

'Stay awake - forbecause you do not know when the master of the house will come.'
Mark 13:35

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

29 November 2026 — First Sunday of Advent — Year B

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 28 November - 6 December 2026

Saturday 28 November	**4.30pm**	**Sacred Heart**	Fr Joe Brown (dec.) [PB]
	N.B.	**St Philip Neri**	***Church currently closed***
Sunday 29 November	**9.00am**	**St Mary**	Tom & Audrey Gleeson (dec.) [JD]
First Sunday of Advent (Year B)	**10.30am**	**Immaculate Heart**	People of the Parish
Monday 30 November *St Andrew*	1.30pm	Sacred Heart	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 1 December	9.30am	Immaculate Heart	
Wednesday 2 December	9.30am	St Philip Neri School	Priest's Intention
	10.00am	Immaculate Heart	Requiem Mass - Maria Astrid Muse RIP
Thursday 3 December *St Francis Xavier*	11.15am	St Mary	Seniors' Mass
Friday 4 December			
Saturday 5 December	**4.30pm**	**Sacred Heart**	Clare Doran (dec.) [CH]
	N.B.	**St Philip Neri**	***Church currently closed***
Sunday 6 December	**9.00am**	**St Mary**	Teresa Kelly (dec.) [EW]
Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)	**10.30am**	**Immaculate Heart**	People of the Parish

***Weekday Readings**: Advent Week 1*

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

Baptism
This Sunday, in the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Ivy Shilling into the Family of the Church

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Maria Astrid Muse (Gower) who has died recently. The Requiem Mass for Maria will be at Immaculate Heart Church on Wednesday 2 December at 10.00am, followed by burial at Garden House Cemetery. May she rest in peace. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK Jessica Butler, Veronica Coleman, Brigitte Jones, Peter Jones, Maria Thi Kien Chiene Le, John Leitch, Bill Martin, Cheryl Anne McDonald, Nora Miller, Margaret Murphy, Joseph Relph, Patricia Smith, 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).

ADVENT *WALK WITH ME* PRAYER BOOKLETS which give daily scripture readings and a reflection for each day of Advent are available at the back of each church, priced £1.50.

GIFT FOR LIFE 100 CLUB' NEW NUMBERS ON SALE Numbers for the next year of the '100 Club' are on sale this Sunday 29 November. The cost remains the same at £25 per number for the year – but if you buy 3 numbers you will get a fourth one FREE! Payment is in advance either by cash or cheque made payable to Our Lady & St Philip Neri (please write 100 Club on the back of the cheque). The prizes will be finalised once we know how many numbers have been sold but we hope that we will be able to continue the £50 first prize, £30 second prize and £20 third prize. Please note existing numbers will not be carried over into the new scheme – it is 'first come, first served' for numbers for the new arrangements, If you have any questions, please see one of the Gift for Life Group or contact us on giftforlife20@gmail.com. Thank you for your generous support.

ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS 2026 - collection for this year have now begun. Every Christmas, parishioners actively live their faith by offering support to those in need at Christmas and this year we would like to continue with this invaluable outreach work.
We are confident that our parishioners will repeat last year's amazing effort of supplying Christmas gifts to children across Gateshead who have been identified at risk of not receiving a Christmas gift this year (we liaise with Gateshead Social Services to obtain a list of vulnerable children who fall into this category). Social Services have requested that all gifts to be donated must be unwrapped, in a gift bag, tagged with the gender and age of the intended recipient.

- **The Angel Trees** with tags will be in each church from weekend of **21/22 November** - please note there will be more tags this year for 13+ children (especially boys) - Social Services have requested this as they particularly struggle with this age group every year. **All gifts must be handed in by the end of the weekend 12/13 December.**
- Gateshead Social Services will be collecting all gift donations on **Wednesday 16 December** from Immaculate Heart church.
- **Finally** if you would prefer someone else to shop for you please feel free to donate cash in an envelope marked 'Angel Tree' and place it in the collection plate at church.

Any queries, please contact either Katie Wilkinson via email teachkate1@gmail.com telephone 07837 386760 or Denise Hebron via email denisehebron@yahoo.co.uk telephone 07554 445679.

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

REMINDER - OUR LADY & ST PHILIP NERI AND SACRED HEART PARISHES SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY is this Thursday 3 December at St. Mary's Hall. Mass will be celebrated at 11.15am followed by lunch and festivities in St. Mary's Hall. **If you have missed the sign up date** please contact Denise Hebron tel. 07554 445679 or Katie Wilkinson tel. 07837 386760.
Seniors ChristmasParty Volunteers - Final Meeting on Tuesday 1 December at 10.00am in St Mary's Hall.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL CANDLES If you would like a candle to be lit during the Christmas season in memory of your deceased loved ones, please write their name(s) on one of the envelopes at the back of church and include your donation. **Please complete and return your envelopes by Thursday 17 December** and don't forget to indicate in which church you would like the candle to be lit. Completed envelopes can be placed in the collection baskets at weekend Masses or posted through the letterbox at Immaculate Heart Presbytery or Sacred Heart Presbytery.

