



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

Parish Priest Canon Peter Leighton

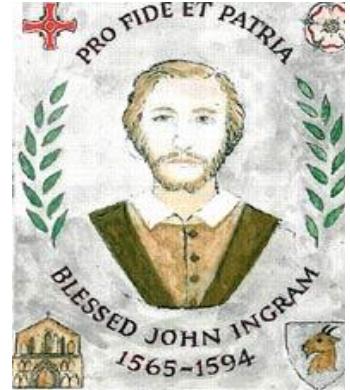
Assistant Priest Fr Endre Kormos (0191 716 6367)

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Parish Website www.theparish.org.uk

Diocesan Website www.diocesehn.org.uk



When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. *Luke 2:22*

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) is celebrated on Monday 2 February.

1 February 2026

Fourth Sunday of the Year

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 31 January – 8 February 2026

Saturday 31 January

4.30pm Sacred Heart Priest's Intention

5.30pm St Philip Neri People of the Parish

Sunday 1 February

9.00am St Mary Patricia McAdam (dec.) [PC]

Fourth Sunday of the Year (A)

10.30am Immaculate Heart Bob Payne (dec.) [FP]

Racial Justice Day

Monday 2 February The Presentation of the Lord

1.30pm Sacred Heart Priest's Intention

Tuesday 3 February St Blaise (incl. Blessing of throats)

9.30am Immaculate Heart In Thanksgiving [EA]

Wednesday 4 February

9.30am St Philip Neri Revd Fr Liam Rooney (dec.) [M & JP]

Thursday 5 February St Agatha

9.30am St Mary Airey & Norman Families [CN]

Friday 6 February St Paul Miki and Companions

Saturday 7 February

4.30pm Sacred Heart Priest's Intention

Sunday 8 February

5.30pm St Philip Neri People of the Parish

Fifth Sunday of the Year (A)

9.00am St Mary Ann Tate (dec.) [MD]

Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking

10.30am Immaculate Heart Frank McCoy (dec.) [EA]

Weekday Readings: Ordinary Time Week 4, Year 2

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 and Thursday at St Mary's

Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Benediction on Sunday 1 February 4.30pm at Sacred Heart, 1.00pm - 1.20pm on Monday at Sacred Heart,

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Teresa Fawcett and Molly Hearne, who have died recently. The Requiem Mass for Teresa will be on Wednesday 11 February at 9.45am in St Philip Neri Church, followed by Committal at Saltwell Crematorium. The Requiem Mass for Molly will be on Friday 20 February at 11.30am in St Mary's Church, followed by burial at Garden House Cemetery. May they rest in peace Amen.

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

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).

COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES APPEAL Next weekend 7/8 February, we look forward to welcoming Fr John Boles who will be celebrating the 5.30pm Vigil Mass and 9.00am and 10.30am Masses. Fr John will speak about the work of the Columban Missionaries and make an appeal on their behalf. For further information about the Columban Missionaries, please visit www.columbans.co.uk

CANDLEMAS If anyone has any candles they would like to have blessed, please bring them to 1.30pm Mass at Sacred Heart on Monday 2 February - Feast of the Presentation of the Lord/Candlemas.

GIFT FOR LIFE FEBRUARY 100 CLUB DRAW The *Gift for Life* '100 Club' draw takes place after Mass this Sunday (1 February) at St Mary's. Come along for refreshments, good conversation and see the draw take place. It could be you! Thank you for all your brilliant support.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 February 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.

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.

LAST YEAR'S PALMS If you still have a palm or palms from last Palm Sunday, could you please bring them to church by the weekend 14/15 February so that they can be burnt for use as the ashes which will be distributed at Masses on Ash Wednesday (18 February). Thank you.

FOOD BANK & REFUGEE PROJECT 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.

Priority items: UHT Milk, dried pasta, tinned garden peas, carrots, sweetcorn, potatoes, tuna.

OTHER priority items: pasta sauce, long grained rice, tinned meat (corned beef, mince beef, pek etc), meatballs, hot dogs, baked beans, chopped tomatoes, custard, rice pudding, fruit, dried pasta, biscuits, coffee, tea bags, cereal, cooking oil, tomato purée, sugar, toothpaste, washing up liquid, spray cleaner, laundry powder/liquid, shampoo & feminine hygiene (especially tampons), toilet rolls, antiperspirant.

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

PARISH FINANCIAL SUMMARY APRIL - DECEMBER 2025

Our Lady & St Philip Neri

Parish funds have fallen by £3,594 to £267,520 in the 9 months to the end of December. Offertory collections (loose plate, envelopes and Standing Orders) of £44,996 are 8% up on last year which is good news while the potential Gift Aid claim on this income is £9,832. This could be even higher if more eligible parishioners (i.e. UK Taxpayers) signed up for the Gift Aid scheme - if interested, please contact the Parish Office.

On the downside, repairs spend at £12,955 is £7,048 higher than last year with a new boiler and windows for Dockendale Cottage accounting for £7,793 of the total. Further works on the gable wall has been identified with a price tag of £7,500 while new lighting in St Mary's Hall will cost £2,500.

Fr Endre's duties as Assistant Priest bring a charge of £7,000 as we share his Allowance and presbytery costs with Sacred Heart.

