



**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  
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The John Ingram Partnership  
 Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?'  
*John 14:1-2*

**3 May 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Year A**

*The Parish Secretary, Theresa Noble, is on annual leave and will return to the Parish Office on Tuesday 12 May 9.00am-3.00pm*

*Postal Address: St Mary's Presbytery, Malvern Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 9LL*

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 2 - 10 May 2026**

<b>Saturday 2 May</b>	<b>4.30pm Sacred Heart</b>	People of the Parish
	<b>5.30pm St Philip Neri</b>	Private Intention [J & S McC]
<b>Sunday 3 May</b>	<b>9.00am St Mary</b>	Kathleen Cunningham (dec.) [MD]
<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A)</b>	<b>10.30am Immaculate Heart</b>	Michael Short (dec.) [AS]
Monday 4 May	<u>9.30am</u> Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 5 May <i>Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse</i>	9.30am Immaculate Heart	For all who suffer abuse
Wednesday 6 May	<i>N.B. No Mass today</i>	
Thursday 7 May	9.30am St Mary	Denis Dunphy (dec.) [DD]
Friday 8 May		
<b>Saturday 9 May</b>	<b>4.30pm Sacred Heart</b>	Priest's Intention
	<b>5.30pm St Philip Neri</b>	Jackie Hodgson (dec.) [PMcC]
<b>Sunday 10 May</b>	<b>9.00am St Mary</b>	Bernard & Molly Hearne (dec.) [CP]
<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A)</b>	<b>10.30am Immaculate Heart</b>	People of the Parish

**Weekday Readings:** *Fifth Week of Eastertide*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

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

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction** at 4.30pm on Sunday 3 May at Sacred Heart

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** 9.00am - 9.25am on Monday at Sacred Heart, 9.00am - 9.25am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart & Thursday at St Mary's

**Baptisms**

*This Sunday, in the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Lorenzo and Luen Varga- Nicholson and Clara Mae and Shay Michael Donnelly into the Family of the Church*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK** 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).**

**DIOCESAN PASTORAL STRATEGY** The documents submitted to the Diocese following our parish meetings and questionnaire responses can be viewed via the links on the parish website homepage.

**MESSAGE FROM BISHOP STEPHEN - PASTORAL STRATEGY**

Thank you to all parishes who have completed and returned their reflections as part of our diocesan pastoral strategy. I, together with others, look forward to reading and praying through your discernments in the Spirit.

It is not too late for returns to be made if you are yet to submit.

We next move to a second phase as we invite local parishes to discern together in their Partnerships, or with others in their neighbouring area. Information and updates will be shared on our website.

Please keep this discernment in your prayers as we seek to respond to the Lord's call to worship Him and serve our communities in a flourishing and sustainable manner.

**ADVANCE NOTICE - THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD** will be celebrated on Thursday 14 May and is a Holyday of Obligation. There will be a Vigil Mass at 6.30pm on Wednesday 13 May at both Sacred Heart Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. On Thursday 14 May there will be 9.30am Mass at St Philip Neri Church.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 May 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 100 CLUB MAY DRAW AND SUMMER SOCIAL - SUNDAY 28 JUNE** The May *Gift for Life* '100 Club' draw takes place after Mass this Sunday (3rd May) at St Mary's. Come along for refreshments, good conversation and see the draw take place. It could be you!

We are aiming to make this year's *Gift for Life* Summer Social event (on Sunday 28 June at 2pm at St Mary's) even better than in previous years. However, to do so we need more people to be involved in planning and running it. You (and your ideas) would be really welcome! If you are interested in getting involved, please speak with one of the *Gift for Life* Group or contact us on [giftforlife20@gmail.com](mailto:giftforlife20@gmail.com) Thank you.

**CORPUS CHRISTI: Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Ushaw** On Sunday 7 June, Ushaw will be hosting a Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, starting at 3pm in St. Cuthbert's Chapel. Weather permitting, the procession will go through Ushaw's gardens, returning to the Chapel for Benediction. Teas and coffees will be available after the service. You do not need a ticket for this event, but please sign up on the sheet available at the back of church, to help Ushaw to estimate numbers. Please indicate if you are bringing a car: this will help Ushaw to manage car parking requirements.

**MINSTERACRES** There will be a 'Day of Consolation' with Chris Smith on Wednesday 20 May (10am-4pm) at Minsteracres. This is a small, intimate day retreat - maximum 12 people - for anyone navigating loss or bereavement, and has been warmly received by those who have attended in previous years. More details about this day retreat can be found here: <https://minsteracres.org/product/day-of-consolation-with-chris-smith-may2026/>

**PARISH FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS SUMMARY APRIL 2025 - March 2026**

**Our Lady & St Philip Neri** Funds have fallen by £7,686 to £263,428 in the 12 months to the end of March.

Offertory collections (loose plate, envelopes and Standing Orders) of £61,596 are 1.7% up on last year which is good news while the potential gift aid claim on eligible income is £12,116.

Rental income from the 3 St Mary properties was £27,044 which delivered a surplus of £8,643 after the deduction of gas, electricity, water, insurance and repair costs. This is down on last year's surplus of £12,736 due to a new boiler and windows bought for the cottage. Further costs will fall into the new financial year.

The other significant items of income was a legacy of £3,000 for which we are always grateful and £2,800 of stipends/stole fees retained for the parish.

In terms of costs the large value items are the aforementioned repairs (at £16,381 some £7,618 more than last year), utilities of £20,327, staff wages at £19,640, administration expenses of £14,226, the Diocesan Levy of £12,136 while Fr Endre's duties as Assistant Priest bring a charge of £11,000 as we share his Allowance and presbytery costs with Sacred Heart.

