



The Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things.

Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 966

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

16 August 2026

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 15 August - 23 August 2026

Saturday 15 August	4.30pm	Sacred Heart	Frank Bowes (dec.)
	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 16 August	9.00am	St Mary	Kath Airey (dec.) [DD]
<i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	James & Anne McPhee (liv.) [AMcP]
Monday 17 August	N.B.	No Mass today	
Tuesday 18 August	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	Priest's Intention
Wednesday 19 August <i>St Oswin</i>	9.30am	St Philip Neri	Prayer Shawl Recipients
Thursday 20 August <i>St Bernard</i>	9.30am	St Mary	Ursula Purvis-Kelly (dec.)
Friday 21 August <i>Dedication of St Mary's Cathedral</i>			
Saturday 22 August	4.30pm	Sacred Heart	Victoria Swinburn (dec.) [AS]
	5.30pm	St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 23 August	9.00am	St Mary	George Turnbull (dec.) [MT]
<i>Twenty First Sunday of the Year (Year A)</i>	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Michael Jobe (dec.) [JJ]

Weekday Readings: Ordinary Time Week 20 Year 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Peter Power who has died recently. The Requiem Mass for Peter Power will be at St Gregory's Church, South Shields NE34 6NR on Friday 11 September at 10.15am. May he rest in peace. Amen.

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 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).

RE-ENERGISING OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NOW OPEN

You may recall that one of the outcomes from the Pastoral Planning Discernment Process in our parish was to 're-energise the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)'. The previous PPC has been disbanded and we are now seeking nominations for the new PPC. Nomination forms are available at the back of each church and the nomination process will remain open for 4 weeks, closing at midnight on Sunday 30 August. As well as parish clergy and the head teachers of our two primary schools, membership of the PPC will include 3 representatives from each of our 3 churches. Parishioners can nominate themselves or, with their consent, can be nominated by another parishioner. Full details of the nomination and election process, along with our Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines, can be found via this link [PPC 2026](#) at the top of the parish website homepage.

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.

OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP NERI PARISH - ST PHILIP NERI CHURCH

As some of you may know, St Philip Neri Church requires some urgent and expensive repairs. This includes a complete electrical re-wiring of the church and replacement of the church roof. I have invited Andrew Gillingham, Diocesan Property Manager, to attend an **Open Parish Meeting at 6.30pm on Wednesday 26 August at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church** so that the necessary works and costs can be presented to the Parish and to allow for consideration and discussion of the way forward. All parishioners are welcome to this meeting.

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU FROM THE FOOD BANK TEAM

Thank you for your constant encouragement and support over the past six years. Together, you have made a profound difference to the lives of so many local families, and your generosity has been nothing short of amazing.

While our Food Bank operations have now drawn to a close, our parish is fortunate to have a very active **St. Vincent de Paul (SVP)** group. They meet weekly to support the most vulnerable in our local community. Their vital work relies on ongoing funding, so if you are able, please consider shifting your monetary contributions to support their ongoing mission.

What happens next with our remaining resources:

Residual Stock: Will be donated directly to the **Refugees' Project**.

Residual Funds: It is intended to donate the remaining monetary funds of **£2476.11** between:

Corpus Christi Food Coop and **St. Joseph's Food Bank in Blaydon** (and see *below).

Note on Final Distribution:* While a portion was originally intended for Joe's Place in Gateshead, their outreach work is currently under review. The Food Bank volunteers therefore intend that this final amount could go directly to our **Parish's St Vincent de Paul (SVP) group to help them continue the vital work our parishioners wish to support.

N.B. If anyone who has made monetary donations to the Food Bank and does not agree with this proposed re-distribution of funds, please contact the Parish Office.

Thank you once again for your incredible kindness, generosity, and dedication over the years.

THE NORTHERN CROSS August edition is now available, price **£2.00**.

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.

CAPTURING PARISH LIFE AT SACRED HEART - A message from

Sam Thomson *Sacred Heart is clearly a very special place. As you prepare to mark its 150th anniversary and look back on its remarkable story, 2026 feels like a perfect moment to take a literal snapshot of this place and its community. I hope that in another 150 years people can look back on the photos I take and understand what has gone before. My hope is to meet and to get to know you, to take some photos that tell the story of Sacred Heart as it is today, and to gift to the parish the pictures as a lasting record. I am interested in day to day life in the parish, the church and the people that make it the amazing place I know it is. You might be wondering why? Well... there are a two things about this project which I really love. I live locally, just a few minutes up the road and I have a deep interest in the social history of this part of County Durham. I also just really like taking photos! It is a wonderful way to look at the world, to tell interesting stories and to meet brilliant people. I hope very much to meet you all soon. Sam*

DIOCESAN PASTORAL STRATEGY DISCERNMENT - JOHN INGRAM PARTNERSHIP

A message from Fr Adrian Tuckwell, Lead Priest of the John Ingram Partnership:

Laity and clergy from across our Partnership have been meeting to respond to the Diocesan Pastoral Strategy Discernment Partnership phase of the process. We were also joined by lay reps. from St Joseph's, Birtley.

In total four meetings were held and Form I has been submitted. The first two meetings were very useful in getting together as this large collection of churches (20) and beginning to appreciate the picture across the area. At the third meeting the focus was on smaller groups of parishes working together in 4 zones. At this meeting there arose a common consensus on the following points:

- Merging of parishes and reductions of churches necessary now.
- Develop stronger relationships with our school communities.
- Promote and deepen catechesis, education for all, formation and lay leadership.
- A real taking account of the facts presented to us and action to address them.
- The importance of the John Ingram Partnership. We hope that the regular Partnership Meetings will allow the four zones to share good practice, enrich each other and discern actions and projects that can be supported more widely.

A fourth meeting took place with the intention of completing relevant parts of Form I for each of the zones which would then be collated into one Form I submission to the Bishop.

Bishop Stephen will reflect on all the submissions from across the Diocese before the process moves on to stage 3 - The Deanery discussion (for us that is the Bede and John Ingram Partnerships).

I'd like to thank everyone who took part in these discussion and reflections. There was an openness to one another, to differing viewpoints and to the working of the Holy Spirit guiding us to what is best for the future of the Church in our Diocese.

Please do keep the process and all the individuals involved in your prayers. We all want what is best to enable the Diocese to serve God, the Church and the wider community.

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

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, 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

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 9.00am on Thursday 20 August**.

SAFEGUARDING - CHANGE TO DBS LEGISLATION

Currently, anyone carrying out regulated activity with children can be supervised by a DBS holder when carrying out their role. However, this element of supervision is now being removed and **all persons carrying out regulated activity with children will require an enhanced DBS check with child barred list information from the 1st September 2026**. If a person teaches, trains, instructs, cares for, or supervises children often enough (3 times in 30 days), they will be in regulated activity with children even if someone else supervises them. This will also apply to any young helpers over the age of 16, who will also need a DBS check from the 1st of September if they are assisting with activities involving young people.

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

First Reading*Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab*

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Ps 45(44):10. 11. 12. 16. R/10b*

R/ On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. ***R/***

Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear:
forget your own people and your father's house. ***R/***

So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him. ***R/***

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king. ***R/***

Second Reading*1 Corinthians 15:20-27*

'Christ the first fruits, then those who belong to Christ.'

Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Mary has been taken up into heaven;
the host of angels rejoice.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.'

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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