



Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. *Matthew 24:44*

THE PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP NERI
Immaculate Heart of Mary • Lobley Hill
St Mary • Whickham
St Philip Neri • Dunston
and
THE PARISH OF SACRED HEART, BYERMOOR

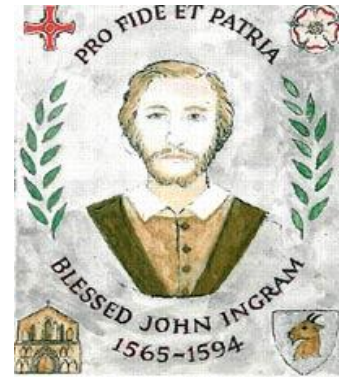
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The John Ingram Partnership
 Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

30 November 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Year A

The Parish Secretary, Theresa Noble, will be available in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery on Tuesday 9.00am - 3.00pm and Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm
She can also be contacted by email olpn.gateshead@diocesehn.org.uk or by telephone 0191 460 4274 on Tuesday and Wednesday 9.00am - 3.00pm and Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm
Postal Address: St Mary's Presbytery, Malvern Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 9LL

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 29 November - 7 December 2025

Saturday 29 November	4.30pm Sacred Heart	Michael Morris (dec.) [MM]
	5.30pm St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 30 November	9.00am St Mary	Pauline Archbold (dec.) [DA]
First Sunday of Advent	10.30am Immaculate Heart	Ann Tate (dec.) [VMcG]
Monday 1 December	1.30pm Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 2 December	9.30am Immaculate Heart	Priest's Intention
Wednesday 3 December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	9.30am St Philip Neri	Prayer Shawl Recipients [PSG]
Thursday 4 December	9.30am St Mary	Fatima D'Souza (dec.)
Friday 5 December		
Saturday 6 December	4.30pm Sacred Heart	Joe, Jessie & John Connor (dec.) [MM]
	5.30pm St Philip Neri	Harry Attrill (dec.) [SA]
Sunday 7 December	9.00am St Mary	Tom & Audrey Gleeson (dec.) [JD]
Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)	10.30am Immaculate Heart	People of the Parish

Weekday Readings: Advent Week 1 (or Proper to the Feast Day)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

5.00pm - 5.20pm on Saturday at St Philip Neri, 1.00 - 1.20pm on Monday at Sacred Heart
 9.00am - 9.20am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart & Thursday at St Mary's

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

1.00pm - 1.25pm on Monday at Sacred heart, 9.00am - 9.20am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart,
 Wednesday at St Philip Neri & Thursday at St Mary's

Benediction

4.30pm next Sunday 7 December at Sacred Heart

Baptism

This Sunday in the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Lydia Edith Kebell and Thomas Aidan Kebell into the Family of the Church.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Frank McCoy and Gervase Smith who have died recently. The Requiem Mass for Frank will be on Friday 12 December at 11.15am in Immaculate Heart Church followed by cremation at Mountsett Crematorium. The Requiem Mass for Gervase will be on Friday 12 December at 10.00am in Sacred Heart Church followed by cremation at Mountsett Crematorium. May they rest in peace. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK Kath Airey, Maureen Buckle, Veronica Coleman, Ann Crompton, Teresa Fawcett, Tatiane Lambert, Maria Thi Kien Chiene Le, John Leitch, Bill Martin, Cheryl Anne McDonald, Nora Miller, Margaret Murphy, Astrid Muse (Gower), Joseph Relph.

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).

70th BIRTHDAY You are all cordially invited to a low key (at his request) celebration for Canon Peter, this Sunday morning 30 November, at immaculate Heart of Mary Church after Mass around 11.30am. Hot Drinks and nibbles will be provided and you never know there may be a small tippie in it too, to offer a toast in celebration. All welcome!!

MISSION RED BOX THANK YOU AND APPEAL The 2026 Mission Today Calendars are now being distributed to all Red Box holders as a thank you for the faithful support of *Missio* and the Mill Hill Missionaries. **Next weekend we will welcome Fr Emmanuel Mbeh and Fr Suresh Kocheria from the Mill Hill Missionaries as they are coming to thank those who already contribute through the Red Boxes and to encourage others to do so.** *Missio* is the Pope's charity for world Mission and through the Red Box we support the Church around the World where it is young and in need. Please consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing up to give via Direct Debit.

