



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

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'
Luke 2:29-32

31 December 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Year B

The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, will be in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery this week on Wednesday 10am - 4pm and Friday 10am - 2pm. She can also be contacted by email stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk or by telephone 0191 460 4274 on Wednesday 10am - 4pm and Friday 10am - 2pm
Postal Address: St Mary's Presbytery, Malvern Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 9LL

Saturday 30 December	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	N.B.F.
Sunday 31 December 2024	9.00am	St Mary	People of the Parish
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Deceased of the Mulligan Family
Monday 1 January 2024	<u>10.00am</u>	Immaculate Heart	Priest's Intention
<i>Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God</i>			
Tuesday 2 January <i>SS Basil & Gregory Nazianzen</i>	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	For the Parish - In Thanksgiving for your prayers (AC)
Wednesday 3 January	9.30am	St Philip Neri	N.B.F.
Thursday 4 January	9.30am	St Mary	Priest's Intention
Friday 5 January			
Saturday 6 January	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	Prayer Shawl Recipients
Sunday 7 January	9.00am	St Mary	People of the Parish
The Epiphany of the Lord	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Jim & Anne McPhee (60 th Wedding Anniversary)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Fr John Gibbons and Mary Reid who have died recently. 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).

LITURGICAL FORMATION FOR READERS OF THE WORD OF GOD This short course supports new and existing Readers of the Liturgy of the Word and on completion will conclude with a Commissioning Service. The dates of the course are: **Session 1:** Monday 15 January 2024, 7.00-9.00pm. **Session 2:** Saturday 20 January 2024, 10.30am-3.00pm (to include a Commissioning Service). Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch for the day event - tea and coffee will be provided. **Location:** St Mary's, Dockendale Lane, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE16 4EN. **Cost:** £12.50 per person (this will be met by the parish). **If any existing Readers would like to attend the course, please contact the Parish Office by Wednesday 10 January. If you are interested in becoming a Reader, and would like to attend the course, please contact Fr Peter by Wednesday 10 January.**

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office by 10.00am on Thursday 4 January.



Fr Peter wishes you and your families all the joys and blessings of the Christmas season. He also thanks you for your cards and gifts which he very much appreciates.



First Reading*Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3*

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalms 127(128):1-5*

**R/ O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!**

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.
2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion.
all the days of your life!

Second Reading*Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19*

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*Hebrews 1:1-2*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel*Luke 2:22-40*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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