care assistants and nurses. Hours available:

Care Assistant: Shifts are 8am-3pm, 3pm-9pm

Nurse: Shifts are 8am-4pm, 1pm-9pm

Excellent rates of pay. For more information please contact Lee-Marie Thornley on 07856 256095 or email lee.marie@lspplondon.co.uk

FUNDRAISING FOR THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR If you have any foreign currency (notes & coins from any country or period), broken or unwanted pieces of gold & silver (even earring backs) & unwanted military medals (any conflict or period) unless they have sentimental value to the families would you please consider donating them to the Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle for their fundraising appeal. Items can be donated via David KLJ & Theresa DLJ O'Neill, 34 Morston Drive, Newcastle, NE15 7RZ Tel: 0191 264 5771 email: david-oneill3@sky.com

NORTH EAST CATHOLIC SOCIETY The next lecture from the North East Catholic Society will be on Wednesday 6 December at 2pm at St Joseph's Centre, High Street West, Gateshead on the subject of The Italian links with Ushaw College. The lecturer will be Lucia Luck. Non-members welcome for a fee of £1.00. Refreshments available.

INVITATION FROM THE SACRED HEART SISTERS IN FENHAM
The Society of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) has spent the last year giving thanks and celebrating their arrival in England on 8 December 1842. This year the celebration of our 180 years in this country draws to a close on 8 December 2023. We, the Sisters in Fenham, would like to invite those who have shared our mission of Education in Fenham over the years as students, pupils, staff and friends from the Sacred Heart Schools or St Mary's Teacher Training College to join us for Mass in St Robert's Church, Bolbec Road, Fenham at 6.00pm on that day (Friday 8 December). Come along and meet old friends. Bishop Séamus Cunningham will be the celebrant as he was the College Chaplain for many years. To have some idea of numbers for the Mass leaflets please RSVP to rscjfenham@yahoo.com by 30 November or leave a message on 0191 4223840.

LOVE CHRISTMAS 2023 Well, all the preparations for the annual outreach work 'Love Christmas' are well underway.

- At the back of church there is the list of special food items required for the Christmas hampers which will be given to the Parish Food Bank recipients. Please put your special food donations in the box at the back of church. **All food donations must be in by the weekend of 9/10 December.**
- Last weekend saw the launch of 'The Angel Tree' please be as generous as you can in buying gifts for the 46 children of families supported by the Parish Food Bank plus all the remaining donations will go to other children across Gateshead who may be risk of not receiving a present this year. **Please leave gifts unwrapped and include the gift tag taken from the tree - gifts must be handed in by next weekend 9/10 December.**
- Remember if you would prefer someone else to shop on your behalf, for either Christmas hamper donations or Angel Tree gifts, please feel free to donate cash.
- Lastly - Thank you for your consistent, continued support and unbelievable generosity in everything the parish participates in. Whichever way you choose to support the parish's outreach work this Christmas, someone, somewhere, will benefit and will be very appreciative. 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE MAKING A DESPERATE CALL OUT FOR HELPERS TO WRAP PRESENTS Why not become a 'Santa's Little Helper' for a couple of hours at Immaculate Heart? Please, please, please come along to the Packing and Wrapping session on the following date, as we really can't do this without you!

On Tuesday 12 December there will be two opportunities for you to help out - session one at 10am and session two at 6.30pm.

All the volunteers really enjoyed being involved in this 'nice bit' last year. Please don't be shy you will be welcomed with open arms -**(you plus your scissors & sellotape if possible!)** 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.

ANGEL TREE PROJECT - Recognition and heartfelt 'thank you' to Brigitte Jones. At each of the three Masses, last weekend, Brigitte bid a fond farewell to organising and coordinating the amazing outreach work of the Angel Tree Project which she has dedicated herself to for the past 42 years. Her tireless and enthusiastic contribution over these years in helping deprived children at Christmas is nothing short of remarkable and awe inspiring. The Angel Tree Project, introduced by Brigitte, was and still is one of the most wonderful Christian initiatives which makes the real meaning of Christmas come alive for all our parishioners, encouraging us all to actively participate in living our faith. Brigitte's amazing work will survive over the future years and will continue for as long as there are vulnerable children.

A heartfelt 'thank you' just seem insufficient, however, the parish is truly grateful for her initiative and selfless volunteering over the years.



ADVENT ALMS 2023 A message from Nic Gilbert, CEO of St Cuthbert's Care: *This Advent, I wish to appeal for funds to support our community work, focusing on those in need of hot, nutritious food and older isolated people needing a little company. For over 10 years our Alan Shearer Activity Centre has provided free, sensory and therapeutic facilities for children and adults living with disabilities. We recognise that often those living with disabilities experience a higher cost of living due to additional costs for powering vital equipment, such as hoists and ventilators and more frequent laundering of clothes and bedding. To help alleviate some of the financial pressures faced, throughout this winter we will be providing a free delicious meal and a warm drink to our members and their family. This new project will complement our work to provide a subsidised meal for our lunch clubs where older isolated people come together to share a hot meal and much needed company.*

There will be a retiring collection for Advent Alms at all Masses on the weekend of 16/17 December.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:

Safeguarding Adviser, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle - full-time, permanent. Closing date: 12 December

IT Manager, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle - full-time, permanent. Closing date: 12 December

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 7 December.**

Jen's Weekly Prayer

As the days shorten and autumn fades into winter, help us to reflect upon the many and varied journeys we have undertaken this year.

For some they will have been as colour-filled as a pathway of multi-coloured flowers.

Others may have felt stones within the bed of flowers and many have had to endure rubble, fire, flood and war.

Roads vary but we can unite with others with our generosity of spirit

and acts of kindness and compassion.

Whilst unable to change circumstances, we can support those who need an arm to lean on, an ear to hear or know that voices we cannot hear

are holding and caring for those in distress and like the flowers which need water they can bring love and from love

comes hope and strength, and accompanied we can continue our journeys holding those we cannot see in our hearts.

Across our world many are suffering from hunger, pain, cold and helplessness.

Grant all who are suffering to be comforted, given shelter and find peace and rest in your healing, embracing hands.

Jen Jones © November 2023

First Reading*Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalm 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R/ v.4*

R/ God of hosts, bring us back;

let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second Reading*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*Psalm 84:8*

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

Gospel*Mark 13:33-37*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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Responsorial Psalm from *The Psalms: A New Translation* © 1963 The Grail (England) published by HarperCollins.

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND MASS TIMES AT OUR THREE CHURCHES (N.B. Carols will be sung before the Christmas Eve 6.30pm Mass and the Christmas Day 9.30am Mass)		
Saturday 23 December Fourth Sunday of Advent	5.30pm	Mass at St Philip Neri Church, Dunston
Sunday 24 December Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Mass at St Mary's, Whickham
Christmas Eve 24 December The Nativity of the Lord	6.30pm	Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill
Monday 25 December Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord	9.30am	Mass at St Philip Neri, Dunston