



He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils. but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.  
*Mark 1:34*

**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

**4 February 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of the Year**

**Year B**

*The Parish Secretary, Julie Hindmarsh, will be in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery this week on Tuesday 10am - 1pm & 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 4274/07891 162205. Postal Address: St Mary's Presbytery, Malvern Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 9LL*

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 3 - 11 February 2024**

<b>Saturday 3 February</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>St Philip Neri</b>	Gerard Cailey (ann.)
<b>Sunday 4 February</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>St Mary</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Fifth Sunday of the Year (Year B)</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Immaculate Heart</b>	Thomas Quinn (ann.)
Monday 5 February <i>St Agatha</i>			
Tuesday 6 February <i>St Paul Miki &amp; Companions</i>	<i>N.B.</i>	<i>No Service</i>	
Wednesday 7 February	<i>N.B.</i>	<i>No Service</i>	
Thursday 8 February	<i>N.B.</i>	<i>No Service</i>	
Friday 9 February	<u>12.15pm</u>	St Mary	Requiem Mass - Gordon Embley RIP
<b>Saturday 10 February</b> <i>St Scholastica</i>	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>St Philip Neri</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 11 February</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>St Mary</b>	Pat Heffernan (dec.)
<b>Sixth Sunday of the Year (Year B)</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Immaculate Heart</b>	Gerty Watson (ann.)

**Weekday Readings Ordinary Time Week 5 Year 2**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
 5.00pm - 5.20pm on Saturday at St Philip Neri

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Gordon Embley, Catherine Clark and Dickie Lindsley who have died recently. The Requiem Mass for Gordon Embley will be celebrated at 12.15pm on Friday 9 February at St Mary's followed by cremation at Saltwell Crematorium. The Requiem Mass for Catherine Clark will be celebrated at 10.00am on Tuesday 13 February at St Philip Neri followed by burial at Saltwell Cemetery. The Requiem Mass for Dickie Lindsley will be celebrated at 9.45am on Friday 16 February at St Mary's 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, Marie Hogg, Maria Thi Kien Chiene Le, John Leitch, Cheryl Anne McDonald, Nora Miller, Pauline Mulholland, Margaret Murphy, Astrid Muse (Gower), 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).*

**ASH WEDNESDAY** marks the beginning of the Season of Lent and will be celebrated this year on Wednesday 14 February. Ash Wednesday Masses will be: 9.30am at St Mary's and 6.30pm at Immaculate Heart.

**LAST YEAR'S PALMS** If you still have a palm or palms from last Palm Sunday, could you please bring them to church by next weekend 10/11 February so that they can be burnt for use as the ashes which will be distributed at Masses on Ash Wednesday (14 February). Thank you.

**WALK WITH ME LENTEN BOOKLETS**, which include a daily reflection for each day of Lent, are now available to purchase at each church, price £1.

**DIOCESAN LENTEN REFLECTIONS** The Diocesan Vicariate for Faith and Mission will be producing booklets of Daily Lenten Reflections which will be available for viewing, downloading and printing from the Diocesan website, using this weblink: <https://bit.ly/DHNLentReflections>

**PARISH FINANCE REPORT APRIL - DECEMBER 2023** The Finance Report for the 9 months to the end of December has been prepared and reveals parish funds have fallen by £3,334 to £255,495 which is an improvement on the first 6 months position.

Income is primarily made up of offertory collections of £43,568 and rental income from St Mary's, Whickham presbytery, hall and cottage of £17,936. Fundraising, donations and votive candles contribute a further £9,965.

Expenditure is spread over a number of categories including utilities (£15,850), staff wages (£13,637), clergy costs (£7,574), diocesan levy (£8,040), repairs (£6,605), insurance premiums (£5,889), gardening services (£3,712), Joe's Place Donation (£1,494), anniversary celebration expenses (£1,177), council tax (£1,574) and various church requisites and parish office costs (£9,252).

One benefit to be received during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year (January - March 2024) is the Gift Aid claim for the 2022/23 tax year which should be £8,227. On the downside will be an increase in repair costs with both Immaculate Heart and St Philip's church heaters being replaced and the bell tower at St Philip's in need of essential maintenance. The spectre of St Philip's roof replacement also looms.

