

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS
15th - 22nd December 2024

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership Leslie Liddle
Monday <i>16th December</i>	<i>Dipton</i>	<i>6.00pm</i> 6.30pm	<i>Adoration (Reconciliation until 6.15pm)</i> Gunilla Hubbard RIP
Tuesday <i>17th December</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	<i>9.30am</i> 10.00am	<i>Adoration (Reconciliation until 9.45am)</i> Gavin Appleton
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday <i>19th December</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	Henry Pendleton
Friday <i>20th December</i>	<i>Dipton</i>	<i>9.30am</i> 10.00am	<i>Adoration (Reconciliation until 9.45am)</i> Carole Ricketts RIP
	<i>Stanley</i>	1.30pm	Carols around the Tree
Saturday <i>21st December</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	<i>9.30am - 9.55am</i> 10.00am	<i>Adoration (Reconciliation until 9.45am)</i> Thomas Thomason
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership Rose & Terry Taggart and Francis & Wallace Ormston

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK		PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK		
Monday	Weekday of Advent	Tuesday	Christmas Afternoon Tea (St. Mary’s School)	
Tuesday	Weekday of Advent - <i>O Wisdom</i>	Thursday	Tea and Coffee after Mass (Stanley)	
Wednesday	Weekday of Advent - <i>O Adonai</i>	Friday	Free Festive Film - 7.30pm (Stanley)	
Thursday	Weekday of Advent - <i>O Root of Jesse</i>	Saturday	Craghead Colliery Band - 7.30pm (Stanley)	
Friday	Weekday of Advent - <i>O Key of David</i>			
Saturday	Weekday of Advent - <i>O Dawn of the East</i>			
Finance - 8th Dec 2024		Offertory Total	Standing Order	Diocesan Levy
STANLEY		£456.76	£197.25	£210.60
DIPTON		£89.50	£172.85	£132.28
Future Collections: Advent Alms - 15 th December Christmas offering - 24 th and 25 th December				

DAILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father,
in Baptism you called us by name
and made us members of your family,
the Church.

Help all your people to know
their vocation in life,
and to respond by living
a life of holiness.

For your greater glory
and for the service of your people,
raise up dedicated and generous men
who will serve as priests
for the Church
of Hexham and Newcastle.

Send your Spirit to guide
and strengthen our communities,
our seminarians and all
who are discerning their vocation.

Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO NEED HEALING IN
OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES...

Anne Kennedy, Margaret Convey, Maureen Dixon

GETTING YOUR
CHILD BAPTISED

If you or a family member is looking
to have your child baptised, please
collect the leaflet ‘Getting your child
baptised’ from the back of church. This
policy of how we access the
Sacraments of Initiation is applicable
across the Pontop Partnership. Please
read the leaflet carefully before
returning the attached application *in
person* to your parish priest at the end
of Mass.

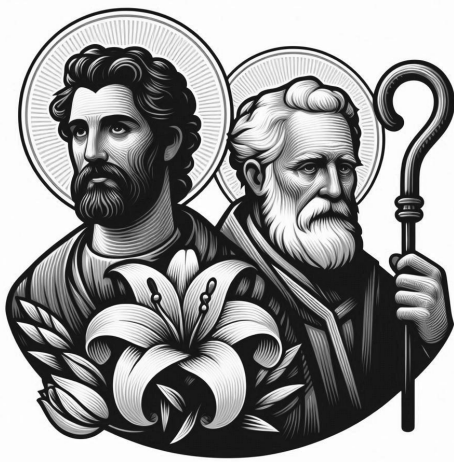


A GENTLE REMINDER...

Please remember to switch off your mobile phone
(*or put it on silent*) when coming into Church.

We show reverence to Jesus present in the Tabernacle.

Please talk to God before Mass and one another afterwards.



Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
a registered charity 1143450

The Parishes of

SAINT JOSEPH, STANLEY

— ✠ —

SAINT PATRICK, DIPTON

St Joseph’s Presbytery
Thorneyholme Terrace
Stanley, DH9 0BL

01207 299 012

stjoseph.stanley@diocesehn.org.uk

✠

Father Shaun Purdy
Parish Priest
pp.stjoseph.stanley@diocesehn.org.uk

✠

Reverend Paul Nichol
Parish Deacon
07906 489 152

✠

Melissa Gillespie
Parish Administrator

✠

Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
9.30am - 3.30pm

✠

Everyone in the Church has a responsibility
to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of
those who worship in our Church or who
join us for any activity facilitated by Church
members. If you are concerned about the
welfare of a child or adult at risk,
information is available on the noticeboards
at the back of our Churches.

✠

If you would like to receive this newsletter
by email, please contact the office.

LISTEN TO THE WORD
15TH DECEMBER 2024 - 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zephaniah 3: 14-18 Psalm Isaiah 12: 2-6 Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 10-18

Today we celebrate God’s gift of Joy. In our broken world, when joy seems to be miss-
ing from so many people’s lives, how do we begin to celebrate this wonderful gift?

To begin we must consider what we have and build upon those strong foundations. We
have the gift of life; it is a precious gift for it gives us the time and the energy to change,
change not only our own lives but the lives of those around us. We have the gift of fami-
ly and friendship; there are people around us who are ready to support and nourish us,
helping us to find the true path to happiness. We have the gift of faith; we believe in our
God of love who is ever forgiving and always there through the joys and sorrows of life.

Zephaniah lived in a world of great inequality, at a time when the morale of his people
was at a very low ebb. Yet his words ring with conviction and joy. He knows that God
walks with his people and shares with them in the storms of life. He calls to them
“Rejoice and exult with all your heart”. He can see a time when everything will be made
right because “The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.

Paul speaks to the Philippians, “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say rejoice”. He
urges them to be tolerant of those who have no faith, no hope, no joy. If those who listen
seek God with prayer and thanksgiving, then the peace of God will be with them.

John tells us what we must do. Share our gifts, shun complacency, never be content with
our lives, strive each day to act justly, show the love of God to all we meet. He assures
the people that the Christ is coming and that they must be ready to receive Him into their
hearts,

This is a season of waiting, the Christ child is near, we must look forward to his coming
and build on His promise of a brighter future for all.

A Prayer based on Philippians 4: 7
“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your
minds in Christ Jesus”

Lord,

Fill the world with your Joy.

In the cards we send, in the gift s we choose and wrap, in the fellowship we share, may
we express that joy which is so needed in our world.

May every smile, every hug, every gesture we make, convey God’s love to all we meet

And may we strive forward in these last weeks of Advent with a fresh heart to fill the
world with your Spirit of joy.

Amen

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

THE ORDER OF MASS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 4 OF THE HYMN BOOK

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgements against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
‘Fear not, O Sion;
let not your hands grow weak.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.’

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-3. 4b-d. 5-6. R3

Response: **Shout aloud and sing praise,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

Behold, God is my salvation!
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD is my strength and my praise,
and he has been my salvation.
With joy you will draw water
from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;
make known among the peoples his deeds;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing to the LORD for he has wrought wonders;
let this be known through all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,
rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord
is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by
prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be
made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ
Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the Holy Gospel according Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: The crowds asked John, ‘What, then, shall we do?’
And he answered them, ‘Whoever has two tunics is to share with
him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.’ Tax
collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, ‘Teacher,
what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Collect no more than
you are authorized to do.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what
shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Do not extort money from
anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your
wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were
questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be
the Christ, John answered them all, saying, ‘I baptise you with
water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose
sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the
Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear
his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the
chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’ So with many other
exhortations he preached good news to the people.

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

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ☒ Am I ready to rejoice at the coming of the Lord Jesus into
our midst?
- ☒ Should I pray for any specific thing, or leave it all to God?
- ☒ How would John the Baptist tell me to clean up my life?

Taken from the Sunday Word, Henry Wansbrough OSB



GENERAL NOTICES

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

The Christmas Mass times will be as follows:

Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Dipton
	6.30pm	Stanley
Christmas Day	10.00am	Stanley

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

This Sunday, the 3rd Sunday of Advent is known as
Bambinelli Sunday. This beautiful tradition was begun by
Pope St John Paul II. He invited children and adults to bring
their baby Jesus that would go into the crib to St Peter’s
Square on 3rd Sunday of Advent, where he would bless the
babies. You are invited to bring your baby Jesus to Mass
next Sunday, where they will be blessed.

