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The Ascension of the Lord

'Not only are we confirmed today in our possession of paradise but in Christ, who is the head of our body, we have begun the triumphal entry into the heaven of heavens.' *Pope St Leo of Rome, 5th Century*

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

10 May 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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 9 May - 17 May 2026

Saturday 9 May	4.30pm Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
	5.30pm St Philip Neri	Jackie Hodgson (dec.) [PMcC]
Sunday 10 May	9.00am St Mary	Bernard & Molly Hearne (dec.) [CP]
Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A)	10.30am Immaculate Heart	People of the Parish
Monday 11 May	1.30pm Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 12 May	9.30am Immaculate Heart	Olga Maddison (dec.) [GM]
Wednesday 13 May		
Vigil Mass for The Ascension of the Lord	6.30pm Immaculate Heart	Priest's Intention
Vigil Mass for The Ascension of the Lord	6.30pm Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
Thursday 14 May The Ascension of the Lord (Holyday of Obligation)	9.30am St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Friday 15 May		
Saturday 16 May	4.30pm Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
	5.30pm St Philip Neri	People of the Parish
Sunday 17 May	9.00am St Mary	Bernard & Anne McKenna (dec.) [MC]
Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year A)	10.30am Immaculate Heart	Matthew Bullock (dec.) [AB]

Weekday Readings: Sixth Week of Eastertide

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 at Immaculate Heart on Tuesday

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

1.00pm - 1.25pm on Monday at Sacred Heart, 9.00am - 9.25am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart

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).*

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.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY - SUNDAY 17 MAY The theme of this year's World Communications Day is *Preserving Human Voices and Faces*. In his message for the 60th World Day of Social Communications Day, Pope Leo XIV highlights the importance of ensuring that technological innovation, particularly artificial intelligence, serves the human person rather than replacing or diminishing human dignity. Pope Leo's message for this Day can be read at

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-leos-message-for-world-communications-day-2026/>

There will be a Retiring Collection at all Masses next weekend 16/17 May to support the work of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in forging positive relationships with media outlets to communicate news relating to every aspect of the life of the Catholic Church and her people.

GIFT FOR LIFE '100 Club' May Draw Results – and Summer Social

The May *Gift for Life* '100 Club' draw took place last Sunday at St Mary's. The lucky winners were: First Prize (£50) – Number 13; Second Prize (£30) – Number 39; Third Prize (£20) - Number 60. The next draw takes place at Immaculate Heart on Sunday 7th June at Immaculate Heart. **Please put Sunday 28th June in your diaries** – the *Gift for Life* Summer Social takes place that afternoon at St Mary's. We will soon be requesting bottles, plants, cakes and raffle prizes. We are also looking for helpers to plan and run the event. Contact us on giftforlife20@gmail.com Thank you for all your generous support.

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 1st August - 8th August
- Week 5 Sat 15th August - 22nd August
- Week 6 Sat 22nd - 29th 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

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

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 requirement

SACRED HEART, BYERMOOR - Presentation on the possibility of amalgamation with Our Lady and St Philip Neri Parish After the Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday 16 May, we will have a presentation on the canonical process of amalgamation, in order to offer a clearer understanding of what it is, and what it involves. This is simply an information meeting, to have a better understanding of what we need to consider as a parish. Please stay for it if you can, we will aim to have it take no longer than 30 minutes.

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 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 meat (corned beef, mince beef, pek etc), cooking oil, biscuits, shampoo, antiperspirant, feminine hygiene (especially tampons).

OTHER priority items - UHT milk, tomato purée, pasta sauce, dried pasta, long grained rice, tinned sweetcorn, hot dogs, potatoes, chopped tomatoes, 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, 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

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/>

Jen's Weekly Prayer

The sparkling trickles of water dance and sing,
as they flow down the hillside their journey has begun.

As the trickle becomes slightly wider,
its rhythm becomes stronger, it gurgles.

It is clear and bright and in the sunlight
it gleams like diamonds.

This gurgling, dancing beauty widens and sings its way,
giving life and safety to creatures and plants
who share its space.

We too can be like the stream which grows
as we travel our pathways,
making friendships, helping others.

We belong to communities which blossom
because of cared, sharing compassion,
offering to each other our gifts, our talents
and receiving support when we are in need.

For the many places in the world today
where there is discord, fear, pain, hunger, suffering,
lack of water, food and shelter,
grant that your healing and loving hand
will bring them safety and peace,
and once again enable them to share
in the beauty of loving communities
which support and help each other with care and love.

Jen Jones ©May 2026

THE NORTHERN CROSS May edition is now on sale, price £1.50.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 9.00am on Thursday 14 May.**

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

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

[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

First Reading*Acts 8:5-8, 14-17*

In those days: Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

Now when the Apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 66(65):1-3a. 4-5. 6-7a. 16, 20. R/1*

R/ Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God, 'How wondrous your deeds!' ***R/***

'Before you all the earth shall bow down,
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God:
his wondrous deeds among the children of Adam. ***R/***

He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.
Let our joy, then, be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. ***R/***

Come and hear, all who fear God;
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer,
nor withhold from me his merciful love. ***R/***

Second reading*1 Peter 3:15-1*

Beloved: In your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*John 14:23*

Alleluia, alleluia.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.
Alleluia.

Gospel*John 14:15-21*

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.'

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.