



If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy; complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Philippians 2:1-2

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

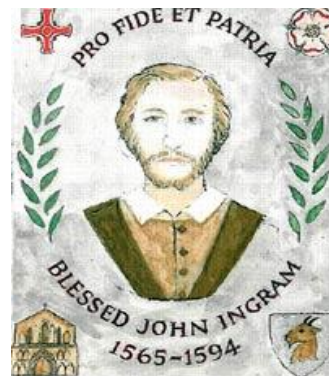
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Diocesan Website www.diocesehn.org.uk



The John Ingram Partnership
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

27 September 2026

Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year

Year A

*The Parish Secretary, Theresa Noble, is on annual leave and will return to the Parish Office
on Tuesday 13 October 9.00am - 3.00pm*

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

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 26 September - 4 October 2026

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]
Monday 28 September	1.30pm	Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 29 September <i>Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael</i>	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	W & E Jukes (dec.) [MT]
Wednesday 30 September <i>St Jerome</i>	9.30am	St Philip Neri School	Priest's Intention (<i>Years 5 & 6 attending</i>)
Thursday 1 October <i>St Thérèse of Lisieux</i>	9.30am	St Mary	Peter Power (dec.) [MD]
Friday 2 October <i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>			
<i>Day of Special Prayer for the Needy & Hungry of the World (CAFOD Harvest Fast Day)</i>			
Saturday 3 October	4.30pm	Sacred Heart	People of the Parish
	N.B.	St Philip Neri	Church currently closed
Sunday 4 October	9.00am	St Mary	Deceased of Doran Family [MD]
Twenty Seventh Sunday of the Year (Year A)	10.30am	Immaculate Heart	Maria Foy (dec.) [JH]

Weekday Readings: Ordinary Time Week 26 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 Fr John Coyle who has died recently. 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).

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY is this coming Friday 2 October and is a Day of Special Prayer for the Needy and Hungry of the World. Please donate to our CAFOD Harvest Fast Day Collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. **CAFOD envelopes are available if you wish to make a financial contribution to their invaluable work throughout the world.** For more information or to donate online, please visit www.cafod.org.uk

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 CofE 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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 October 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.

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.** There will be a brief meeting after Mass this Saturday 26 September to discuss preparations for Bishop Stephen's visit - please stay behind if you are 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.**

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 & Corpus Christi, Bensham)

Mary Hughes (Coordinator of Outreach Housing)

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 1 October.**

Jen's Weekly Prayer

It was as if the early evening sky had been overlaid with a bolt of the finest silk, the extraordinary blending of the palest blue and delicate pink were alive with a luminous light which glowed and it was possible to gaze with awe and feel an extraordinary sense of peace and serenity from this captivating experience.

Such vistas are wonderful gifts and help us to take advantage of these real and enriching moments and realise the peace and comfort they can bring if we allow them to enfold us.

For those who's skies are torn apart by violence and destruction, may they be replaced with calmness and gentle colour once more. Help all who serve in roles of power and authority to act justly, wisely, prudently and honourably, enabling all peoples to live in peace and harmony with each other and protect the abounding diversity of our natural world on land, in the sea and across the skies.

Jen Jones © September 2026

FLAME 2027 takes place on **Saturday 6 March 2027**. The theme is 'TAKE COURAGE'. It is open to anyone from school year 9 to University/young adult age. Under 18s must be part of an organised group. Please talk with your school chaplain, catechist or parish priest if you would like to come along. Two years ago, almost 900 young people from our Diocese travelled to Wembley Arena for this national Catholic youth gathering. Once again YMT is hoping to take a large number of young people (up to 1,000 including accompanying adults).

COST: £55 per person (includes return rail travel, Wembley ticket and London travel card). The cost has been generously subsidised by Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott Donnelly. For further information contact Mary Madziva mmadziva@ymt.org

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

Role: Cleaner

Contract: Permanent

Salary: £4196.4 per annum

Hours: Part-time 6 hours per week

Working Pattern: Able to be negotiated at interview.

Location: St Patrick, Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Durham, DH7 8JJ

How to apply: Please visit

<https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/cleaner-10/>

Closing Date: 12:00 pm, 07/10/2026

Role: Parish Secretary

Contract: Permanent

Salary: £9498 per annum

Hours: Part-time 13 hours per week

Working Pattern: Able to be negotiated at interview.

Location: St John Vianney, Hillhead Parkway, West Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 1DP

How to apply: Please visit

<https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/parish-secretary-19/>

Closing Date: 12:00 pm, 07/10/2026

SAFEGUARDING IN THE DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE

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

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>

First Reading*Ezekiel 18:25-28*

Thus says the Lord: 'You say, "The way of the Lord is not just." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Ps 25(24):4-5b. 6-7. 8-9. R/6a*

R/ Remember your compassion, O Lord.

O Lord, make me know your ways.

Teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth, and teach me;

for you are the God of my salvation. ***R/***

Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth,
nor my transgressions.

In your merciful love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. ***R/***

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he shows the way to sinners.

He guides the humble in right judgement;
to the humble he teaches his way. ***R/***

Second reading*Philippians 2:1-11*

Brothers and Sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy; complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*John 10:27*

Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,
and I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia.

Gospel*Matthew 21:28-32*

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." And he answered, "I will not", but afterwards he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, "I go, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterwards change your minds and believe 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.