AN EVENING OF FESTIVE MUSIC

This Coming Saturday at 7.30pm, we have an evening of
Festive Music with Craghead Colliery Band in St Joseph’s
Church. Tickets are £5.00 and include a drink and Mince
Pie. Get your ticket today. *(You will be able to pay on the
door, but it does help with catering if you buy a ticket)*

CAROLS AROUND THE TREE

On Friday 20th December at 1.30pm, St Joseph’s School
invite you to join them for Carols around the Tree in
Church. Please do come and support our staff and Children.

FREE FESTIVE FILM NIGHTS

During Advent, there will be Free Festive Film Nights in
the meeting room at St Joseph’s, Stanley. Bring your own
alcoholic beverages/Soft drinks and popcorn/sweets.

Our last film this Advent will be:

Friday 20th December Nativity! PG

*An uptight but secretly heartbroken primary school
teacher's little white lie about Hollywood coming to see his
class' nativity play grows like wildfire in his rag-tag school
low on self-esteem.*

FLAME 2025

Takes place on Saturday 15th March. The theme is
‘UNSTOPPABLE. FAN THE FLAME OF HOPE’. It
is open to anyone from school year 9 to University/young
adult age. Under 18’s 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, over
700 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: £45 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.hughes@ymt.org

STELLA MARIS

Stella Maris have been in touch to say that they are in
desperate need of Hats, gloves and socks for seafarers who
are working in perishing conditions at the present time. If
you are able to help in knitting woolly hats it will be greatly
appreciated. Shop bought hats, gloves and socks are also
very much appreciated too. Please bring your donations
along to Church and we will pass them on to Stella Maris.

ST JOSEPH’S CHRISTMAS TREE

The Christmas Tree will go up in St Joseph’s, Stanley on
Thursday 19th December.

Could you spare half an hour/an hour to help put it up?
Come and help after the Mass and Coffee Morning. Mass
will be at 10.00am.

ST JOSEPH’S BIG CLEAN

On Saturday 21st December from 10.30am, we invite
anyone who can help to come and clean St Joseph’s Church
in preparation for Christmas. If you can help, please turn up
- no experience necessary. You will be paid in hot drinks
and biscuits!

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Of your charity, we ask you to pray for the repose of the
soul of Father Kevin Cummins, a Priest of the diocese who
died suddenly on Thursday. Please keep Father Kevin, his
family and all he ministered to in your prayers.

MASS INTENTIONS

Whilst we have lots of Mass intentions for Sunday, we
don’t always get many during the week. Have you ever
considered having a Mass said for someone? It’s always a
nice gesture to have a mass offered for a deceased person, a
special intention, for those who are sick. In doing so you are
also helping the parish with the stipend that you give. Mass
envelopes can be found at the back of the Church. We often
get asked what is the suggested donation for a Mass
offering, currently the suggested donation is £10.00. We
know times are hard, so give what you can afford, the Mass
will still be offered.

JUBILEE 2025

Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a year of
Jubilee, and the theme is “Pilgrims of Hope”. It will be a
year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and
reconciliation and we’ll be opening the Jubilee Year in our
Diocese with celebrations at our 2 Jubilee Hub Churches on
Sunday 29th December. Bishop Stephen will be celebrating
Mass and opening the Holy Door at St. Mary’s Cathedral,
Newcastle at 11.30am and at St. Joseph’s Hartlepool at
4.00pm. Everyone is welcome. There’s more information
about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at
<https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Envelopes are available in our Churches for you to make a
contribution, if you so wish, to the Christmas Flowers.
Please place your envelope in the collection basket.

THANK YOU

St. Joseph’s November coffee mornings raised £146.50 for
Mary’s Meals. St. Patrick’s December coffee morning
raised £87.32 for parish funds. Thank you to all who
donated for your generosity.

*Joy does not simply happen to
us. We have to choose joy and
keep choosing it every day.*

— Henri Nouwen