



An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'

*Matthew 1:20*

**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**

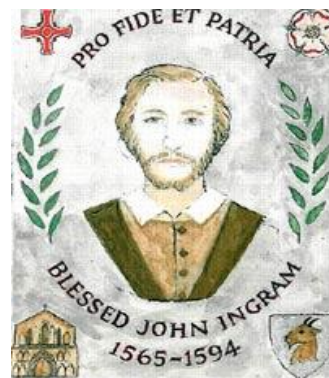
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The John Ingram Partnership  
 Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

**21 December 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Year A**

*The Parish Secretary, Theresa Noble, will be available in the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery on Tuesday 23 December 9.00am - 3.00pm. She can also be contacted by email [olpn.gateshead@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:olpn.gateshead@diocesehn.org.uk) or by telephone 0191 460 4274 on Tuesday 9.00am - 3.00pm*

**Postal Address: St Mary's Presbytery, Malvern Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 9LL**

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 20 - 28 December 2025**

<b>Saturday 20 December</b>	<b>4.30pm Sacred Heart</b>	Victoria Swinburn (dec.) [AS]
	<b>5.30pm St Philip Neri</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 21 December</b>	<b>9.00am St Mary</b>	Bernard Hearne (dec.) [CH]
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)</b>	<b>10.30am Immaculate Heart</b>	John Arkless (dec.) [PA]
Monday 22 December	9.30am Sacred Heart	PriesOt's Intention
Tuesday 23 December	9.30am Immaculate Heart	Frank McCoy (dec.) [SK]
<b>Wednesday 24 December</b>	<b>4.30pm Sacred Heart</b>	Frank Bowes (dec.) [PB]
<b>Christmas Eve The Nativity of the Lord</b>	<b>6.00pm Immaculate Heart</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Thursday 25 December</b>	<b>9.30am St Philip Neri</b>	Michael Short (dec.) [AS]
<b>Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord</b>		
Friday 26 December <i>St Stephen, Martyr</i>	9.30am St Mary	Michael Short (dec.) [AS]
<b>Saturday 27 December</b> <i>St John, Apostle, Evangelist</i>	<b>4.30pm Sacred Heart</b>	Canon Laurence Hollis (dec.) [MM]
<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>	<b>5.30pm St Philip Neri</b>	Harry Attrill (dec.) [SA]
<b>Sunday 28 December</b>	<b>9.00am St Mary</b>	People of the Parish
<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>	<b>10.30am Immaculate Heart</b>	Living & Deceased of McCusker Family

**Weekday Readings: Advent Week 4 & Christmas Season**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

5.00pm - 5.20pm on Saturday at St Philip Neri, 1.00pm - 1.20pm on Monday at Sacred Heart,

9.00am - 9.20am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

1.00pm - 1.25pm on Monday at Sacred Heart, 9.00am - 9.25am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart,

**Baptism**

*This Sunday, in the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Jasper James Knight into the Family of the Church.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Maureen Young who has died recently. The Requiem Mass for Maureen will be at 10.00am on Thursday 8 January at St Philip Neri Church followed by burial at Saltwell Cemetery. May she rest in peace. Amen.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK** Kath Airey, 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).**



**Canon Peter and Fr Endre wish you and your families all the joys and blessings of the Christmas season. They also thank you for your cards and gifts which they very much appreciate.**



**ADVENT ALMS** There will be a retiring collection at Masses this weekend 20/21 December to support the work of St Cuthbert's Care (Advent Alms). Here is a message from Nic Gilbert, Chief Executive of St Cuthbert's Care: *As we enter the season of Advent, we pause to reflect and give thanks for the generosity and prayers of our diocesan parishes. For almost 80 years, your support enabled St Cuthbert's Care to offer practical help to those facing the greatest challenges in our communities. As our charity celebrates its 80th anniversary, we are preparing to launch a new initiative - a dedicated service to support women experiencing homelessness, leaving prison or at risk of re-offending. Many of whom have faced trauma, abuse or addiction and some have had few safe spaces in their lives. This new service will provide secure accommodation and trauma-informed support, helping women rebuild their lives, regain independence access employment and move towards their own homes. Funding for this vital work is extremely limited, yet both our research and experience show the need is real. True to our purpose, to enable people to develop to their personal potential, we are stepping in where others may not, offering stability, compassion and practical support to restore hope and make a real difference. We know that not everyone can give financially, but there are other ways to support the launch. The women will need clothing, toiletries and in some cases, the wisdom and encouragement of parishioners willing to share their lived experiences. We also ask that you keep our charity, especially this new service, in your prayers as we prepare to open our doors. If you would like to learn more or get involved, please contact Nicola Milne, Communications and engagement Manager on 0191 242 4809 or email: [nicolaj.milne@stcuthbertscare.org.uk](mailto:nicolaj.milne@stcuthbertscare.org.uk). She will be delighted to help. On behalf of everyone at St Cuthbert's Care, I wish you, your family and your parishioners a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.*

**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.

Fr Emmanuel Mbeh and Fr Suresh Kocheria wish to thank everyone in the parish for the welcome and generous response to the Red Box appeal last weekend. Twelve parishioners took Red Boxes/Direct Debit as well as £337.11 being received in donations over the weekend. Thank you again to everyone who has given to *Missio*. If you did not get a chance to collect a Red Box or Direct Debit form, please speak to Lilian Gray or contact her on 07717 853685 or [liliangray@sky.com](mailto:liliangray@sky.com) You can also find more information at [www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk)

**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](mailto:olpn.gateshead@diocesehn.org.uk)

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

**FOOD BANK IMPORTANT INFORMATION** Please make a note in your diary that the food bank will be closed for the Christmas holidays for two weeks from Thursday 25 December 2025 reopening on Thursday 8 January 2026 when normal service will resume. Many thanks for your continuing support this year for the food bank, it is only because of your amazing generosity that the parish can continue this vital outreach work.