SACRED HEART SPONSORED WREATHS AND CANDLES This year again there will be sponsored wreaths and candles as part of our Christmas celebration and decoration of Church . Families can sponsor a wreath at a cost of £20 and a candle for £10. There is a list available at the back of Church to sign up for a wreath or candle dedicated to loved ones. Due to limited space please consider doing this soon. Funds raised go to Sacred Heart Church.

CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT Once again we are joining the annual Table Top Christmas Tree event held at Spoor Methodist Church. After 9.00am Mass last Sunday 22 November, you were invited to take a wooden bauble home, decorate it with a design of your choice or donate any bauble and bring it back to St Mary's this Sunday 29 November. You can see all the finished trees on display at Spoor Methodist Chuch 3, 4 and 5 December 10 till 4pm. (See poster in the porch.)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2027 If your child is currently in Year 4 (or above) and they are not attending a Catholic School and you would like them to prepare to celebrate their First Holy Communion in 2027, please contact the Parish Office at Immaculate Heart Presbytery as soon as possible by email or telephone: e-mail olpn.gateshead@diocesehn.org.uk tel. 0191 460 4274. Please provide your name, address, telephone number and email address. Thank you.

SERVICE OF LIGHT (15 November at St Mary's) - THANK YOU
Revd Paul Nichol, the Catholic Chaplain at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital and St Bede's Palliative Care Unit has sent this message:

Sincere thanks from St Bede's Unit staff and myself, for allowing us once again, to hold our service of remembrance at St Mary's Whickham. There were around 70 people in attendance. I shall be grateful if you will pass on my thanks to all those who helped in any way.
St Bede's Unit are grateful for £186.63 received in donations on the day.
Many thanks again, and I send you my very best wishes for the Advent, Christmas and New Year period.
Every blessing.
Revd Deacon Paul Nichol

PARISH FINANCES HALF YEAR ACCOUNTS
(April - September 2026)

Our Lady & St Philip Neri

Funds have fallen by £9,326 to £254,025 in the 6 months April - September 2026.

Offertory collections (loose plate, envelopes and Standing Orders) of £32,074 are 7.4% up on last year which is good news while the potential gift aid claim on eligible income is £7,073. This is over £1,000 higher than last year and includes £500 attached to a £2,000 donation for which we are always thankful. Rental income from the three St Mary properties was £13,158 but with repairs for the Cottage alone coming in at £8,187 and hall repairs of £3,526 there is a half year deficit of £2,977. Rent increases have been or will be negotiated with the tenants.

In terms of costs, the large value items are the aforementioned repairs (at £17,279 some £9,878 more than last year), utilities of £8,059, staff wages at £9,725, administration expenses of £6,922, the Diocesan Levy of £5,720 while Fr Endre's duties as Assistant Priest bring a charge of £6,000.

Repair expenditure is the dominant cost that dictates whether we generate a surplus or deficit. The second half year already has spend of £5,427 and £5428.32 is earmarked for St Mary's church oil boiler flue repair and £5932.80 for the purchase and erection of debris netting to make safe the school side of St Philip Neri church.

Sacred Heart, Byermoor

Funds have fallen by £5,818 to £47,622 during the 6 months April - September 2026.

Offertory collections in all forms totalled £6,115 which is pretty much the same as last year and we also received £1,000 from the estate of a parishioner.

Again, costs were very much in line with the same period in 2025 with the exception of repairs. The total figure of £8,114 includes the sum of £6,960 for the removal of the perimeter cemetery wall and laying of top soil. Without this item we would have reported a surplus of over £1,000.

C**ONCERT AT LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR HOME** The City of Newcastle Male Voice Choir and Gibside Singers will be performing a Christmas Concert in the Chapel at The Little Sisters of the Poor, St Joseph's Home, Newcastle on Saturday 5 December. Tickets available from St Joseph's Home 0191 273 1279.

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

NEWSLETTER ITEMS Please send any items for the Parish Newsletter to the Parish Office **by 10.00am on Thursday 3 December.**

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 Representa5t0ive (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 63:16b-17; 64:1, 3b-8*

You, O Lord, are our Father,
our Redeemer from of old is your name.
O Lord, why do you make us wander from your ways
and harden our heart, so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.
O that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.
You came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
But now, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 80(79):2ac, 3b, 15-16. 18-19. R/4

R/ ***Bring us back, O God;***
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us. ***R/***

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself. ***R/***

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. ***R/***

Second reading *I Corinthians 1:3-9*

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Psalm 85(84):8*

Alleluia, alleluia.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia.

Gospel *Mark 13:33-37*

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning — lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES *(Carols will be sung 25 - 30 minutes before Masses on Christmas Eve/Day)*		
Thursday 24 December Christmas Eve *The Nativity of the Lord*	**4.30pm** **6.00pm**	**Mass at Sacred Heart, Byermoor** **Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill**
Friday 25 December Christmas Day *The Nativity of the Lord*	**9.30am**	**Mass at St Mary's, Whickham**