



The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming. When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you, I am he.'
John 4:25-26

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

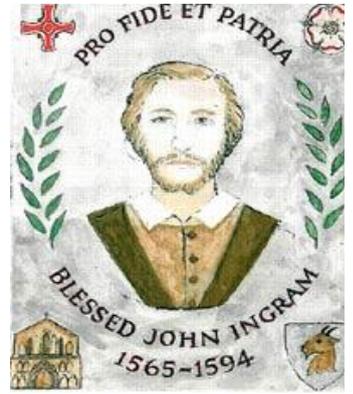
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Parish Website www.theparish.org.uk

Diocesan Website www.diocesehn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
 Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

8 March 2026

Third 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 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 7 – 15 March 2026

Saturday 7 March	4.30pm Sacred Heart	Harry Oxley (dec.) [MM]
	5.30pm St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 8 March	9.00am St Mary	Mary Mills (dec.) [MW]
Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)	10.30am Immaculate Heart	Lawrence Regan (dec.) [MR]
Monday 9 March <i>St Frances of Rome</i>	1.30pm Sacred Heart	Harry Oxley (dec.) [MM]
Tuesday 10 March	<u>11.45am St Philip Neri</u>	Requiem Mass - Jackie Hodgson RIP
Wednesday 11 March	9.30am St Philip Neri	Priest's Intention
Thursday 12 March	9.30am St Mary	Julie Ann Rocks (dec.) [MD]
Friday 13 March	6.30pm Immaculate Heart	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Saturday 14 March	4.30pm Sacred Heart	Michael Morris (dec.) [MM]
	5.30pm St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 15 March	9.00am St Mary	Kathleen Cunningham (dec.) [PC]
Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)	10.30am Immaculate Heart	Ann Tate (dec.) [MT]

Weekday Readings: Season of Lent Week 3

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 Thursday at St Mary's

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Stations of the Cross

6.30pm on Friday 13 March at Immaculate Heart

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Jackie Hodgson who has died recently. The Requiem Mass for Jackie will be at 11.45am on Tuesday 10 March at St Philip Neri Church followed by cremation at Mountsett Crematorium. May she 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 on the 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

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 Primary School** (access via Dockendale Lane, Whickham NE16 4EN - car parking available in the church car park and school yard). This meeting 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. There will be three subsequent meetings for Our Lady and St Philip Neri Parish (Saturday 21 March, 10.00am at St Mary's Primary School, and other dates and times yet to be finalised). Subsequent meetings for Sacred Heart Parish are also yet to be finalised.

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

HOLY WEEK SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 1 April

11.00am Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral

Holy Thursday 2 April

6.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at Sacred Heart

6.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at Immaculate Heart

Good Friday 3 April

3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion at Sacred Heart

3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St Philip Neri

Holy Saturday 4 April

5.30pm Vigil and First Mass of Easter at St Mary's

Easter Sunday 5 April

10.00am Mass of Easter Morning at Sacred Heart

10.00am Mass of Easter Morning at Immaculate Heart

LENTEN ALMS COLLECTION There will be a retiring collection at all Masses next weekend 14/15 March to support the work of St Cuthbert's Care, our Diocesan Care Agency. For more information about St Cuthbert's Care and the work it does, please visit www.stcuthbertscare.org.uk

THANK YOU to all Parishioners who donated to my granddaughter's 62 mile walk challenge for Cancer Research. A total of £340.00 was raised. *Evelyn Shield*

GIFT FOR LIFE GROUP MEETING 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 Thank you for all your brilliant support.

GIFT FOR LIFE '100 CLUB' - March Draw Results and 'Save the Date' for Summer Social The March Gift for Life '100 Club' draw took place last Sunday at Immaculate Heart. The lucky winners were: First Prize (£50) - Number 77; Second Prize (£30) - Number 97; Third Prize (£20) - Number 31. The next draw takes place at St Mary's on Sunday 5 April. Our next Gift for Life Group meeting takes place on Thursday 12th March at 7pm by Zoom. Please get in touch at giftforlife20@gmail.com if you would like to join us. Finally- back by popular demand – the Gift for Life Summer Social will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 28 June at St Mary's. Put the date in your diary! Thank you for all your generous support.

RED MISSION BOXES are due to be emptied this month. Boxes/Money can be given to Lilian Gray at Immaculate Heart and St Mary's or to Denise Hebron at St Philip Neri. Copies of Mission Today Spring 2026 are now available but the magazine can also be read online at <https://missio.org.uk/mission-today> Please contact Lilian Gray on 07717853685 or liliangray@sky.com if you have any queries.

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 hotdogs, meat (corned beef, mince beef, pek etc) carrots, potatoes, rice pudding, fruit,

OTHER priority items - pasta sauce, long grained rice, tinned baked beans, chopped tomatoes, garden peas, sweetcorn, tuna, 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

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

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

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.

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCY

Role: Retreat Facilitator

Location: Emmaus Youth Village, nr Consett

Details: Planning events and activities, cross checking bookings and catering requirements, handling cash and dealing with invoices and payments. The successful candidate will be one of the main points of contact during residential weekends. The Youth Village welcomes thousands of young people each year through retreats, festivals, outreach, and diocesan initiatives. Our work continues to grow in both scale and depth, and it remains a vital expression of the Church's commitment to forming and accompanying the next generation.

Salary: £25,350

Closing date: 09:00 on Tuesday 17 March 2026

How to apply: Further information and Application Pack are available at <https://diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies/>

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 12 March.**

Jen's Weekly Prayer

The bright glowing disc of the full moon
high in the early evening sky,
surrounded by delicate pale turquoise,
deepening cobalt blue and a wonderful spread
of green lustrous light on the horizon.
An extraordinary canopy of beauty spread before us,
captivating, reassuring, peaceful and comforting.
Guide us especially in times of stress, anxiety and pain
to look outwards as the early springtime renewal
awakens shrub and flower, the soothing colours of the
young leaves once more breaking through
their tender outer coverings on shrub and tree.
The blooms of pansy, crocus daffodil, late snowdrop
and bluebell look up at the changing and enthralling
evening skies filled with peace.
For those whose skies are darkness filled with fear
and pain of what is hidden in the light,
grant them safety, hope
and your healing light and peace.

Jen Jones © March 2026

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 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@diocesehn.org.uk

First Reading*Exodus 17:3-7*

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the Lord said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R/7c, 8a*

**R/ O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts.'**

Come, let us ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise. **R/**

O come; let us bow and bend low.
Let us kneel before the Lord who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand. **R/**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R/**

Second Reading*Romans 5:1-2, 5-8*

Love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit who has been given to us.

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*Cf. John 4:42, 15*

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.
Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Gospel*John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42*

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water. Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming - he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him. So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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