



Life and death are in front of people,  
and whichever one chooses will be  
given to him. *Sirach 15:16*

**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

**15 February 2026**

**Sixth Sunday of the Year**

**Year A**

*The Parish Secretary, Theresa Noble, is on annual leave and will return to the Parish Office  
 on Tuesday 24 February 9.00am-3.00pm  
 Postal Address: St Mary's Presbytery, Malvern Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 9LL*

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 14 - 22 February 2026**

<b>Saturday 14 February</b>	<b>4.30pm Sacred Heart</b>	Priest's Intention
	<b>5.30pm St Philip Neri</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 15 February</b>	<b>9.00am St Mary</b>	Peter Doran (dec.) [MD]
<b>Sixth Sunday of the Year (A)</b>	<b>10.30am Immaculate Heart</b>	Oliver Roberts (dec.) [KR]
Monday 16 February	1.30pm Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 17 February	9.30am Immaculate Heart	John Arkless (dec.)
<b>Ash Wednesday 18 February</b>	<b>9.30am St Mary</b>	Priest's Intention ( <i>St Mary's School Attending</i> )
<b>Season of Lent begins</b>	<b>6.30pm Immaculate Heart</b>	Priest's Intention
<b>(Day of Fasting and Abstinence)</b>	<b>6.30pm Sacred Heart</b>	Priest's Intention
Thursday 19 February	9.30am St Mary	Denis Dunphy (dec.) [MD]
Friday 20 February	<u>11.30am</u> St Mary	Requiem Mass - Molly Hearne RIP
	6.30pm Immaculate Heart	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
<b>Saturday 21 February</b>	<b>4.30pm Sacred Heart</b>	Pauline Turner (dec.) [HT]
	<b>5.30pm St Philip Neri</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 22 February</b>	<b>9.00am St Mary</b>	Pauline Archbold (dec.) [DA]
<b>First Sunday of Lent Year (A)</b>	<b>10.30am Immaculate Heart</b>	Robert Quinn (dec)

**Weekday Readings:** Monday, Tuesday Ordinary Time Week 6, Year 2, Wednesday and following - Season of Lent

**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 & Thursday at St Mary's

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

1.00pm - 1.20pm on Monday at Sacred Heart, 9.00am - 9.25am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart & Thursday at St Mary's

**Stations of the Cross**

6.30pm on Friday 20 February at Immaculate Heart

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Molly Hearne who has died recently. 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 she 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).**

**ASH WEDNESDAY** marks the beginning of the Season of Lent and will be celebrated this Wednesday 18 February.

**Ash Wednesday Mass times: 9.30am at St Mary's, 6.30pm at Immaculate Heart and 6.30pm at Sacred Heart - ashes will be distributed at all Masses.**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** There will be Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm on the following Fridays during Lent: Friday 20 February at Immaculate Heart, Friday 27 February at St Mary's, Friday 6 March at St Philip Neri, Friday 13 March at Immaculate Heart, Friday 20 March at St Mary's, Friday 27 March at St Philip Neri.

**WALK WITH ME LENTEN BOOKLETS**, which include a daily reflection for each day of Lent, are available to purchase at each church, price £1.50.

**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.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION** The next session (for candidates only) is on Wednesday 18 February at St Matthew's Primary School, Prudhoe at 6.30pm. Please be reminded to bring your Faith in Action journals to the session. Please make arrangements with your parish priest directly to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) during Lent.

**MASS OF ENROLMENT FOR CONFIRMATION** Our young people preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year will take part in their Mass of Enrolment at Our Lady and St Cuthbert's church, Prudhoe, on **Wednesday 4 March at 6.30pm**. During this celebration, the candidates will be formally presented to the parish community and will commit themselves to continue their journey of faith in the months ahead. Please keep them, their families, and their catechists in your prayers as they continue to grow in faith and deepen their relationship with Christ. All from across our parishes are welcome.

**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.

**SAFEGUARDING** The Safeguarding Posters near the entrance of each church are in the process of being updated, please take a moment to familiarise yourself with them. Safeguarding is taken very seriously within our parish and diocese. For all parish volunteers (DBS checked) or anyone who would like to be familiar with our diocesan safeguarding training, please use this link [www.training.catholic safeguarding.org.uk](http://www.training.catholic safeguarding.org.uk) or the QR code below. Completion of the training online only takes a few minutes, then you will be presented with a certificate. Speak to your Parish Safeguarding Representative if you require any explanation or information. Thank You.



