



Jesus Said, 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the works of the one who sent me.... As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' *John 9:4-5*

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

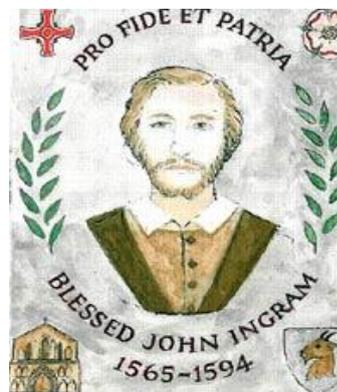
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Assistant Priest Fr Endre Kormos (0191 716 6367)

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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

15 March 2026

Fourth 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 14 - 22 March 2026

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]
Monday 16 March	1.30pm Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 17 March <i>St Patrick</i>	9.30am Immaculate Heart	N.B.F.
Wednesday 18 March <i>St Cyril</i>	9.30am St Philip Neri	Priest's Intention
Thursday 19 March <i>St Joseph</i>	9.30am St Mary	Molly Hearne (dec.) [SK]
Friday 20 March <i>St Cuthbert</i>	6.30pm St Mary	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Saturday 21 March	4.30pm Sacred Heart	Mary Heslin (dec.) [PB]
	5.30pm St Philip Neri	Bernard & Molly Hearne (dec.) [CH]
Sunday 22 March	9.00am St Mary	People of the Parish
Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)	10.30am Immaculate Heart	John & Doreen Campbell (dec.) [JC]

Weekday Readings: *Season of Lent Week 4*

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

Stations of the Cross

6.30pm on Friday 20 March at St Mary's

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).

LENTEN ALMS COLLECTION There will be a retiring collection at all Masses this 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

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 on Saturday 21 March, 10.00am at St Mary's Primary School, and two 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 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

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES for the new Financial Year April 2026 - March 2027 are now available at the back of each church.

If any parishioners do not yet contribute by planned giving or standing order and would like to make arrangement to do so, please contact the Parish Office, email olpn.gateshead@diocesehn.org.uk or tel. 0191 460 4274. Also, if you are a UK Taxpayer, you might consider Gift-Aiding your donations which would mean that the parish would then benefit from an extra 25p for every £1 you donate. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office for a Gift-Aid form or for further information. If you have access to internet banking, you may wish to set up a standing order online to make your regular parish contributions. The details required for you to do this are as follows:

Our Lady and St Philip Neri Parish

Payee: DHN Gateshead Our Lady and St Philip Neri

Sort code: 40-34-45

Account number: 21167936

Reference: insert your own name

Commencing: day/month/year

Frequency: weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually

Sacred Heart Parish, Byermoor

Payee: DHN Byermoor The Sacred Heart

Sort Code: 40-34-18

Account Number: 91492241

Reference: insert your own name

Commencing: day/month/year

Frequency: weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually

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.

ITEMS IN SHORT SUPPLY - UHT milk, sugar, long grained rice.

OTHER priority items - pasta sauce, dried pasta, tinned hotdogs, meat (corned beef, mince beef, pek etc) carrots, potatoes, rice pudding fruit, baked beans, chopped tomatoes, garden peas, sweetcorn, tuna, meatballs, rice pudding, custard, cereal, cooking oil, tomato purée, 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

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.

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

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/>

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.

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

Jen's Weekly Prayer

As we daily observe the burgeoning beauty
of soft green leaf on shrubs and trees
coupled with the dazzling array
of springtime flowers in rainbow colours,
may we give thanks for these precious gifts
to brighten our hearts and minds,
bringing us delight and endless joy.
Help us too at this time to think and hold dear
all those whose lives are being thrown into chaos
because of violence, pain and suffering
over which they have no control,
especially the sick, the infirm, children and those
too afraid to leave the place so dear to them.
Fear can immobilize us and remove reason.
Grant that like the natural world which finds
the strength to break through the hard soil,
those who are struggling may be helped
to find the courage to cope with which ever form
of anguish, violence or terror they are facing.
Guide them to safety and fill them
with hope, peace and the light of love.

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

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

In those days: The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R/1

R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul. **R/**

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.

Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. **R/**

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R/**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending. **R/**

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

'Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
Whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Gospel

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

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: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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