Sacred Heart, Byemoor

Parish funds have fallen by £1,180 to £61,572 by the end of December. Offertory collections in all its forms totalled £9,727 which is £547 up on the same period last year. However, this is insufficient to fund a full-time priest hence the 50/50 split of Fr Endre's costs with Our Lady and St Philip Neri Parish. As mentioned above, if parishioners are UK Taxpayers, they can increase their donations by Gift Aid which means that for every £1 donated an extra 25p per £1 can be re-imbursed to the parish by HMRC - if interested, please contact the Parish Office.

Repair expenditure of £549 is hugely down on last year's £29,279 but a number of areas have been identified for update and renewal with initial estimates coming in at over £34,000. This is obviously a concern given progressing with all the work would wipe out over half of the parish's surplus.

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 100th 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.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE YOUTH SECTION REMINDER A reminder that bookings for the Youth Section of the Lourdes Pilgrimage will close on 31 January. If you, or you know any young people in your parish that are interested in joining us, please get in touch as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to register interest, please email: evie.rea@ymt.org

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE FOREVER AND

ALWAYS On Saturday 14 February at 12.00 noon, Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral and Bishop Stephen will be the Principal Celebrant. Everyone is welcome. No booking required. If you are celebrating a special anniversary and would like a Certificate, please scan the QR Code on the Poster at the back of each church or visit: <http://bit.ly/MarriageMass2026> Email: marriage@diocesehn.org.uk Tel. 0191 243 3316.

THE NORTHERN CROSS February edition is on sale this weekend, price £1.50.

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

HOLY ISLAND SVP SUMMER CAMPS 2026 Applications are now open for children in school Years 5-7 for Holy Island Summer Camps. The children spend a week in our centre on the island over the Summer holidays. Transport takes the children from Tyneside to our residential centre and all meals, accommodation and activities are included in the cost. For more information please visit our website: Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp>

Do you have some spare time on your hands and want a fulfilling volunteer role? Our residential centre on Holy Island needs volunteers in 2026. There are lots of roles: Working with the children on our Vinnies Summer Camps, during the Summer holidays as a caretaker, kitchen assistants, cooks, and volunteering to work directly with the children. It's hard work, but so much fun and very worthwhile! No cost, just your time and patience for an interesting week on this beautiful island! Or perhaps you are retired or have flexible holidays and could give some time to help at our Term Time Camps. We need people who can take on a caretaking role or help in the kitchen with serving meals, cooking or operating the dishwasher! These Camps allow hundreds of children from the Diocese and further afield have a great residential holiday in our centre. Guaranteed hard work but fantastic memories too! To join our fabulous team or find out more information about any of the roles and to volunteer, please visit our website: Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> or contact BarbaraT@svp.org.uk

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

EDUCATION BUSINESS MANAGER Salary Scale from £35,000 to £37,323. Based within our Education Team at St Vincent's Diocesan Offices, Newcastle upon Tyne. Importantly you will be working in or have experience of education, ideally in a primary or secondary school setting. Similarly, knowledge and experience with Education Trusts will be distinctively advantageous. Moreover, you will need to show us how you have undertaken, reported upon and delivered professional evaluation processes, presenting findings for example to a committee, board or agency. You will lead on event planning, delivering no less than three annual conferences within the region liaising with our Communications Manager.

You will have the ability to handle sensitive information with discretion and confidentiality and have both excellent verbal and written communication skills. If you are interested in being at the forefront of developing this role please get in touch with us to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Annie Leaver Head of Human Resources at annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk

The closing date for applications is 12 noon Sunday 1 February 2026 although we reserve the right to close the post early. Shortlisting will be undertaken 13 February 2026, with interviews scheduled for Thursday 19 February 2026.

PARISH SECRETARY 18 months' fixed term. Salary: £10,537.80 pro rata per annum. Hours: Part-time 15 hours per week.

Working Pattern: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (5 hours per day. Start & finish time to be negotiated during interview).

Location: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Village Lane, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 7HS. How to apply: please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/parish-secretary-17/>

Closing date: 12.00 noon, Tuesday 3 February 2026.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 5 February.**

Jen's Weekly Prayer

The early winter twilight was blazoned
across the turquoise sky
like a pair of extraordinary, beautiful crimson wings
glowing with enfolded light.
The bare, dark, balletic trees' branches,
beneath this spectacular display,
completed this awesome, artistic masterpiece.
In this time of great uncertainty when fear, pain
and increasing anxiety permeate
so many places across the world,
that all who are in positions of power and authority
act justly, wisely, prudently, honourably
and compassionately and value those whose lives
rely upon their judgements.
May peace, hope and love prevail
against this backdrop.
We once again give thanks for the natural world's
extraordinary shape and beauty which can fill us
with warmth and hope at a time of doubt and fear.
Help us to cherish the unexpected beauty we can recall
and treasure the joy and delight kindled within us
to calm and comfort us in darker moments.

Jen Jones © January 2026

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

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.

I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps. 146 (145): 6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. R/Mt 5:3

R/ Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever, who does justice to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free. **R/**

The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger. **R/**

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Sion, from age to age. **R/**

Second Reading

I Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Year A

Alleluia, alleluia
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a

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: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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