



'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.'
Mark 1:2

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
Parish Telephone 0191 460 4274
Parish E-mail stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk
Parish Website www.theparish.org.uk
Diocesan Website www.diocesehn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

10 December 2023

Second 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. She can also be contacted by email stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk or by telephone 0191 460 4274 on Tuesday & Wednesday 10am - 4pm.

Postal Address: St Mary's Presbytery, Malvern Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 9LL

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 9 - 17 December 2023

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.)
Monday 11 December			
Tuesday 12 December	<u>12 noon</u>	<u>St Philip Neri</u>	Requiem Mass - Godfrey Mallett RIP
Wednesday 13 December	9.30am	St Philip Neri	Bernard Hearne (dec.)
Thursday 14 December	9.30am	St Mary	Private Intention (AS)
Friday 15 December			
Saturday 16 December	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	Daniel Harrison (dec.)
Sunday 17 December	9.00am	St Mary	People of the Parish
Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	John Arkless (dec.)

Weekday Readings Advent Week 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

***** 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 Godfrey Mallett and Edith Howstan who have died recently. 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. The Requiem Mass for Edith Howstan will be celebrated at 9.15am on Tuesday 19 December at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church followed by cremation at Saltwell 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, 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 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 next weekend 16/17 December.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL CANDLES If you would like a candle to be lit during the Christmas season in memory of your deceased loved ones, please write their name(s) on one of the envelopes at the back of our three churches and include your donation. **Please complete and return your envelopes by Tuesday 19 December** and don't forget to indicate in which church you would like the candle to be lit. Completed envelopes can be placed in the collection baskets at weekend Masses or posted through the letterbox at Immaculate Heart Presbytery.

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://www.diocesehn.org.uk).

THE NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR 2024 is now available and on sale at the back of church this weekend, price £3.00.

GIFT FOR LIFE '100 CLUB' – DRAW RESULTS – AND CHRISTMAS CARDS Many thanks to everyone who purchased numbers for the Gift for Life '100 Club'. The first draw took place last weekend at Immaculate Heart and the lucky numbers were: 1st Prize (£50) number 59; 2nd Prize (£25) number 53 and 3rd Prize (£15) number 46. Congratulations to the winners! The next draw will take place on Sunday 7th January after Mass at St Mary's. 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). Look out for them after Mass or contact us on giftforlife20@gmail.com Thank you for your very generous support.

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.

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, tinned garden peas, carrots, potatoes, sweetcorn, baked beans, soup, tomatoes, fruit, custard, jam, rice pudding, sugar, gravy granules, tomato ketchup mayonnaise, cooking oil, spray cleaner.

Other priority items: dried pasta, long grained rice, tinned meat (mince, corned beef, pek), tuna, meatballs, hot dogs, pasta sauce, biscuits, cereal, crisps, squash, tomato purée, toilet rolls, teabags, coffee, toothpaste, feminine hygiene (especially tampons), toilet rolls, anti-perspirant, shampoo, washing up liquid, 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@lsplondon.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

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
The Newcastle Male Chorus and Gibside Singers will be performing a Christmas Concert in the Chapel at St Joseph's Home, Little Sisters of the Poor, Westmorland Road, Newcastle NE4 on Saturday 16 December 2023 at 7.00pm. The concert is in aid of the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor here in St Joseph's Home. Tickets are £8 (interval drink included), available from St Joseph's Home.

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD "A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight." Could you be like John the Baptist and help prepare the way for the Lord in the lives of the people of our Diocese? Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter, Fr Shaun Purdy: tel. 01207 299012 or email vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk

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

- **Christmas hampers** - 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 this weekend 9/10 December.**
- **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 this 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.

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.

HOLY ISLAND SVP CAMP Are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2024? 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, sand castle 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 a donation of £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> Applications open from 5 December 2023.

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 14 December.**

Jen's Weekly Prayer

The stars gleam and glow spreading
their unique inspiring beauty across darkened skies.

Within they are alive and vibrant,
we may not always see them but like love
they continue to glow even when they are not seen.
We can celebrate with joy the forthcoming wonder
of an amazing birth, which brought an everlasting love
and light into our world.

This light is an infinite freely given gift to us all
to nurture and to cherish.
Help us to keep reaching out with acts of care, love
and compassion and grant that they will ignite
strength and comfort to those who receive them.

Like the stars shining across darkness,
grant to those who are suffering from
homelessness, conflict, pain and hunger.
to find healing, hope, peace and love.

Jen Jones © December 2023

First Reading*Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*

'Console my people, console them', says your God.
 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her
 that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,
 that she has received from the hand of the Lord
 double punishment for all her crimes.'
 A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.
 Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
 Let every valley be filled in,
 every mountain and hill be laid low.
 Let every cliff become a plain,
 and the ridges a valley;
 then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
 and all mankind shall see it;
 for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
 Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.
 Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
 Shout without fear,
 say to the towns of Judah,
 'Here is your God.'
 Here is the Lord coming with power,
 his arm subduing all things to him.
 The prize of his victory is with him,
 his trophies all go before him.
 He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
 gathering lambs in his arms,
 holding them against his breast
 and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Responsorial Psalm***Psalms 84:9-14. R/ v.8*

**R/ Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
 and give us your saving help.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
 a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.
 His help is near for those who fear him
 and his glory will dwell in our land.
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
 justice and peace have embraced.
 Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
 and justice look down from heaven.
3. The Lord will make us prosper
 and our earth shall yield its fruit.
 Justice shall march before him
 and peace shall follow his steps.

Second Reading*II Peter 3:8-14*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget:
 that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a
 thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry
 out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he
 is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and
 everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the
 Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will
 vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth
 and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is
 coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and
 saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to
 come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements
 melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised:

the new heavens and new earth, the place where
 righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you
 are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so
 that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*Luke 3:4. 6*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
 and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel*Mark 1:1-8*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son
 of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:
 Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
 he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,
 proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of
 sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their
 way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river
 Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of
 camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the
 course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me,
 someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to
 kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised
 you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

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, 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