Therefore, your ongoing generosity in the form of offertory collections is vital for us to continue our mission and to maintain our buildings in the best condition possible. While it is pleasing to report that the offertory figure of £43,568 is a £1,855 (+4.4%) increase on the same time period last year, it is actually £6,385 less than the pre-Covid closure collections of April to December 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 £18,988 at the end of December. Thank you all for your continuing support.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 February 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.

**FOOD BANK & REFUGEE 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, long grained rice, tomato purée, tinned tuna, soup, sweetcorn, carrots, potatoes, mayonnaise, biscuits, antiperspirant, laundry powder/liquid.

**Other priority items:** dried pasta, pasta sauce, tinned meat (mince, corned beef, pek), hotdogs, meatballs, garden peas, chopped tomatoes, fruit, baked beans, custard, rice pudding, cooking oil, gravy granules, crisps, biscuits, jam, cereal, squash, tomato ketchup, sugar, teabags, coffee, spray cleaner, washing up liquid, feminine hygiene (especially tampons), toilet rolls, shampoo, toothpaste.

**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](mailto:teachkate1@gmail.com)

**GIFT FOR LIFE '100 CLUB' DRAW AND NEXT GIFT FOR LIFE GROUP MEETING** Our February Gift for Life '100 Club' draw takes place after Mass this Sunday (4 February) at Immaculate Heart. Come along for refreshments, good conversation and see the draw take place. It could be you!

Also, the next Gift for Life Group meeting takes place at 7pm on Thursday 8 February at St Mary's Church Hall. Please let us know if you wish to attend by emailing [giftforlife20@gmail.com](mailto:giftforlife20@gmail.com). Many thanks for all your support.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 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 this year, please contact the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart as soon as possible, e-mail [stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk](mailto:stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk) or tel. 0191 460 4274, providing your name, address, telephone number and email address. Thank you.

**MARY'S PLACE NEWCASTLE** A message of thanks "*Many thanks to those who generously provided sleeping bags for Mary's Place. They were all very much appreciated.*" Ann Joyce.

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

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS** Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 8 February.**

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

Peace can flourish like the might sequoia tree  
or it can become withered like the fine oak that is placed  
in barren soil which erodes and destroys.

We all seek to find peace within ourselves,  
for our families and communities  
but whilst it is strong it can be broken by indifference,  
lack of nurturing or lack of contentment.

The natural world is equipped to sustain and support us  
yet many are starving or without adequate water supplies  
because of indifference, greed and desires of others  
to take what is not theirs.

May justice, peace and hope prevail  
to be as mighty and as strong and majestic  
as the sequoia tree whose bark looks rough  
but it is strong and soft, offering when touched, comfort.

In areas of world where war, terrorism, corruption,  
pain and disasters are continuing  
to challenge and harm many lives,  
may they feel the soft, gentle arms of strength,  
courage and hope holding them  
to ease their hearts and minds  
and fill them with love and peace.

*Jen Jones*  
© January 2023

**First Reading***Job 7:1-4. 6-7*

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,  
his time no better than hired drudgery?

Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no  
thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to  
me, nothing for my own but nights of grief.

Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'

Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,  
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.

Remember that my life is but a breath,  
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm***Psalm 146:1-6. R/ v3*

**R/ Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.**

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;  
sing to our God for he is loving;  
to him our praise is due.
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem  
and brings back Israel's exiles,  
he heals the broken-hearted,  
he binds up all their wounds.  
He fixes the number of the stars;  
he calls each one by its name.
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;  
his wisdom can never be measured.  
The Lord raises the lowly;  
he humbles the wicked to the dust.

**Second Reading***1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23*

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which  
has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach  
it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for  
it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put  
into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in  
my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not  
insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the  
slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the  
weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men  
in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the  
sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessing.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation***Matthew 8:17*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

He took our sicknesses away,  
and carried our diseases for us.

Alleluia!

**Gospel***Mark 1:29-39*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John  
straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's  
mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him  
about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand  
and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to  
wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him  
all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils.  
The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured  
many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or  
another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow  
them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the  
house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon  
and his companions set out in search of him, and when they  
found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He  
answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country  
towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I  
came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their  
synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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