



Jesus said, 'You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'
Matthew 16:18

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

23 August 2026

Twenty First 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 22 August - 30 August 2026

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]
Twenty First Sunday of the Year (Year A)	10.30am Immaculate Heart	Michael Jobe (dec.) [JJ]
Monday 24 August <i>St Bartholomew</i>	9.30am Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 25 August	9.30am Immaculate Heart	Priest's Intention
Wednesday 26 August	9.30am St Philip Neri	Bill & Shiela Hutchins (dec.) [DH]
Thursday 27 August <i>St Monica</i>	9.30am St Mary	Prayer Shawl Recipients
Friday 28 August <i>St Augustine of Hippo</i>		
Saturday 29 August	4.30pm Sacred Heart	Margaret Heslin (dec.)
<i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</i>	5.30pm St Philip Neri	Molly & Bernard Hearne (dec.) [CH]
Sunday 30 August	9.00am St Mary	Living & Deceased of Turbitt Family [CH]
Twenty Second Sunday of the Year (Year A)	10.30am Immaculate Heart	People of the Parish

Weekday Readings: Ordinary Time Week 21 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 & 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

Baptisms

This Sunday, in the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Jake Charlton and Otis Johnson into the Family of the Church

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Bernard Patrick Gorman and Peter Power who have died recently. The Funeral Service for Bernard will be at Mountsett Crematorium on Tuesday 1 September at 11.45am. 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 they 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).

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.

RE-ENERGISING OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CLOSE ON 30 AUGUST

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 on the parish website. The nomination process started at the beginning of August and closes 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 and an electronic version of the nomination form, 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.

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.

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:

Lay 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 reduction 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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 September 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 4884395.

Jen's Weekly Prayer

Water is essential for us all,
from the gentle drops of summer rain
to the torrential sound of crashing storms.
Our trees, our crops, plants, our land
is thirsty for gentle rain to transform
the barren earth to lush and comforting crops,
vegetation fruit and flower.
For many across our planet the return of lush
and colourful fields and hedgerows,
there is no bountiful recovery.
Many are hungry, thirsty and afraid because of
lack of rain or because wildfires or conflicts
have savaged their landscapes.
May we give thanks for those who toil even in the heat
to provide food for our tables,
May we be generous in our care each to other,
especially those who need support and help
in times of need and may we accept with thanks
the blessings, care, support
we encounter in our daily lives
from our family, friends and loved ones,
the gentle soothing water of love.

Jen Jones © August 2026

SVP – Anyone wishing to become a member of the SVP please contact Paul Cummings on 07952824431.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for next weekend's Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 9.00am on Thursday 27 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

Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

Thus says the Lord God of hosts, 'Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: "I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father's house."'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 138(137):1-2a, 2bc, 3, 6, 8bc. R/8bc

**R/ O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy Temple. **R/**

I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul. **R/**

The Lord is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands. **R/**

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?' 'Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?' For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia.

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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