THE SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY this year is on **Wednesday 3 December at St. Mary's Hall. Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am followed by lunch and festivities in St. Mary's Hall.** There are lists at the entrance of each church - **if you would like to attend, please put your name on the list by this Sunday 30 November.** If you find you are unable to attend, please let us know, even if it is on the morning of the lunch, otherwise food will be wasted. Also, if you know of anyone who would like to attend but is unable to get to church, let us know and we may be able to arrange transport for them. Contact details are Denise Hebron tel. 07554 445679 or Katie Wilkinson tel. 07837 386760.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL CANDLES If you would like a candle to be lit during the Christmas season in memory of your deceased loved ones, please write their name(s) on one of the envelopes at the back of our four churches and include your donation. **Please complete and return your envelopes by Thursday 18 December** and don't forget to indicate in which church you would like the candle to be lit. Completed envelopes can be placed in the collection baskets at weekend Masses or posted through the letterbox at Immaculate Heart Presbytery or Sacred Heart Presbytery.

FOOD BANK & REFUGEE PROJECT UPDATE We welcome ALL non perishable produce - even if you can only donate 1 or 2 tins please bring them along to church to help out - monetary donations are also very much appreciated.

IN SHORT SUPPLY: UHT Milk, cereal, tinned potatoes, hot dogs, custard, fruit, rice pudding, toilet rolls.

OTHER priority items - dried pasta, pasta sauce, tomato purée, cooking oil, long grained rice, meat (corned beef, mince beef, pek etc), tinned garden peas, carrots, sweetcorn, tuna, meatballs, chopped tomatoes, baked beans, sugar, biscuits, toothpaste, washing up liquid, spray cleaner, laundry powder/liquid, antiperspirant, shampoo, feminine hygiene (especially tampons).

Other items we put into the monthly food bags, especially 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 either via mobile 07837 386760 or email teachkate1@gmail.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 December 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.

HELP THE POOR RECEIVE MUCH MORE One of our young people who is preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next year, has been given a social action project to make an Advent Calendar which will list items she would like to collect and give to a family who might be facing a difficult Christmas. It would be much appreciated if you could donate to this cause any of the items listed on the poster at the back of Immaculate Heart Church. Thank you.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2026 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 in 2026, please contact the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery as soon as possible by email or telephone:

e-mail olpn.gateshead@diocesehn.org.uk

tel. 0191 460 4274. Please provide your name, address, telephone number and email address. Thank you.

SACRED HEART PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS WREATHS Starting in Advent this year, Christmas Wreaths will be on display in the church. If you would like one dedicated to your loved ones, please make a donation of £20 or more to the Parish. Please speak to Mary Young for details.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE Donations for our Christmas Raffle would be greatly appreciated.

MINCE PIE AND CAROLS On Tuesday 2 December at 2.30pm, to mark the start of the Advent Season, we will have a Carols, Mince pies and Coffee afternoon at Sacred Heart School. All parishioners - not only parents - are welcome!

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL at Spoor Memorial Methodist Church - Thursday 4, Friday 5 and Saturday 6 December 2025.

It's coming up to that time of year, and once again we are organising this community event as part of the Christmas celebrations at Spoor. We would like to invite you to take part by decorating a tree. We do hope you are able to take part and in doing so promote your own business/school/organisation. Trees can be of any material, real or artificial and of any design. The only criteria we stipulate is to have battery operated lights. Decoration of trees: Wednesday 3 December 10.00am till 2:00pm. Festival: Thursday, Friday and Saturday 4, 5 & 6 December 10.00am till 4.00pm. Refreshments will be available. Dismantling and collection of trees: Sunday 7 December 12 noon till 1.00pm, Monday 8 December 9.00am – 11.00am. We are sure that this event is enjoyed by the whole community in Whickham, and we do hope you will feel able to participate. Please let us know if you would like to take part by 1st November at the latest. If you have any questions, please feel free to either telephone or email: Ruth Blundred tel. 0191 488 6971, Ann Clay email: ann.clay1949@gmail.com or Christine Norman tel. 07957 810471.

LOVE CHRISTMAS 2025

- **Christmas Hampers** - at the back of each church there will be a food list of special items for the hampers. **Food items must be handed in by the end of the weekend 13/14 December.** Please ensure any perishable food items remain in date post-Christmas. There'll be a box at the back of each church for these donations.
- **Angel Trees** are now up in each of our three churches - each has tags with gender & age of gifts requested by social services, their list included over 600 children, so please take a tag - or maybe two! You don't need to wrap these generous gifts as Santa's little helpers will be busy at work doing this on your behalf during the sessions on Tuesday 16 December (however, your gift donated in a bag with the original tag would be greatly appreciated).
- **Please remember**, if you would prefer someone else to shop on your behalf feel free to donate cash (marking the donation 'Love Christmas').
- All gifts and food donations must be handed in by **Sunday 14 December.**
- Arrangements have been made with Gateshead Social Services department to collect all the donated gift items on the morning of **Wednesday 17 December** from Immaculate Heart Church.

