



God put Abraham to the test.... But the angel of the Lord called from heaven: 'Abraham, Abraham..... Do not raise your hand against the boy. Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God.'

cf. Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

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

25 February 2024

Second 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 24 February - 3 March 2024

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.)
Monday 26 February			
Tuesday 27 February	11.00am	Immaculate Heart	Requiem Mass - Mary Rose Telford RIP
Wednesday 28 February	N.B.	No Service today	
Thursday 29 February	9.30am	St Mary	Mary Turnbull (liv.)
Friday 1 March <i>St David</i>	9.30am	St Philip Neri	Priest's Intention
	6.30pm	St Philip Neri	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 2 March	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 3 March	9.00am	St Mary	Lawrence Regan (dec.)
Third Sunday of Lent (Year B)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Elizabeth Jukes (dec.)

Weekday Readings - Second 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 & Thursday at St Mary's

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

9.00am - 9.25am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart, Thursday at St Mary's & Friday at St Philip Neri

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, Kathleen Cunningham, 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.

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).

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 the Fourth Sunday of Lent 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 has produced 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.

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 243 3316.

LENTEN DAY FOR FAMILIES Catholic Mothers and the Carmelite Friars invite you to a Lenten Family Day at St John Vianney, Hillhead Parkway, West Denton, Newcastle NE5 1DP on Saturday 9 March. The day will begin with 10am Mass followed by a short talk, opportunity for Confession, a soup lunch, children's activities and social time. All ages and families welcome. For more information email catholicmothersne@gmail.com

WALK WITH ME LENTEN BOOKLETS There are a few of these still available giving a daily reflection for each day of Lent, price £1.

ANNUAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER You are cordially invited to attend the Annual World Day of Prayer (WDP) to be held at Fellside Methodist Church, Ancaster Road, Whickham NE16 5BQ, 1.30pm to 3pm on Friday 1 March 2024. All welcome.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING (PPC) The next PPC meeting will be on Wednesday 28 February 2024. For any parish matters you would like to raise, please contact one of your church representatives by this Sunday 25 February:

Immaculate Heart - Allen Bell, Wendy O'Reilly, Maveen Pereira, Ann Short.

St Mary's - Phil Cunningham Janice Hall, Jen Jones, Tony Sacco.

St Philip Neri - Denise Hebron, John Pinchen, Michael Waugh, Katie Wilkinson

Finance - Malcolm Shield

Safeguarding - Denise Hebron

Youth - David Khachikian & Joe Wheatley

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 March 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. Monetary donations are also very much appreciated.

FOOD ITEMS IN SHORT SUPPLY: pasta sauce, UHT milk, tinned potatoes, custard, rice pudding, biscuits, tampons.

Other priority items: dried pasta, tinned meat (mince, corned beef, pek), meatballs, hotdogs, tuna, chopped tomatoes, baked beans, fruit, soup, sweetcorn, carrots, garden peas, 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 from this week's newsletter page of the Parish website. It shows in words and pictures how invaluable your support is and how it is a real force for good in the world.

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.

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

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.

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.

POTENTIAL LEGISLATION CHANGES REGARDING ABORTION

A message from the Lead Bishop on Life Issues for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Bishop John Sherrington:

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. [see * below].*

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

*Please consider supporting an amendment to reduce the abortion time limit in the UK from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law.

Postcards are available at the back of church if you wish to contact your MP to support this amendment.

Jen's Weekly Prayer

Love is an endless torrent of gifts,
it comes in infinite forms
and cascades and swells on its journey.
Grant that we partake of the endless opportunities
to share this love with others and when it appears,
that darkness not the light of love is present,
that circumstances which created such barriers
can be removed.
For the light of love produces care and compassion
and a desire to enfold, comfort and help others.

Jen Jones © February 2024



THE SEASON OF LENT 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 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.

Holy Thursday 28 March

11.00am Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral

EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday 28 March

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

Holy Saturday 30 March

7.00pm Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter at St Mary's

Good Friday 29 March (Day of Fasting & Abstinence)

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

Easter Sunday 31 March

10.00am Mass of Easter Morning at Immaculate Heart

First Reading*Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said, 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt-offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalms 115:10. 15-19. R/ Ps 114:9*

***R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.***

1. I trusted, even when I said:
I am sorely afflicted.
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name.
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Second Reading*Romans 8:31-34*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation*Matthew 17:5*

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!'
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel*Mark 9:2-10*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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