

A voice from the cloud said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.' *Matthew 17:5*

**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**

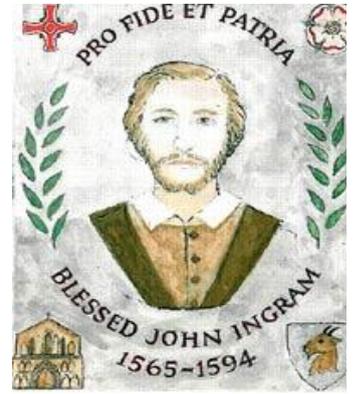
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The John Ingram Partnership  
 Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

**1 March 2026**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

**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](mailto: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 28 February - 8 March 2026**

<b>Saturday 28 February</b>	<b>4.30pm Sacred Heart</b>	Pauline Scorer (dec.) [WH]
	<b>5.30pm St Philip Neri</b>	Priest's Intention
<b>Sunday 1 March</b>	<b>9.00am St Mary</b>	Maureen Todd (dec.) [CH]
<b>Second Sunday of Lent (Year A)</b>	<b>10.30am Immaculate Heart</b>	People of the Parish
Monday 2 March	1.30pm Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 3 March	9.30am Immaculate Heart	N.B.F.
Wednesday 4 March	9.30am St Philip Neri	Priest's Intention
Thursday 5 March	9.30am St Mary	Molly Hearne (dec.) [MD]
Friday 6 March	6.30pm St Philip Neri	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
<b>Saturday 7 March</b>	<b>4.30pm Sacred Heart</b>	Harry Oxley (dec.) [MM]
	<b>5.30pm St Philip Neri</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 8 March</b>	<b>9.00am St Mary</b>	Mary Mills (dec.) [MW]
<b>Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)</b>	<b>10.30am Immaculate Heart</b>	Lawrence Regan (dec.) [MR]

**Weekday Readings: Season of Lent Week 2**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

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

**Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**

*4.30pm on Sunday 1 March at Sacred Heart*

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

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

**Stations of the Cross**

*6.30pm on Friday 6 March at St Philip Neri*

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Michael McKenna and Jackie Hodgson who have died recently. The Funeral Service for Michael McKenna will be at 10.15am on Thursday 5 March at Mountsett Crematorium. The Requiem Mass for Jackie Hodgson will be at 11.45am on Tuesday 10 March at St Philip Neri Church followed by cremation at Mountsett Crematorium. May they rest in peace Amen.

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

**DIOCESAN PASTORAL STRATEGY** In Bishop Stephen's Pastoral Letter read at all Masses last weekend 21/22 February, we heard about God's calling for our Diocese and the hopes and challenges we all face in the coming years. All parishes are asked to reflect and discern on their mission as we continue our journey to live as a flourishing Diocese alive in the Holy Spirit. More information is available on the diocesan website - [www.diocesehn.org.uk/pastoral-strategy](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk/pastoral-strategy) - including details for an online session taking place on Tuesday 3 March at 7pm.

**OPEN PARISH MEETING** In order to begin to address the Pastoral Strategy/Discernment Process, there will be an initial open meeting for parishioners to attend (from both parishes) at **10.00am on Saturday 14 March at St Mary's Church Hall, Dockendale Lane, Whickham NE16 4EN**. This will provide an opportunity for us to pray together, 'set the scene', outline the process and respond to any initial questions/concerns people may have. This is a very important time for our diocese and parish communities, so please attend this meeting if you can.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** There will be Stations of the Cross at **6.30pm on the following Fridays during Lent:** 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.

**COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES APPEAL (7/8 February)** Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this appeal which realised £776.37. Fr John Boles, who made the appeal, wishes to express his sincere gratitude for your generosity and for the warm welcome he received from the parish during his visit.

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

**GIFT FOR LIFE MARCH 100 CLUB DRAW** The *Gift for Life* '100 Club' draw takes place after Mass this Sunday (1 March) at Immaculate Heart. Come along for refreshments, good conversation and see the draw take place. Also, the next Gift for Life Group meeting takes place by Zoom on Thursday 12 March at 7pm. If you would like to join the meeting please contact us on [giftforlife20@gmail.com](mailto:giftforlife20@gmail.com) Thank you for all your brilliant support.

**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.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - A SERVICE FOR EVERONE!** At St Mary's Parish Church (CofE), Church Chare, Whickham NE16 4SH, 1.30pm on Friday 6 March. The Service is prepared by the Christian Women of Nigeria. All are welcome - come and join us!

