



As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways and
my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

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

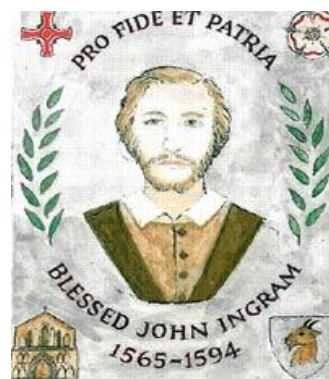
Parish Priest Canon Peter Leighton
Assistant Priest Fr Endre Kormos (0191 716 6367)

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

20 September 2026

Twenty Fifth 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 19 - 27 September 2026

Saturday 19 September	4.30pm	Sacred Heart	People of the Parish
	N.B.	St Philip Neri	Church currently closed
Sunday 20 September	9.00am	St Mary	Diane Johnson (dec.) [GM]
Twenty Fifth Sunday of the Year (Year A)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Frank McCoy (dec.) [JMcC]
<i>Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (Joy of the Gospel Sunday)</i>			
Monday 21 September <i>St Matthew</i>	1.30pm	Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 22 September	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	Ann Tate (dec.) [MT]
Wednesday 23 September <i>St Pio of Pietrelcina (Padro Pio)</i>	N.B.	No Mass today	
Thursday 24 September <i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>	9.30am	St Mary	Ann Tate (dec.) [MD]
Friday 25 September			
Saturday 26 September	4.30pm	Sacred Heart	People of the Parish
	N.B.	St Philip Neri	Church currently closed
Sunday 27 September	9.00am	St Mary	Deceased of McKenna & Lovell Families [MD]
Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year (Year A)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Mary Telford (dec.) [JH]

Weekday Readings: Ordinary Time Week 25 Year 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation

1.00pm - 1.20pm on Monday at Sacred Heart, 9.00am - 9.20am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart
and 9.00am - 9.20am on Thursday at St Mary's

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

1.00pm - 1.25pm on Monday at Sacred Heart, 9.00am - 9.25am on Tuesday at Immaculate Heart
and 9.00am - 9.25am on Thursday at St Mary

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Harry McMahon who has died recently. The Funeral Service for Harry McMahon will be at Sacred Heart Church on Monday 21 September at 10.15am followed by cremation at Mountsett Crematorium. 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).

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY Evangelii Gaudium/Joy of the Gospel Sunday (formerly Home Mission Sunday) will be celebrated this weekend 19/20 September. **A Retiring Collection will be taken at all Masses this weekend to support the work of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Directorate.** For more information please visit <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home-mission-sunday>

ST PHILIP NERI CHURCH - An important message from Canon Peter:

At the Parish Open Meeting on Wednesday 26 August, Andrew Gillingham, Diocesan Head of Property, gave a presentation concerning the necessary church roof replacement and electrical fixed wire renewal, with associated costs, at St Philip Neri Church (the presentation paper may be viewed via the St Philip Neri link at the top of the parish website homepage). Questions and discussion followed and the overall view of those present was that a decision needed to be taken about the present use of the church.

Having spoken with Bishop Stephen and following consultation with the Diocesan Head of Property and the area Dean, the decision is that, until further notice, the church will cease to be used. This is taking into consideration current health and safety concerns about the building with the need to ensure the safety of those using the building and those in its vicinity, not least the children and staff of St Philip Neri School. I appreciate this closure will come as sad news, but the safety of those using the building and those who may be in its vicinity is paramount.

The viability of the future of St Philip Neri Church will need to be considered within the context of the on-going discernment of the Pastoral Strategy for the Diocese and more information will be provided in due course.

During this closure, it may be prudent to consider adjusting the Mass times at our other two churches, St Mary and Immaculate Heart of Mary. However, this will need some consultation and careful consideration and I propose to facilitate this soon, initially by consulting the new PPC now that it is has been established (see next notice). Meanwhile, regular attendees at the St Philip Neri Saturday evening Vigil Mass are welcome to celebrate the Sunday morning Masses at St Mary, Whickham (9.00am) or Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill (10.30am). Alternatively, there are Saturday Vigil Masses at the following churches within the Gateshead area/John Ingram Partnership:

Sacred Heart, Byermoor NE16 6NU 4.30pm

St Alban, Queen Victoria Street, Pelaw NE10 0QN 6.00pm

St Anne, Rokeby View, Harlow Green NE9 7UD 5.00pm

St Joseph (at St Barnabas CoE Church), Sterling Lane, Rowlands Gill, Highfield NE39 1PS 5.30pm

St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas, Stella Road, Stella NE21 4LR 5.00pm

St Wilfrid, Sunderland Road NE8 3QR 5.00pm

OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP NERI PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) The new PPC is now established and the current membership is as follows: Canon Peter Leighton, Fr Endre Kormos, Philip Cunningham, Charis Gray, Warren Gray, Christopher Griffiths, Catherine Hearne, Denise Hebron, Michael McHugh, Maveen Pereira, Tony Sacco, Malcolm Shield, Joe Wheatley, Sarah Williams. An inaugural meeting of the new PPC has been arranged for Wednesday 30 September. Grateful thanks to all those who have offered to serve our parish in this new forum and please pray for them as they assume this valuable ministry.

