

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS
22nd December 2024 - 12th January 2025

4 TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership Rose & Terry Taggart and Francis & Wallace Ormston
Monday 23 rd December	<i>Dipton</i>	10.00am	Colin Killpatrick
THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD			
Tuesday 24 th December CHRISTMAS EVE	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i>	4.00pm 6.30pm	The Sick and Housebound of our Parishes Deceased Member of our Parishes
Wednesday 25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	The People of the Partnership
Thursday 26 th December	<i>Stanley</i>	12noon	Michael B. Tennant
Friday 27 th December	<i>Dipton</i>	6.30pm	Celebration of Word and Holy Communion

NO MASS ON SATURDAY			
THE HOLY FAMILY	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership Shaun McGough & Deceased Members of the McGough Family
Monday 30 th December	<i>Dipton</i>	10.00am	Father Kevin Cummins (NBF)
Tuesday 31 st December	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	Clair Syron
Wednesday 1 st January	<i>Stanley</i>	12noon	People of the Partnership
Thursday 2 nd January	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	Celebration of Word and Holy Communion
Friday 3 rd January	<i>Dipton</i>	6.30pm	Celebration of Word and Holy Communion

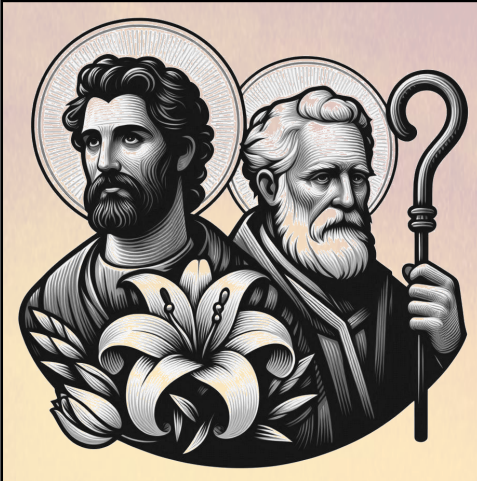
NO MASS ON SATURDAY			
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership Adrian McTiernan
Monday 6th January	<i>Dipton</i>	6.30pm	Sister Esther (<i>Little Sister of the Poor</i>)
Tuesday 7th January	<i>Stanley</i> <i>Stanley</i>	10.00am 11.30am	Deceased Members of the Moscardini Family Funeral Liturgy for Lilian Osborne
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 9th January	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	Ivy Mulhearn
Friday 10th January	<i>Dipton</i>	10.00am	Gunilla Hubbard RIP
Saturday 11th January	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	Maisie Rebello
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership Muriel Charlton & Lillian Gillespie

LITURGICAL CALENDAR	
Monday 23 rd December	Weekday of Advent
Tuesday 24 th December	Weekday of Advent
Wednesday 25 th December	The Nativity of the Lord
Thursday 26 th December	St Stephen, First Martyr
Friday 27 th December	St John, Apostle & Evangelist
Saturday 28 th December	The Holy Innocents
Monday 30 th December	Sixth Day of Christmas
Tuesday 31 st December	Seventh Day of Christmas
Wednesday 1 st January	Mary, Mother of God
Thursday 2 nd January	Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
Friday 3 rd January	The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Saturday 4 th January	Weekday of Christmas
Monday 6 th January	Monday after the Epiphany
Tuesday 7 th January	Tuesday after the Epiphany
Wednesday 8 th January	Wednesday after the Epiphany
Thursday 9 th January	Thursday after the Epiphany
Friday 10 th January	Friday after the Epiphany
Saturday 11 th January	Saturday after the Epiphany

PARISHES CALENDAR	
Wednesday 1 st January	A glass of Fizz after Mass (<i>Stanley</i>)
Thursday 2nd January	Coffee Morning after service (<i>Stanley</i>)
Sunday 5th January	Coffee after Mass (<i>Dipton</i>)
Thursday 9th January	Coffee after Mass (<i>Stanley</i>)
Friday 10th January	Free Film Night 7.00pm (<i>Stanley</i>)
Sunday 12th January	Coffee after Mass (<i>Stanley</i>)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO NEED HEALING IN OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES...
Anne Kennedy, Margaret Convey, Maureen Dixon

Finance - 15th Dec 2024	Offertory Total	Standing Order	Love Christmas	Advent Alms	Christmas Flowers
STANLEY	£442.97	£197.25	£70.00	£78.90	£45.00
DIPTON	£132.55	£172.85	£20.00	£51.00	35.00
Future Collections: Christmas offering - 24 th and 25 th December Christmas Crib Offering for the Muhoroni Mission in Kenya (<i>open until 2nd February</i>)					



Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
a registered charity 1143450

The Parishes of

SAINT JOSEPH, STANLEY

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SAINT PATRICK, DIPTON

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

01207 299 012

www.stanleycatholic.org

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

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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.

