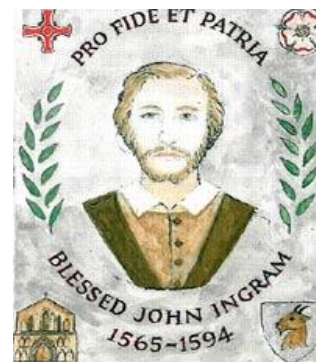




Jesus said to the leper 'Be cured!' and the leprosy left him at once and he was cured.  
Cf. Mark 1:41-42

**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  
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Parish Website [www.theparish.org.uk](http://www.theparish.org.uk)  
Diocesan Website [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)



The John Ingram Partnership  
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

**11 February 2024**

**Sixth 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 - 4pm & 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 10 - 18 February 2024**

<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.)
Monday 12 February			
Tuesday 13 February	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>St Philip Neri</u>	Requiem Mass - Catherine Clark RIP
<b>Ash Wednesday 14 February</b> <i>Season of Lent begins</i>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>St Mary</b>	Priest's Intention
<b>(Day of Fasting and Abstinence)</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Immaculate Heart</b>	Angela Corrigan (dec.)
Thursday 15 February	9.30am	St Mary	N.B.F.
Friday 16 February	<u>9.45am</u>	<u>St Mary</u>	Requiem Mass - Dickie Lindsley RIP
	6.30pm	Immaculate heart	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
<b>Saturday 17 February</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>St Philip Neri</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 18 February</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>St Mary</b>	In Thanksgiving (KC)
<b>First Sunday of Lent (Year B)</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Immaculate Heart</b>	John Arkless (ann.)

**Weekday Readings** Monday, Tuesday - Ordinary Time Week 6 Year 2, Wednesday & following - Season of Lent

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

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

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

9.00am - 9.25am on Wednesday at St Philip Neri and Thursday at St Mary's

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Catherine Clark and Dickie Lindsley who have died recently. 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, Tony Richardson, 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 Wednesday 14 February. Ash Wednesday Masses will be: 9.30am at St Mary's and 6.30pm at Immaculate Heart and ashes will be distributed.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** There will be Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm on the following Fridays during Lent:

Friday 16 February at Immaculate Heart, Friday 23 February at St Mary, Friday 1 March at St Philip Neri, Friday 8 March at Immaculate Heart, Friday 15 March at St Mary, Friday 22 March at St Philip Neri.

**LAST YEAR'S PALMS** If you still have a palm or palms from last Palm Sunday, could you please bring them to church this 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.

**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. Monetary donations are also very much appreciated.

**FOOD ITEMS IN SHORT SUPPLY:** UHT milk, tinned hotdogs, tuna, soup, sweetcorn, carrots, garden peas, potatoes, chopped tomatoes, fruit, custard, rice pudding, biscuits.

**Other priority items:** dried pasta, pasta sauce, tinned meat (mince, corned beef, pek), meatballs, tuna, soup, baked beans, long grained rice, tomato purée, cooking oil, gravy granules, crisps, biscuits, jam, cereal, squash, tomato ketchup, mayonnaise, sugar, spray cleaner, teabags, coffee, washing up liquid, laundry powder/liquid, feminine hygiene (especially tampons), antiperspirant 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 church between 9.30am -10.30am so parishioners can drop donations off here 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 386 760 or email [teachkate1@gmail.com](mailto:teachkate1@gmail.com)

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING (PPC)** The next PPC meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 28 February 2024. If you have any issues or queries you would like to raise, please contact one of your church representatives by Sunday 25 February.

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

**GIFT FOR LIFE '100 CLUB' - FEBRUARY DRAW RESULTS**

The February draw for the Gift for Life '100 Club' took place last weekend at Immaculate Heart and the lucky numbers were: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize (£50) number 142; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (£25) number 15 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (£15) number 98. Congratulations to the winners! If you haven't yet received your prize, please make contact on [giftforlife20@gmail.com](mailto:giftforlife20@gmail.com) Thank you for your very generous 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.

**SYCAMORE - ONLINE SESSIONS FOR LENT 2024** Take some time out with God during this Lenten season and join us online (via Zoom) for a series of Sycamore sessions as we explore how we can live out our 'Ministry of Love'. The sessions will take place on Thursdays throughout Lent from 7.00pm to 8.15pm.

15 February "The Existence of God"  
22 February "Who is Jesus?"  
29 February "The Holy Spirit and the Church"  
7 March "The Gift of Faith"  
14 March "Finding True Freedom"  
21 March "The Meaning of Love"

All are welcome! Each session can stand alone so there is no obligation to attend all if you can't commit to every week. Some of you may have had experience of Sycamore previously, so we'll be using an alternative set of questions which will give you more opportunities to reflect on your own experiences of faith. Please register your interest to receive the Zoom link. You can do this by completing [the online form](#) or by calling the Diocesan Admin. Team on tel. 0191 243 3316.

