



John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
Matthew 3:1-2

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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Parish Website www.theparish.org.uk

Diocesan Website www.diocesehn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

7 December 2025

Second 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.

She can also be contacted by email 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 6 - 14 December 2025

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	10.30am Immaculate Heart	People of the Parish
Monday 8 December	9.30am Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
<i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>		
Tuesday 9 December	9.30am Immaculate Heart	Prayer Shawl Recipients [PSG]
Wednesday 10 December	9.30am St Philip Neri	Priest's Intention
Thursday 11 December	9.30am St Mary	Priest's Intention
Friday 12 December	10.00am Sacred Heart	Requiem Mass - Gervase Smith RIP
	11.15am Immaculate Heart	Requiem Mass - Frank McCoy RIP
Saturday 13 December St Lucy	4.30pm Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
	5.30pm St Philip Neri	Stokes & Attrill Families (dec.) [SA]
Sunday 14 December	9.00am St Mary	People of the Parish
Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)	10.30am Immaculate Heart	Sarah Benesch (dec.) [SE]

Weekday Readings: Advent Week 2 (or Proper to the Feast Day)

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 - 9.20am on Monday at Sacred Heart, Tuesday at Immaculate Heart,

Wednesday at St Philip Neri & Thursday at St Mary's

Benediction

4.30pm Sunday 7 December at Sacred Heart

Baptism

This Sunday in the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Emmie O'Hara Coffell 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 private 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).

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. **This weekend 6/7 December we 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.

CANON PETER would like to express his gratitude for the cards, gifts and warm best wishes offered to him on the occasion of his 70th Birthday - THANK YOU!

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.

SHORT SUPPLY: UHT Milk, dried pasta, pasta sauce, tomato purée, tinned custard, fruit, rice pudding, antiperspirant.

OTHER priority items: cereal, cooking oil, long grained rice, meat (corned beef, mince beef, pek etc), tinned garden peas, carrots, sweetcorn, potatoes, tuna, meatballs, hot dogs, chopped tomatoes, baked beans, sugar, biscuits, toilet rolls, washing up liquid, spray cleaner, laundry powder/liquid, toothpaste, 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 contact Katie Wilkinson either via mobile 07837 386760 or email teachkate1@gmail.com

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.

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

We will meet on the Mondays of Advent (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

OPEN DOOR EVENT WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER Each year before Christmas, Joe's Place arranges an Open-Door Event at St Joseph's Church in Gateshead. Many people who visit Joe's Place accept the invitation to come in, enjoy some quiet time, and light a candle. Some want to sit listening to the music; others ask for help in lighting a candle, or in praying for a family member or something special to them. This year's Open-Door Event is on Wednesday 10 December from 12.00pm till 1.30pm. Please support this event by your presence if you can. We need people to come along to pray quietly in church, just to be there in solidarity and support for any of our Joe's Place visitors who might come in. This is an opportunity to pray for those, for whom life is a struggle, and who perhaps find Christmas difficult. All are welcome.

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

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.

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.**

SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY on 3 December was a great success!! Thank You to everyone who attended, it wouldn't be the same without you! Grateful thanks to Fr Endre for celebrating Mass and joining in the meal with everyone. Thanks to the children of St Mary's school who came to sing carols and Christmas songs for us and last but not least a very special Thank You to all the volunteers who prepare this wonderful meal and give up their time and energy to make this day so special. God Bless all and we hope you have a truly blessed Christmas Season.

GIFT FOR LIFE '100 CLUB' DECEMBER DRAW The December draw of the Gift for Life '100 Club' takes place this Sunday (7 December) at St Mary's. Although we are down on the number of entries purchased this year we have decided to keep the prizes at the same amounts: First prize £50, Second prize £30 and Third prize £20. So, the good news for those who have purchased numbers is that your odds of winning have increased! Tea and coffee will be available in the hall after Mass at St Mary's so why don't you witness the draw, enjoy some refreshments and join in the gossip?

GIFT FOR LIFE FREE 'THANK YOU' RAFFLE We are very conscious of the amazing generosity of our parishioners in your ongoing support for our *Gift for Life* causes. So, by way of a little thank you, we are running a free raffle. The '*Gift for Life* Thank You Raffle' will take place at each of the 3 churches in our parish on the weekend of 13/14 December. Before each Mass that weekend make sure you collect your free raffle ticket at the door. The draws will take place immediately after each Mass and prizes will be distributed there and then. Thank you for all your support – and good luck!

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 11 December.**

Jen's weekly prayer

The stars gleam and glow spreading
their unique inspiring beauty across darkened skies.

Within they are alive and vibrant,
we may not always see them but like love
they continue to glow, even when they are not seen.
We can celebrate with joy the forthcoming wonder
of an amazing birth, which brought an everlasting
love and light into our world.

This light is an infinite freely given gift to us all
to nurture and to cherish.
Help us to keep reaching out with acts of care, love
and compassion and grant that they will ignite
strength and comfort to those who receive them.

Like the stars shining across darkness ,
grant to those who are suffering from
homelessness, conflict, pain and hunger,
to find healing, hope, peace and love.

Jen Jones © December 2023

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 11:1-10

On that day:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the
peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-
place shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R/cf. 7*

R/ In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice,
and your poor in right judgement. **R/**

In his days justice shall flourish,
and great peace till the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the bounds of the earth. **R/**

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry,
the poor who have no one to help.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy. **R/**

May his name endure for ever,
his name continue like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blest in him,
all nations shall call him blessed. **R/**

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." ' Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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