Puzzling is a 74% increase in the annual St Philip Neri gas consumption. Any suggestions or offers to try and get to the bottom of this would be gratefully received.

The target for the new financial year is to secure increases on the rental properties.

**Sacred Heart, Byermoor** Funds have fallen by £9,311 to £53,440 during the course of the year.

Offertory collections in all its forms totalled £12,563 which is the same as last year. However, this is insufficient to fund a full-time parish priest hence the 50/50 split of Fr Endre's costs with Our Lady parish.

The gift aid claim is £2,783 but could it be higher? If you are a tax payer and not signed up please give this some serious thought and join the other parishioners who are already gifting. Repair and maintenance expenditure of £7,999 is hugely down on last year's £32,194 but a number of areas were identified for update and renewal with the first of these, tree felling and pruning, coming in at a cost of £4,810. (The cemetery wall demolition and laying of top soil falls into the new financial year).

**FOOD BANK & REFUGEE PROJECT UPDATE** 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.**

**IN SHORT SUPPLY:** tinned sweetcorn, hot dogs, potatoes, chopped tomatoes.

**OTHER priority items:** cooking oil, biscuits, UHT milk, tomato purée, pasta sauce, dried pasta, long grained rice, tinned meat (corned beef, mince beef, pek etc), fruit, custard, rice pudding, baked beans, carrots, garden peas, tuna, meatballs, soup, cereal, coffee, tea bags, sugar, 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 kidney beans & chickpeas please.

Every Thursday volunteers are in Immaculate Heart Church between 9.30 -10.30 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 contact Katie Wilkinson either via mobile 07837 386 760 or email [teachkate1@gmail.com](mailto:teachkate1@gmail.com)

## DIOCESAN VACANCIES

**Role:** Cleaner (Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill and St Mary's, Whickham)

**Contract:** Permanent

**Salary:** £3497 pro rata per annum

**Hours:** Part-time 5 hours per week

**Working Pattern:** Able to be negotiated at interview.

**Location:** Immaculate Heart of Mary, Malvern Gardens, Lobley Hill, Gateshead, NE11 9LL and St Mary, Dockendale Lane, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 4EN

**How to apply:** Please

visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/cleaner-7/>

**Closing Date:** 12:00 pm, 13/05/2026

**Role:** Cleaner (St Mary's Presbytery, Lobley Hill)

**Contract:** Permanent

**Salary:** £2447.9 pro rata per annum

**Hours:** Part-time 3.5 hours per week

**Working Pattern:** Able to be negotiated at interview.

**Location:** Immaculate Heart of Mary, Malvern Gardens, Lobley Hill, Gateshead, NE11 9LL

**How to apply:** Please

visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/cleaner-8/>

**Closing Date:** 12:00 pm, 13/05/2026

**SVP CAMP - HOLY ISLAND** Calling all young adults 18+. Do you have a week to spare to spend on Lindisfarne this Summer helping out at the Holy Island SVP Camp? Volunteers are needed to work alongside the children who stay in the SVP purpose-built centre on the island. Weeks, 3, 5 and 6 of the Summer have 60 children ready to have a great time rock pooling, walking, arts and crafting and enjoying outdoor activities but we need more helpers to ensure they have the best time!

- Week 3 Sat 1 August - 8 August
- Week 5 Sat 15 August - 22 August
- Week 6 Sat 22 - 29 August

If you are interested have a look at the website <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> or email Barbara Taws [barbarat@svp.org.uk](mailto:barbarat@svp.org.uk)

All helpers receive training and will need to be DBS checked.

## LECTURE AT HOLY NAME, JESMOND 'From Francis to Leo: the Catholic Church in a Change of Era.'

When Pope Francis died a year ago, the Cardinals elected a Pope who would continue and deepen his reform, which they said was key to evangelizing today's world. This is what Francis and now Leo call "the change of era" -- a new apostolic age. In his lecture at the Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3JX on Saturday 16 May at 11am, Pope Francis biographer and noted Catholic journalist and commentator, Dr Austen Ivereigh explains the nature of the Francis-Leo transition, how the Church is being called to change its way of operating, and why it matters for the future of faith in these islands. All are welcome, there is no charge and no booking is necessary.

**THE NORTHERN CROSS** May 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 9.00am on Thursday 7 May.**

### Jen's weekly prayer

The sky once again delights with its unique and delicate palette of colours. A haze of the softest pale peach merges into apricot followed by an almost translucent baby blue scattered with deepening violet fluffy clouds which gradually faded into an orange glow as twilight began to lengthen.

The whole sky felt touchable, soft and soothing sheltering, enveloping yet strengthening, as if we were being wrapped in a luxurious silken cloak of calm. Our natural world offering healing and comfort in a time of uncertainty and, for many, struggles, pain and suffering.

For all who who are facing difficulties of any kind, anxiety and fear, grant that they find comfort from their recollections of happier times when beauty and calmness enveloped them.

May joy and hope once again enfold, sustain and empower them, bringing strength, love and peace.

*Jen Jones © April 2026*

### 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-](https://diocesehn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Press-Release-from-the-Diocese-of-Hexham-and-Newcastle-audit-report-February-2025.pdf)

[Release-from-the-Diocese-of-Hexham-and-Newcastle-audit-report-February-2025.pdf](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](mailto:safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk)*

## First Reading

Acts 6:1-7

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33(32):1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R/2

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

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting from the upright.  
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp;  
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R/**

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/**

## Second reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

## Gospel

John 14:1-12

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

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.