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** at the Life Vineyard Church, Marley Hill on Friday 6 March 2026 at 1.30pm. In this group, the following Churches are taking part: Life Vineyard, St James, Burnopfield Methodist, St Cuthberts, St Margaret's and Sacred Heart, Byermoor. There will be also two children from Sacred Heart Primary School involved in this Ecumenical movement. The World Day of Prayer Service is prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria. This year's theme is 'I will give you rest, come.'

**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. 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.

**SYCAMORE COURSE FOR LENT** 'Prayer in my opinion is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us.'

*St Teresa of Avila*

Join us in this season of Lent as we look at how we might enter more deeply into prayer. Using sessions from Sycamore, we will explore wisdom from the Bible, stories from the saints, lots of practical tips and advice about some of the common difficulties we face when praying. The sessions will take place online using Zoom. They will be weekly on Sunday evenings from 6pm to 7.15pm from 22 February until 29 March. Join us for as many sessions as you can, and why not bring a friend? Please register your interest using the link below to receive the Zoom link - <https://bit.ly/DHNSycamoreLent2026>

**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 at 6.30pm for a time of prayer and reflection on the chapter.

To reserve a copy or source your own copy (available in a variety of formats), please contact St Peter's Parish Office tel. 0191 481 2083 email [south.gateshead@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:south.gateshead@diocesehn.org.uk)

**IRISH NIGHT** The Little Sisters of the Poor (St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, NE4 7QA) are hosting an Irish Night on Saturday 21 March. There will be a Ceilidh band, dancing, food and a raffle. Tickets, priced £10 each, are available from The Little Sisters by contacting them on 0191 273 1279.

**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.) kidney beans, fruit.**

**OTHER priority spray cleaner:** pasta sauce, long grained rice, tinned baked beans, chopped tomatoes, garden peas, carrots, sweetcorn, potatoes, tuna, hot dogs, meatballs, rice pudding, custard, cereal, cooking oil, tomato purée, sugar, coffee, tea bags, biscuits, toothpaste, spray cleaner, washing up liquid, laundry powder/liquid, shampoo, antiperspirant, 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)

**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)

#### **DIOCESAN VACANCY**

**Role:** Parish Finance Officer

**Salary Scale:** £43,000 to £45,000

**Location:** St Vincent's Diocesan Offices, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY

**Applicant Pack:** From Annie Leaver, Head of

HR [annie.leaver@diocesahn.org.uk](mailto:annie.leaver@diocesahn.org.uk)

**Closing Date:** Wednesday 4 March 2026 (we reserve the right to close the post early)

**Shortlisting:** Wednesday 11 March 2026

**Interviews scheduled:** Tuesday 17 March 2026

The full advert can be viewed at <https://diocesahn.org.uk/job-vacancies/>

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

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

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

We no longer need to rub sticks together or strike a flint to make a fire, we can view images of the universe from deep space.

Yet where are we on our continuum of time?

Aggression, war, distrust, lack of food & water, a safe shelter for families, the simple essentials for life are still not available to all inhabitants of our planet, many still go hungry and lack of resources rob many of their ability to utilise their gifts.

Enable all who are in positions of power and authority to use their gifts wisely and well to help mitigate those who are suffering from any form of aggression and address the global damage inflicted upon the planet and those most at risk from these outcomes. Strengthen our resolve to speak up for the vulnerable, the hungry, the frightened, the weary and oppressed.

As we continue our journeys,  
may we all be enlightened and filled with strength, light, hope, love, in hearts and minds, and live in peace.

*Jen Jones © July 2022*

#### **SAFEGUARDING IN THE DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE**

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.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.training.catholicsafeguarding.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.



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@diocesahn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@diocesahn.org.uk)

**First Reading***Genesis 12:1-4a*

In those days: The Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm***Ps 33(32):4-5. 18-19. 20, 22. R/cf. 5*

**R/ May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O Lord.**

The word of the Lord is upright,  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right,  
and his merciful love fills the earth. **R/**

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him,  
who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their soul from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. **R/**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
He is our help and our shield.  
May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O Lord. **R/**

**Second Reading***II Timothy 1:8b-10*

Beloved: We share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.  
From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:  
'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.  
Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

**Gospel***Matthew 17:1-9*

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 took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.' When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and have no fear.' And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one, but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, 'Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.'

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