



The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44

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)

Parish Telephone 0191 460 4274

Parish E-mail olpn.gateshead@diocesehn.org.uk

Parish Website www.theparish.org.uk

Diocesan Website www.diocesehn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

26 July 2026

Seventeenth 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 & 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 25 July - 2 August 2026

Saturday 25 July	4.30pm Sacred Heart	Thomas & Sarah Morris (dec.) [MM]
	5.30pm St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 26 July	9.00am St Mary	Kath Airey (dec.) [MD]
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)	10.30am Immaculate Heart	Joseph & Cecilia Cobbing (dec.) [GC]
<i>Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly</i>		
Monday 27 July	9.30am Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 28 July	9.30am Immaculate Heart	Frank McCoy (dec.) [JMcC]
Wednesday 29 July <i>Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus</i>	9.30am St Philip Neri	Priest's Intention
Thursday 30 July <i>St Peter Chrysologus</i>	9.30am St Mary	Priest's Intention
Friday 31 July <i>St Ignatius of Loyola</i>		
Saturday 1 August St Alphonsus Liguori	4.30pm Sacred Heart	Kevin Joyce (dec.) [AH]
	5.30pm St Philip Neri	Ann Crompton (dec.) [JW]
Sunday 2 August	9.00am St Mary	Margaret Ord (dec.) [AMcP]
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)	10.30am Immaculate Heart	People of the Parish

Weekday Readings: Ordinary Time Week 17 Year 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Baptism

This Sunday, in the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Ronnie Dawson into the Family of the Church

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK Jessica Butler, Veronica Coleman, Brigitte Jones, Peter Jones, Tatiane Lambert, Maria Thi Kien Chiene Le, John Leitch, Bill Martin, Cheryl Anne McDonald, Nora Miller, Margaret Murphy, Astrid Muse (Gower), Joseph Relf, 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).

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: PARISH FOOD BANK UPDATE

For over six years, our parish has provided vital support to families in need. This mission has been sustained entirely by your incredible generosity and the hard work of five dedicated volunteers.

Planned Closure

The current volunteer team, all aged 70+, has decided it is time to retire from the physical demands of shopping, packing, and delivering. **Therefore, the Food Bank will close this week on 31 July 2026, with the final delivery taking place on Thursday 30 July.**

This transition is supported by recent government changes to Universal Benefits, which have provided significant financial relief to many of the larger families we serve.

Immediate Actions

- **Donations:** Please cease all food and monetary donations immediately.
- **Remaining Funds:** Surplus stock and funds will be used through July, with any remainder being gifted to Blaydon Food Bank, Joe's Place and Corpus Christi Food Co-op.

An Opportunity to Continue

If a new group of parishioners wishes to take over the running of this outreach (as it is run now or with a new methodology), the current team is happy to provide mentoring and support during a transition period. Please contact the Parish Office if you feel called to lead this ministry.

A Note of Gratitude

We celebrate the wonderful impact this project has had over the last six years. Thank you for your constant encouragement and support; you have made a profound difference in the lives of many local families.

SACRED HEART 150TH ANNIVERSARY In October we will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Church. If you have any old photographs, newspaper clippings or other memorabilia, could you please lend them to Fr Endre for scanning and reproduction.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL DISCERNMENT - JOHN INGRAM PARTNERSHIP On Wednesday 24 June laity and clergy met for a second time to explore a Partnership response for Bishop Stephen and the Diocese. The following common strands emerged:-

- a clear understanding that we cannot continue as we are
- a willingness to face difficult realities honestly
- the beginnings of a shared direction across the Partnership

This is an important place to have reached.

At a further meeting on 16 July, another step was taken i.e. attempting to identify a small number of clear Partnership priorities, which can then be developed into a plan. This happened through smaller groups, based on geographical areas within the Partnership, working to look at the current structures and resources and the issues we face. More details will be provided soon.

Thank you again for the time, honesty and care so many have given to this process so far.

RE-ENERGISING OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL As part of the Pastoral Planning discernment process for the Parish of Our Lady and St Philip Neri, we identified the need to 're-energise' our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). At the PPC meeting on 19 May it was agreed that the best way to do this was for all existing members to stand down and for an open and inclusive process for forming a new PPC to take place as soon as practicable. A small group of former PPC members is reviewing the most recent PPC guidelines and will publish these and details of the process for forming the new Parish Pastoral Council next weekend. In the meantime please pray for this process and do consider whether you, or someone you know in the parish, might be being called to serve our parish in this way.

OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE - A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

A Private Members' Bill on assisted suicide - so-called assisted dying - has been reintroduced to the House of Commons. The *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill* will have its Second Reading and vote on **Friday, 11 September 2026**. Our clear principled objection to this Bill remains and we renew our call for Catholics and people of goodwill to **unite in prayer and compassionate action**. Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, explains our strong opposition to this legislation: "The *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill* which aims to legalise assisted suicide has returned to the House of Commons, and Members of Parliament will vote on its Second Reading on 11 September. This bill is wrong in principle. It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives. The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament [see below] to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading."

ACT NOW! You can support the Archbishop's call and [contact your MP now](#) as a matter of urgency. Even if you have already done so in the past, please speak up and voice your opposition. The charity [Right to Life UK](#) has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament.

LOURDES AT HOME As we prepare to travel to Lourdes on 31 July, there will be people who would like to participate from here in our Diocese who cannot be with us. **Live Streaming** When in Lourdes, the Masses and services will be live streamed via the Diocesan Hospitalité YouTube channel and the Lourdes Sanctuary YouTube channel. More details will be available on the Diocesan Hospitalité Facebook page. Please keep the success of the Centenary pilgrimage in your prayers.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO ROME Places are still available for those who would like to attend the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome in October 2027. The details of the pilgrimage and how to book can be found on the Diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/diocesan-pilgrimage-to-rome-assis/>

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 9.00am on Thursday 30 July**.

Jen's Weekly Prayer

The unique brush of nature the artist suffused the
Landscape with colour and depth of gold, red, violet,
peach, pink and translucent clear light.
Chimney pots glowed golden, fields were transformed
by this wondrous brush to be not only green
but shimmering gold.

A rainbow too completed this awesome masterpiece.
These spectacular masterpieces are free and available
to us all if we grasp the unique moment and embrace
the meaningful peace joy and childlike thrill of the
unexpected, when the day could have been
troublesome, worrying, plagued with fears and doubts
or filled with laughter and joy.

Many days can be likened to less colour-filled joys
we witness, yet to look out, look up, look around
at the healing touch of the unexpected and pure joy
before us, can bring healing, hope, strength and the
power to embrace the love it all encompasses.

May we all have the courage to see the light,
even if on occasions it is only chinks we glimpse,
and be open to the incredible journey we can take
if we have the courage to see to find
the radiant healing light of wonder.

Jen Jones © July 2022

SAFEGUARDING IN THE DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND

NEWCASTLE The agency that oversees safeguarding in the Catholic Church has observed 'good practice' in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle across all eight of the recognised National Safeguarding Standards. In an audit report published recently, the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) in particular hailed major improvements in Church leadership, governance, ministry, culture and the care of those people who have been harmed. To read the CSSA final report please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Hexham-and-Newcastle-final-for-full-publication.pdf> To read the Diocesan statement in full please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Press-Release-from-the-Diocese-of-Hexham-and-Newcastle-audit-report-February-2025.pdf>

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



Prayer for the Sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Holy Father,
who watch over every person,
watch over me too when I am elderly.
You have revealed your name to me in Christ,
and You were not discouraged by my frailties.
You hold me tenderly in your hands,
and You caress my lines.
You will never forget me! (cf. Isaiah 49:15)
Grant that I may not fear my weakness;
help me learn to love it
just as You love it.
Help me learn to listen to it
just as You listen to it.
Help me embrace it
just as You have chosen it -
You who, though all-powerful, clothed yourself in humility.
May growing old strip away all our pride
and all division
So that we may live these years
united in You.
You will never forget us! (cf. Isaiah 49:15)

www.cathfamily.org

First Reading*1 Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12*

In those days: The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, 'Ask what I shall give you.' And Solomon said, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps. 119(118):57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130, R/ 97a*

R/ O Lord, how I love your law!

You, O Lord, are my portion;
I have promised to obey your words.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than large quantities of silver and gold. ***R/***

Let your merciful love console me
by your promise to your servant.
Show me compassion, that I may live,
for your law is my delight. ***R/***

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts,
and hate false ways. ***R/***

Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
therefore my soul obeys them.
The unfolding of your word gives light,
And understanding to the simple. ***R/***

Second reading*Romans 8:28-30*

Brothers and Sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

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 13:44-52*

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all these things?' They said to him, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

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.