RED MISSION BOXES The Red Boxes are now due to be emptied. Please see Lilian Gray or leave at the back of St Mary's or Immaculate Heart Church to be collected. For those who usually attended St Philip Neri Church, please leave your box at either one of the other Parish churches as above or contact Denise Hebron on 07554 445679.

If you have any further queries please contact Lilian Gray on 07717 853685 or email liliangray@sky.com
Thank you for your continued support.

SVP Anyone wishing to become a member of the SVP, please contact Paul Cummings on 07952 824431.

SACRED HEART 150TH ANNIVERSARY We will celebrate Sacred Heart's 150th Anniversary of opening on **Saturday 24 October at 4.30pm, with Bishop Stephen coming to celebrate the Mass. A reception will follow afterwards in the School Hall. All are welcome.** It would be useful to have a brief meeting after Mass next Saturday (26 September) to discuss preparations for Bishop Stephen's visit - please stay behind if you would be available.

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*

MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON Sacred Heart School would like to invite all parishioners to their Macmillan Coffee Afternoon on Monday 28 September from 2.30pm onwards.

RCIA 2026 - 2027 IN OUR PARTNERSHIP Are you interested in finding out more about what being a Catholic means? Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? Then this is the course for you. **Following the initial meeting held at St Patrick's Parish Centre, Felling on Wednesday 16 September, the subsequent RCIA meetings for 2026-27 will be held at St Peter's Church, Kells Lane, Low Fell NE9 5HY, beginning on Tuesday 6 October at 6.30pm.**

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST - LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS Join us for this opportunity to experience the new life we are promised through Baptism in the Holy Spirit. All sessions will be held at St Anne's, Rokeby View, Harlow Green NE9 7UD from 7.00 pm to 8.30pm. All are welcome to join us on Thursday 24 September 2026 for an Introductory Session to hear how the seminars prepare us to open to new a life in Christ through the Holy Spirit. For further information about the other dates, please visit <https://bit.ly/LifeInTheSpiritCDSC>

LOCAL RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS - St. Anne's Church, Rokeby View, Harlow Green, NE9 7UD Wednesday 30 September 7.00pm. *We would like to invite you to a mini conference in St Anne's Church Hall, Harlow Green to celebrate the work of Green Pastures and Outreach Housing and to share our story with you. Outreach Housing is a small provider of Supported Housing and works in partnership with Green Pastures, a national Christian charity which seeks to end homelessness in the UK by partnering with local churches. In 2021, a group of us from Corpus Christi and St Peter's RC Churches in Gateshead, concerned about the levels of poverty in our town and, particularly, about the rise in homelessness, came across the charity, Green Pastures. We were inspired by its vision and decided we wanted to become a Partner. The charity bought a house in Bensham, and we now house three young male refugees. We are aware that homelessness in our town is increasing, and we hope that this event will encourage all of us to explore how we can live out the Gospel message in Gateshead. This may provide an opportunity for us as Christian communities and church leaders to strengthen our ecumenical links. We are extending an invitation to ministers from the local churches and their congregations, to local Headteachers, members of Gateshead Council and those involved in community groups. We hope that Mark Ferguson MP will attend. We would be grateful if you could join us and promote this event to your church community. Please RSVP by 21 September at christopher.warren@diocesehn.org.uk*

Yours sincerely

Fr Christopher Warren (Parish Priest, St Peter's, Low Fell)

Mary Hughes (Coordinator of Outreach Housing)

Jen's Weekly Prayer

A smile costs not a penny but to a stranger or friend
it can be prize of great wealth.

Help us to offer this simple gift to those we meet
on our journey through our tapestry of time.

Life can be hard for many and yet their pain, anxiety
or sorrow, can remain hidden from sight.

A simple smile, a friendly greeting, can mean
a wealth of strength to stranger or to friend.

We are adept at keeping much of ourselves hidden
from ourselves and those who share our journey.

Awakened by the vibrant colours of early autumn,
help us all to have the courage to reach out and share
the love gifted to us to help ease

the loneliness, fear or anxiety of others.

Guided by your hand, may we allow ourselves
and those we love to have the relief and beauty
of help and hope from trusting in your guidance
and be filled with renewed joy and peace.

Jen Jones © September 2026

PIE AND PEA SUPPER The Little Sisters of the Poor are holding a Pie and Pea Supper on Wednesday 7 October at 7pm at St Joseph's Home, Newcastle. Tickets cost £8 and are available from St Joseph's on 0191 273 1279.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 9.00am on Thursday 24 September.**

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*Isaiah 55:6-9*

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
 call upon him while he is near;
 let the wicked forsake his way,
 and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
 let him return to the Lord,
 that he may have compassion on him, and to our God,
 for he will abundantly pardon.
 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways are higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 145(144):2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R/18a*

R/ The Lord is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day,
 and praise your name for ever and ever.
 The Lord is great and highly to be praised;
 his greatness cannot be measured. **R/**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
 slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
 How good is the Lord to all,
 compassionate to all his creatures. **R/**

The Lord is just in all his ways,
 and holy in all his deeds.
 The Lord is close to all who call him,
 who call on him in truth. **R/**

Second reading*Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a*

Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*Cf. Acts 16:14b*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
 that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Alleluia.

Gospel*Matthew 20:1-16*

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too."

'And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.'

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.