Any queries please contact either Katie Wilkinson via email teachkate1@gmail.com telephone 07837 386760 or Denise Hebron via email denisehebron@yahoo.co.uk telephone 07554 445679.

Finally - thank you so much for your continued support with this important annual outreach work undertaken by the parish. Last year due to your generosity the parish donated 310 gifts plus 20 Christmas food hampers (each hamper contained your donations plus a £25 Iceland voucher) Each and everyone of you made a huge difference to many families .

APPEAL FOR HELPERS TO WRAP PRESENTS Please, please, please come along to the Packing and Wrapping sessions **at Immaculate Heart Church on Tuesday 16 December. There will be two opportunities for you to volunteer - the first session will follow Mass at 10am then the second session at 6.30pm.**

Everyone really enjoys being involved in this 'nice bit' every year. So don't be shy you will be gladly welcomed with open arms - **you plus your scissors & sellotape if possible!** This year we have a special treat from Mrs Claus - at the morning session all volunteers will begin the session with a cuppa plus some tasty bites - so yet another great reason to sign up! Last year volunteers sorted, wrapped/bagged 310 gifts plus they prepared 20 Christmas Food hampers. Volunteers are essential to the parish being able to achieve this task and your commitment will be greatly appreciated as we have limited time to complete this project. Social Services collection, delivery of presents and hampers have been arranged for Wednesday 17 December! **So please come along and help.**

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 4 December.**

ADVENT COURSE AT ST PETER'S, LOW FELL - ALL WELCOME!

We will meet on the Mondays of Advent (1, 8, 15, 22 December) following 7.00pm Mass (Adoration from 6.15pm) for a period of prayer and discussion on the themes of Sr Gemma Simmond's book 'Donkey Roads and Camel Treks: A Pilgrim's Guide for Advent'. This Bible Reading Fellowship Advent Book for 2025 gives a daily reading from the Lectionary with a meditation and reflection and this will form the basis for our four weekly sessions. If you would like to come along, please buy the book and, for catering purposes, please let St Peter's Parish Office know if you want to attend by Sunday 23 November - Email: south.gateshead@diocesehn.org.uk

A WEEKLY REFLECTION AND DAILY READINGS FOR ADVENT 2025

Advent is a time of preparation and to reflect, and hold onto, the messages of hope, peace, joy and love which God promised to us in the birth of Christ Jesus. Members of our Diocesan Writing Team offer this Advent resource to help guide a daily space for reading of the Scripture, reflection and prayer. In it you will find a reflection based on the theme of each week of Advent and an easy-to-follow reference to the readings for each day. The reflections will be available to view and download on the homepage of the Diocesan website from Friday 28 November www.diocesehn.org.uk.

Jen's weekly prayer

Our natural world is a never-ending gallery of beauty,
free to view wherever we are.

The changing cycles, the views we seek to find,
are constantly changing and evolving
yet remaining the same,

we simply find different ways of interpreting them.

Our mood, our demeanour will determine what
we actually see, what we feel,

for the subtly of these images varies with seasons
and how we allow these healing images to touch us
as we absorb their lush or ragged, craggy beauty,
their tumbling waters, the silver streams,
the green flower filled valleys,
the woodlands in their glorious colours,
the orchards bright with fruits,
and the lush fields which feed us.

May we give thanks for these extraordinary gifts,
cherish and protect them for generations to come.

Jen Jones © November 2025

SAFEGUARDING IN THE DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND

NEWCASTLE The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Diocesan policies and procedures at all times. Each of our churches has a Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR) indicated on the Safeguarding posters in each church - Angela Bell (Immaculate Heart), Bernadette Salmon & Joe Wheatley (St Mary's), Denise Hebron (St Philip Neri). Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 243 3305 or safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

First Reading*Isaiah 2:1-5*

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Sion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalm 122(121):1-2. 3-4a. 8-9. R/ cf. 1*

R/ Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. ***R/***

Jerusalem is built as a city
bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. ***R/***

For the sake of my family and friends,
let me say, 'Peace upon you.'
For the sake of the house of the Lord, our God,
I will seek good things for you. ***R/***

Second Reading*Romans 13:11-14a*

Brothers and sisters: You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*Psalm 85(84):8*

Alleluia, alleluia.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia.

Gospel*Matthew 24:37-44*

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture Readings from the *English Standard Version of the Bible, Catholic Edition (ESV-CE)* © 2017 Crossway. Responsorial Psalm from *Abbey Psalms and Canticles* © 2018 USCCB.