#### **LOVE CHRISTMAS - A THANK YOU AND SOME GOOD NEWS**

To all who contributed, in whatever way they could, to this year's outreach appeal for donations to the Angel Tree & Christmas Hampers a heartfelt thank you!

Every year our parishioners demonstrate their unbelievable level of support for families who may struggle during this special season. You pour out your Christian love, thinking of others, wanting to make a difference which every year you do - this year we distributed 310 bags of kindness plus 18 Christmas food hampers which included an Iceland food voucher for either £20 or £30 depending upon family size.

Your generosity will ensure that there will be smiles and happiness in some homes that otherwise experience little joy throughout the year, due to ongoing hardship. They will know that within their community there are people who have made this special effort purely because of love and concern for 'their neighbour'.

The parish has also recently received some good news from the national charity 'Love Christmas' - this year we applied to the charity for a grant to help support the parish's annual outreach work and the charity informed us that the grant application had been successful and awarded £625 to be used for the Love Christmas outreach work.

**ANOTHER THANK YOU!** To Santa's Little Helpers who gathered on Tuesday 16 December, both in the morning and evening, to sort & wrap all the wonderful donations handed in over the past few weeks for the Angel Tree & Christmas hampers. Volunteering your time and effort is priceless and the parish could achieve very little without this greatly appreciated generosity of precious time.

Due to the parishioners phenomenal response to Love Christmas, the 'little helpers' were kept very busy. However, this huge amount of work was completed with a smile and happiness in the knowledge they were helping others - thank you doesn't seem enough but your commitment is very much appreciated and the completed work could not have been achieved without you.

**SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** Donations towards Christmas flowers would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

**THE NORTHERN CROSS** December edition is now on sale, price £1.50.

**THE NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR 2026** is now available at the back of each church, price £4.00.

## **DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 31 July - 7 August 2026**

*Celebrating 100 years since the First Diocesan Pilgrimage*

Bookings are now open for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. We travel on Friday 31 July and return on Friday 7 August 2026 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the first Diocesan Pilgrimage took place led by Bishop Joseph Thorman. If you would like to book, or for further information, please contact Tangney Tours, our Tour Operator by going to their website <https://www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-hexham-newcastle/> or by calling 01732 886 666.

## **DIOCESAN VACANCIES**

**Administrator for the Youth Ministry Team (YMT)** Supporting the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and our small, dedicated team, we are looking for an Administrator to cover a period of Maternity Leave.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing efficient administrative and operational support to the YMT team.
- Managing correspondence, records, and calendars.
- Coordinating bookings, logistics, projects and event administration.
- Handling financial tasks including invoicing, payment tracking, and reporting.

Please note this role is subject to an Enhanced DBS check and YMT cannot accept CVs. You must complete our Application Form, available as part of the Applicant Pack. If you are interested, please get in touch to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Annie Leaver, Head of Human Resources at [annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk) The closing date for applications is Sunday 4 January 2026.

**Safeguarding Administrator** Supporting the Safeguarding team, the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking for a consummate administrative professional who handles sensitive information with the utmost discretion and confidentiality. Similarly, you'll be a person who has an eye for detail recognising the need for accuracy and precision.

Salary scale - £26,000 to £27,768

If you are interested in applying for this 12 month Fixed Term Contracted Safeguarding position, please get in touch to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Bernadette Aquino HR Business Partner at [Bernadette.aquino@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:Bernadette.aquino@diocesehn.org.uk)

**Please note the Diocese cannot accept CV's and as such to be considered for the position you must request our Applicant Pack and then complete and return our Application Form.**

**The closing date for applications is 09:00am Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 although we reserve the right to close the position early.**

## **Jen's weekly prayer**

As we celebrate the very special love and joy which filled the first visitors to a very humble dwelling, may this permeate across land and sea.  
May the light and wonder experienced by the first visitors within that small dwelling spread glow once again.

Sadly, just like many across the planet, they were forced to travel at short notice for their safety and protection.

At this time of the year, many become travellers, some for safety and others for joy and happiness with loved ones.

For all who are searching for their special road, grant them strength, hope and enlightenment in the knowledge that the light love will be their guide.

*Jen Jones © December 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](mailto:safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk)

## Liturgy of the Word

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Year A

### First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

In those days: The Lord spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R/cf. 6

**R/ Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world, and those who dwell in it.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the rivers he made it firm. **R/**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The clean of hands and pure of heart,  
whose soul is not set on vain things. **R/**

Blessings from the Lord shall he receive,  
and right reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the people who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R/**

### Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia.  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Emmanuel -  
which means, God with us.  
Alleluia.

### Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Emmanuel' —  
which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

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.

<b>CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES</b> <i>(Carols will be sung 25 - 30 minutes before Masses on Christmas Eve/Day)</i>		
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>24 December</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	<b>4.30pm</b>  <b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Mass at Sacred Heart, Byermoor</b>  <b>Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill</b>
<b>Thursday</b> <b>25 December</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass at St Philip Neri, Dunston</b>