**SOMETHING TO FOLLOW FOR LENT: A Partnership Wide Lenten Course** focussed on helping people enter more deeply into prayer will be offered on **Wednesday evenings during Lent in St Patrick's Parish Centre, Felling at 6.30pm, starting Wednesday 25 February**. The course will offer lots of practical tips, wisdom from the bible, stories from the saints, and advice about common difficulties people face when praying. Each hour long session is based on a short filmed presentation by Fr. Stephen Wang (who is also the author of the Sycamore RCIA Course). Topics covered include:

Session 1 PRAYER FOR BEGINNERS, Session 2 SEVEN RULES OF PRAYER, Session 3 PRAYING WITH THE BIBLE, Session 4 HOW TO PRAY THE MASS, Session 5 SILENT PRAYER AND THE PRESENCE OF GOD

All are most welcome to attend all or any of these sessions.

**EASTER IN DISGUISE** Following the success of the Advent Book Group, this Lent we will be reading together the 2026 Bloomsbury Lent Book entitled 'Easter in Disguise' by Sr Liz Dodd.

This book is a companion to the six weeks of Lent, with each week and its gospel focus corresponding to one of Jesus' six spiritualities of social justice. It culminates in a fresh look at the traditions of Holy Week.

**Everyone is welcome at Corpus Christi, Kelvin Grove NE8 4QP on Wednesdays during Lent (25 February onwards) at 6.30pm** for a time of prayer and reflection on the chapter.

Contact St Peter's Parish Office to reserve a copy or source your own copy (available in a variety of formats).

**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 meat (corned beef, mince beef, pek etc), baked beans, chopped tomatoes, custard, coffee, tea bags, biscuits, antiperspirant, washing up liquid.**

**OTHER priority items:** pasta sauce, long grained rice, tinned meatballs, garden peas, carrots, sweetcorn, potatoes, tuna, hot dogs, rice pudding, fruit, cereal, cooking oil, tomato purée, sugar, toothpaste, spray cleaner, laundry powder/liquid, shampoo & feminine hygiene (especially tampons), toilet rolls.

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](mailto:teachkate1@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:marriage@diocesehn.org.uk) Tel. 0191 243 3316.

## **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.

**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](mailto:evie.rea@ymt.org)

**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](mailto:BarbaraT@svp.org.uk)

**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.

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS** Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 19 February.**

### **Jen's Weekly Prayer**

When light is limited, we feel downcast,  
tethered to a burden we do not want to carry.  
For many this burden increases, and it is then  
the inner voice of strength gathers its force  
like the tender early springtime bulbs  
as they force their way into a new light,  
their soft and tender colours are born  
and stir within us a light of hope,  
for beauty once again is present  
in the late winter gloom.

For many in places of unrest, conflict or disaster  
there are many days of darkness and pain;  
grant that the warmth and care of stranger, friend  
and loved one may calm and soothe their fear and pain  
and grant that the healing light of hope, strength  
and resilience will enfold and comfort them,  
and bring them the gleaming colours of peace.

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

## First Reading

*Sirach 15:15-20*

If you desire, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of choice. He has placed before you fire and water: stretch out your hand for whichever you wish. Life and death are in front of people, and whichever one chooses will be given to him. For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows a person's every deed. He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly, and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** *Psalm 119(118):1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R/1b*

**R/ Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!**

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the Lord!  
Blessed are those who keep his decrees!  
With all their hearts they seek him. **R/**

You have laid down your precepts  
to be carefully kept.  
May my ways be firm  
in keeping your statutes. **R/**

Deal bountifully with your servant,  
that I may live and keep your word.  
Open my eyes, that I may see  
the wonders of your law. **R/**

Lord, teach me the way of your statutes,  
and I will keep them to the end.  
Grant me insight that I may keep your law,  
and observe it wholeheartedly. **R/**

## Second Reading

*1 Corinthians 2:6-10*

Brothers and Sisters: Among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him' - these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Cf. Matthew 11:25*

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.  
Alleluia.

## Gospel

*Matthew 5:17-37*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your Spirit.**

## Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 'You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. 'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 'Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn." But I say to you: Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No"; anything more than this comes from evil.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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