



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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Diocesan Website www.diocesehn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.'
John 3:14-15

10 March 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

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 10am - 4pm, Wednesday 12 noon - 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 9 - 17 March 2024

Saturday 9 March	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 10 March	9.00am	St Mary	Terry Burke (ann.)
Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Joe Welsh (dec.)
Monday 11 March			
Tuesday 12 March	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	Priest's Intention
Wednesday 13 March	9.30am	St Philip Neri	N.B.F.
	5.30pm	St Mary	<i>St Mary's School First Reconciliation</i>
Thursday 14 March	9.30am	St Mary	Living & Deceased of the Carrick Family
Friday 15 March	6.30pm	St Mary	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Saturday 16 March	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 17 March	9.00am	St Mary	Dickie Lindsley (dec.)
Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year B)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Tony, Cecilia & Raymond McCusker (dec.)

Weekday Readings - Fourth 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
Please pray for the children from St Mary's and Philip Neri Schools who will be celebrating their First Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday 13 March and Tuesday 19 March.*

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Margaret Ord, Fr John McElhone and Fr Mark Whelehan CP who have died recently. The Requiem Mass for Margaret Ord will be celebrated at 10.30am on Wednesday 20 March 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, 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 RETIRING COLLECTION
A collection to support the work of St Cuthbert's Care will be taken at all Masses this weekend 9/10 March. For further information on the charitable work of St Cuthbert's Care, please visit www.stcuthbertscare.org.uk

SUMMARY OF LISTENING EXERCISES, RESULT OF QUESTIONNAIRE AND BISHOP STEPHEN'S RESPONSE All of the summaries from the various listening exercises that have been running in the Diocese since the summer of 2023, the results of the Questionnaire for the Dicastery of Bishops Report from March 2023 and Bishop Stephen's response to what has been presented to him are available [here](#).

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES for the new Financial Year April 2024 - March 2025 are now available at the back of each church. If any parishioners do not yet contribute by planned giving or standing order and would like to make arrangement to do so, please contact the Parish Office, email stmarysphilip@aol.co.uk or tel. 0191 460 4274. If you have access to internet banking, you can, if you wish, set up a standing order online to make your regular parish contributions. The details required for you to do this are as follows:

Payee: DHN Gateshead Our Lady and St Philip Neri

Sort code: 40-34-45

Account number: 21167936

Reference: insert your own name

Commencing: day/month/year

Frequency: weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually.

DIOCESAN LENTEN REFLECTIONS The Diocesan Vicariate for Faith and Mission has produced booklets of Daily Lenten Reflections which are available via 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.

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.

GIFT FOR LIFE '100 CLUB' - MARCH DRAW RESULTS The March draw for the Gift for Life '100 Club' took place last weekend at St Mary's and the lucky numbers were: 1st Prize (£50) number 67; 2nd Prize (£25) number 141 and 3rd Prize (£15) number 93. Congratulations to the winners! Thank you for your very generous 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: tomato purée, tinned meatballs, hotdogs, tuna, custard, rice pudding, biscuits, tampons, antiperspirant, shampoo.

Other priority items: pasta sauce, dried pasta, UHT milk, tinned meat (mince, corned beef, pek), chopped tomatoes, baked beans, fruit, soup, potatoes, sweetcorn, carrots, garden peas, long grained rice, cooking oil, gravy granules, crisps, biscuits, jam, cereal, squash, tomato ketchup, mayonnaise, sugar, teabags, coffee, toothpaste, spray cleaner, washing up liquid, laundry powder/liquid, feminine hygiene, toilet rolls.

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) Copies of the approved minutes of the PPC meeting held in November 2023 are now available to read at the back of each church.

SENIOR MOMENTS Celebrate the Easter Season by coming along on Wednesday 3 April at 11.30am at St Mary's Hall Whickham. Pie and pea lunch with entertainment only £3 per person. Please add your name to the list at the church entrance by Sunday 24 March. All welcome!

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 if you wish to contact your MP to support this amendment.

HOLY HOUR - ST JOSEPH'S, GATESHEAD There will be a Holy Hour at St Joseph's, Gateshead on Wednesday 13 March 7pm to 8pm to pray that the current attempt to decriminalise abortion up to birth will be rejected by MPs.

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.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:

HR Adviser, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time. Closing date: 28 March

Cleaner, St Cuthbert, Durham, 10 hours a week. Closing date: 15 March

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 14 March.**

Jen's Weekly Prayer

Dear Lord, we come to you as we are in our brokenness.

Help us to lay before you ourselves just as we are.

Give us the strength to know that you are holding us.

Help us to accept our strength and to love gifts from you.

Your light is eternal and no matter how far we stray from you, your love is like the beacon across the sea.

Loving parent, loving loving Father, you are always there.

May we have the courage to be re-awakened
by your gentle love.

Help us to place ourselves with you and find
the peace and solace we seek.

Jen Jones © revised 2021



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

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

Good Friday 29 March (Day of Fasting & Abstinence)

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

Holy Saturday 30 March

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

Easter Sunday 31 March

10.00am Mass of Easter Morning at Immaculate Heart

First Reading*II Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at least the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalms 136:1-6. R/ v.6*

**Response: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps.
2. For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.'
3. O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!
4. O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys!

Second Reading*Ephesians 2:4-10*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*John 3:16*

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;
Everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel Reading*John 3:14-21*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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