



Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. He was with the wild beasts and the angels looked after him.

cf. Mark 1: 12,13

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

Diocesan Website www.diocesehn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

18 February 2024

First Sunday of Lent

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 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 17 - 25 February 2024

Saturday 17 February	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 18 February	9.00am	St Mary	In Thanksgiving (KC)
First Sunday of Lent (Year B)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	John Arkless (ann.)
Monday 19 February			
Tuesday 20 February	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	Deo Gratias (AC)
Wednesday 21 February	9.30am	St Philip Neri	Priest's Intention
Thursday 22 February <i>The Chair of St Peter</i>	9.30am	St Mary	Mitchell & Turnbull Families (liv. & dec.)
Friday 23 February	6.30pm	St Mary	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
<i>CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day</i>			
Saturday 24 February	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 25 February	9.00am	St Mary	Peter Hammill (dec.)
Second Sunday of Lent (Year B)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Mr & Mrs W Tate (dec.)

Weekday Readings - First Week of Lent

Sacrament of Reconciliation

5.00pm - 5.20pm on Saturday at St Philip Neri, 9.00am - 9.20am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

9.00am - 9.25am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Mary Rose Telford who has died recently. The Requiem Mass for Mary will be on Tuesday 27 February at Immaculate Heart Church at 11.00am followed by cremation at Saltwell Crematorium. May she 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).

CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY - FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY

A message from Christine Allen, CAFOD Executive Director: *As Lent approaches this year, we are all aware that the cost-of-living crisis weighs heavily on our hearts. I know things are very tough for our church community here in England and Wales. This is a global experience of course - I hear every week from our colleagues and CAFOD's Church partners worldwide about the profound challenges they face in their countries seeing so many grappling with poverty as they strive to provide for their families while prices of essential goods soar. The cost-of-living crisis presents a dual challenge. Not only does it affect those we serve but it is impacting CAFOD's ability to support people and communities during this critical time. I cannot emphasise enough how important the Family Fast Day appeal is to our work, especially at a time when we see the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on our income.*

Family Fast Day Resources:

<https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/family-fast-day>

Big Lent Walk Resources and Sign Up here:

<https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/big-lent-walk>

On behalf of the people and communities we stand with, thank you for your unwavering support in Hexham and Newcastle.

Christine Allen, Executive Director, CAFOD.

LENTEN ALMS - ST CUTHBERT'S CARE A collection to support the work of St Cuthbert's Care will be taken at all Masses on the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 9/10 March. For further information on the charitable work of St Cuthbert's Care, please visit www.stcuthbertscare.org.uk

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>

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.

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. Please register your interest to receive the Zoom link. You can do this by calling the Diocesan Admin. Team on tel. 0191 24 3316.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Coffee morning Saturday 24 February 10.30am to 12 noon at Fellside Methodist Church. Funds raised will go to the WDP Christian Women of Palestine who prepared this year's annual service booklets.

ANNUAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER You are cordially invited to attend the Annual World Day of Prayer (WDP) to be held at Fellside Methodists Church, 1.30pm to 3pm on Friday 1 March 2024.

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, chopped tomatoes, baked beans, fruit, custard, rice pudding, crisps, tampons.

Other priority items: dried pasta, pasta sauce, tinned meat (mince, corned beef, pek), meatballs, soup, sweetcorn, carrots, garden peas, potatoes, soup, long grained rice, tomato purée, cooking oil, gravy granules, crisps, biscuits, jam, cereal, squash, tomato ketchup, mayonnaise, sugar, teabags, coffee, biscuits, spray cleaner, 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

GIFT FOR LIFE UPDATE Gift for Life has had a very successful year thanks to the loyalty and generosity of parishioners. Your continued support and your regular giving is transforming lives. Thank you for supporting the Summer Afternoon Event, the Plant Sales and now the 100 Club. They all make a huge difference to people in dire need. The latest update from the GfL-supported project in Kenya can be viewed [here](#). It shows in words and pictures how invaluable your support is and how it is a real force for good in the world.

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 next 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

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 by Wednesday 21 February**, e-mail stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk or tel. 0191 460 4274, providing your name, address, telephone number and email address. Thank you.

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.

POTENTIAL LEGISLATION CHANGES REGARDING ABORTION

The Lead Bishop on Life Issues for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Bishop John Sherrington, has provided the following message for parishes and religious communities in England and Wales:

From the end of February, it is likely that the Criminal Justice bill will return to parliament and that amendments will be tabled to decriminalise abortion up to the point of birth.

As well as a direct attack on the dignity of the unborn, it is highly likely that these amendments, if passed, will have unforeseen consequences which could be very serious for both unborn babies and their mothers, especially given the increase in home abortions following the legalisation of the provision of abortion pills by post.

It is possible that there will be other amendments more favourable to the rights of unborn babies.

Work will be carried out by the secretariat, including the provision of a website tool, to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament.

To find the name and address of your MP, please visit www.littlefighters.org.uk

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. Closing date for applications is Sunday 7 April.

LOUDfence at St. Mary's Cathedral and Newcastle Cathedral [St Nicholas] Sunday 3 to Wednesday 6 March - Welcome to All. Together with the Church of England Diocese of Newcastle, our diocesan family is privileged to be hosting a LOUDfence at St. Mary's Cathedral and at Newcastle Cathedral. It will begin at the 11.30am Sunday Mass on the 3 March at St. Mary's Cathedral and end with a Service of the Word at Newcastle Cathedral [St Nicholas] on Wednesday 6 March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to these liturgies and to visit both Cathedrals during the days to offer their prayers and support for all who have suffered abuse within church communities and all contexts. We are invited to leave prayers and messages together with provided items like the prayer ribbons presented to Bishop Stephen at his Installation Mass, which are still tied to his Bishop's Chair. People can leave their prayers and messages within or outside of the Cathedrals, recognising some people would rather not enter a place of worship. There will be people available for pastoral accompaniment if that is requested. As a diocesan family we pray for all who have suffered abuse and recognise our shared duty to safeguard the vulnerable.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 29 February.**

Jen's Weekly Prayer

The joy which an unfurled bunch of daffodils brings
is similar to a smile from loved ones or stranger.

Their simple beauty is radiant and cheering.

The snowdrop fragile and delicate,
an early sign that even winter cold cannot deter
the desire to blossom and thrive into the light.

Many need determination to keep looking forward
even in times of stress, anxiety and fear.

The flowers fill us with hope that light is always around us
to guide and help us.

You are the light which spreads hope.

May all who are suffering at the hands of others
be filled with strength and comfort.

Grant that peace, hope and love
replace conflict, division, exclusion, fear and darkness
in their lives.

Jen Jones © February 2024

First Reading*Genesis 9:8-15*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalm 24:4-9. R/ cf. v.10*

R/ Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.

Second Reading*1 Peter 3:18-22*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels of the Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*Matthew 4:4*

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone,
But on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel*Mark 1:12-15*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

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.



THE SEASON OF LENT has now begun and gives us all a wonderful opportunity through our Lenten prayer, fasting and alms-giving to be renewed and refreshed in preparation for the celebration of Easter, 'The Great Feast.'

STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 6.30pm on the following Fridays during Lent:

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

EASTER TRIDUUM**Holy Thursday 28 March**

6.30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Mary's

Good Friday 29 March (Day of Fasting & Abstinence)

3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St Philip Neri

Holy Saturday 30 March

6.00pm Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter at St Mary's

Easter Sunday 31 March

10.00am Mass of Easter Morning at Immaculate Heart