**SVP MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT OFFICER (MSO)** The St Vincent de Paul Society is a Catholic lay organisation whose members seek out and help those in need in the community. It would like to recruit an MSO for the Hexham and Newcastle diocese to support member recruitment and development, provide general support for members and be the link between groups and National Office. This is a part time, home-based role (22.5 hours per week - 3 days equivalent) working as part of the SVP Membership Team. It would suit someone comfortable giving presentations to large audiences as well working on a personal level with individuals and small groups. It requires the ability to travel around the diocese to make recruitment appeals, work with existing groups, attend meetings and meet with interested parties where appropriate. Having your own transport is essential. Travel expenses are paid. For further information and details on how to apply please contact Lance Philpott, Head of Membership by email [lancep@svp.org.uk](mailto:lancep@svp.org.uk). Closing date for applications is Sunday 7 April.

**LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2024** Our Lady of Lourdes invites us to come to the Holy Grotto at Lourdes to experience the love and healing of her Son. As a diocesan family we will be responding to her call as we make our diocesan pilgrimage from the 26 July - 2 August 2024. Everyone is welcome. We will welcome back our youth pilgrims and offer a special welcome to those who have never been to Lourdes before. The theme in Lourdes this year is, "come here in procession." It is the third part of the theme over the last three years based on Our Lady's words to St Bernadette, "Go tell the priests to build a chapel here and people are to come here in procession." The theme fits well with 2024 being a year of prayer. We will join thousands of pilgrims from around the world in coming to Lourdes in procession and prayer. Please consider coming on pilgrimage. If that is not possible then please do participate with your prayers from home. You may wish to participate via the live streams from the Lourdes Sanctuary, which are available online every day. For further details, <https://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk/>. Please pray for the success of our diocesan pilgrimage.

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS** Bishop Stephen will celebrate a Mass for Marriage and Family Life at 12 noon on Saturday 17 February at St Mary's Cathedral. All are welcome to attend

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

**LOUDFENCE 3 - 6 MARCH 2024** A message from Bishop Stephen: 'I am delighted and honoured to say that together with Newcastle Cathedral [St Nicholas] and the Diocese of Newcastle we will be hosting a LOUDfence at St. Mary's Cathedral. It will begin with the 11.30am Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 3 March and will end with a Service in Newcastle Cathedral at 6pm on Wednesday 6 March. All are welcome to the Mass and the final Service. Both Cathedrals will be open during these days and people are welcome to come and pray or offer their thoughts for those who have suffered abuse in any way. There will be opportunities to leave prayer ribbons and other prayerful symbols inside and outside of the cathedrals, recognising that for some people entering a church will be distressing. There will be trained people available at both cathedrals to listen to and accompany those who wish to speak. You may recall I invited representatives of LOUDfence and victim/survivors to my Installation Mass last July. The prayer ribbons presented to me remain on my Chair as a reminder to never forget those who have suffered. The LOUDfence ministry is explained by its founders: "We want all survivors and victims of abuse to know that we believe you, we will hear and support you and we will do all we can to prevent this happening again. People are invited to join in by tying a ribbon, pausing to reflect, offering a prayer and making a resolution in solidarity with survivors," explains Survivors Voices and End Church Abuse activist Antonia Sobocki, who brought the first LOUDfence to the UK in 2020, at the parish of Kirkbampton, Cumbria. Please see: <https://survivorsvoices.org/loudfence/> and @ASobocki on X (formerly Twitter). Please do come and offer your prayerful support to those who have suffered. We pray for healing and to never forget our need to safeguard the vulnerable. We are very grateful to join with our Church of England sisters and brothers in this time of prayer, reflection, and advocacy.'

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS** Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 15 February**.

## First Reading

*Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 31:1-2. 5. 11. R/ v7*

**R/ You are my refuge, O Lord;  
you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted.  
O happy the man to whom the Lord  
imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile.
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins;  
my guilt I did not hide.  
I said: 'I will confess  
my offence to the Lord.'  
And you, Lord, have forgiven  
the guilt of my sin.
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!  
O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart.

## Second Reading

*1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1*

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Cf. Ephesians 1:17-18*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our mind,  
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

*Mark 1:40-45*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

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. Used with permission.

## Jen's Weekly Prayer

As our world is facing so many difficulties,  
struggles and fears, we need to feel the gentle yet strong  
hand of hope, holding and calming us  
to continue to look outwards.

We need courage and guidance to light our way  
and to those who are in positions of influence, power  
and authority, right judgment, understanding, wisdom,  
to be open to looking at the problems  
and man-made difficulties we are encountering  
and work together to find solutions that will enhance  
and empower individuals to begin to see a way  
to peace and understanding for everyone.

For a commitment to end wars, injustice, hatred,  
oppression, suppression, subjugation, intolerance.  
A commitment to truly begin to take greater care  
of our damaged planet in order that the very young  
will have a more caring, cleaner, safer world,  
where generations can meet on equal terms  
and value the wisdom and insight  
the continuum has to offer.

With hope, peace, compassion and the light of love  
to guide us, may we walk together in peace.

*Jen Jones © February 2023*