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

LISTEN TO THE WORD
22ND DECEMBER 2024 - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Micah 5: 2-5 Psalm 80 Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-45

There is a sense of peace when the fourth Sunday arrives. Everything has been put in order, Jesus is coming and the whole joyous occasion is almost upon us. If there are last minute worries, put them behind you, now is the time, relax and enjoy.

We begin with the prophet Micah, speaking of the insignificant town of Bethlehem: *“From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel”*. Micah sees Christ, not as a mighty king, but, as a shepherd standing and feeding his flock so that they may live secure. He reminds us of the promise of God for the Christ Child: *“He shall be their peace”*.

The psalm is a plea for forgiveness and protection and gives us hope that the hand of God will always be with us. *“Let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.”*

The passage from Hebrews brings a different dimension to the coming birth. It speaks of sacrifice and obedience. In the midst of birth we have a foretaste of the garden of Gethsemane and Jesus praying to the father. *“Here I am, I am coming to do your will.”*

The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth is both poignant and heartwarming, one approach to this reading is to sit quietly, if you can find a space in the turmoil, and pray the *“Hail Mary”*: a prayer rich in scripture and insight. Pope John Paul II suggested that when we say this prayer we pause before and after the name *“Jesus”* because the prayer is said through Our Lady to Jesus and by pausing, we offer the prayer in a very special way.

Each Christmas we dream of a new start, each New Year we see twelve months, fresh and clean, laid out before us, an empty sea waiting for our boat of dreams to set sail. But if we only dream and not turn those dreams into action then our boat will stay in harbour and never feel the wind filling its sails. Mary’s “Yes” to Gabriel set her dreams free, John the Baptists “yes” to a mission of bringing repentance to the people of Israel set him free. Jesus waits for our “yes” so that he can set us free on the path he has prepared for us. So, listen for his call, then, raise your anchor and set your sails. The ride will not be smooth, but the wind of your dreams will take you on a voyage you will never forget.

A Prayer based on Micah 5: 4
“and he shall be their peace”

Lord,

Fill the world with your Peace

Turn all hearts away from violence and hatred.

As the snow falls and covers the dark earth with its blanket of white so may your peace fall upon us Lord and renew our hearts and minds so that we may become heralds of your love.

Amen

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

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

First Reading Micah 5:2-5a

Thus says the LORD:
You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 80(79):2ac, 3b, 15-16. 18-19. R4

Response: 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.

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.

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.

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said,
‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have
you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have
taken no pleasure. Then I said, “Behold, I have come to do your
will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.” ’

When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure
in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offer-
ings’ (these are offered according to the Law), then he added,
‘Behold, I have come to do your will’. He does away with the first
in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been
sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once
for all.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

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

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill coun-
try, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of
Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled
with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed
are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!
And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should
come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to
my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she
who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken
to her from the Lord.’

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

- QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION
✠ Does the Church give special honour to the poor?
✠ What is lacking in my obedience to God?
✠ Is there anyone to whom a visit from me would bring
special joy at Christmas?

Taken from the Sunday Word, Henry Wansbrough OSB

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their
dedication throughout the year in our Family of Parishes. It
has been a wonderful year of prayer and fellowship, with so
much achieved in promoting the Gospel in our little area of
the diocese.
I am touched by the many ways in which you reach out to
those within our community who might experience
loneliness and isolation and those who are struggling to make
ends meet, your generosity helps to bring a little bit of hope
into the lives of so many.
Thank you to all those who work so hard in whatever way to
ensure our Churches are looked after and to those who help in
any way within the liturgies not just at Christmas but
throughout the year. There are too many to mention here, but I
just want to simply say ‘thank you’.
I thank Deacon Paul and all parishioners for their support and
kindness to me. I must say that Bishop Stephen has given me
wonderful people to minister to - I thank God for you
every day.
I know for many Christmas isn’t a good time for many
different reasons. During the Christmas Octave a Blue
Sanctuary lamp burns to remember those struggling. Please
spare a prayer for them.
Wishing you all a very happy and holy Christmas and every
blessing for the New Year.
Father Shaun

GENERAL NOTICES

DONA CARD READER

If you attend Mass at St Joseph’s, you now have the option to pay
by card, Apple Pay and Google Pay. The Dona Card Reader
allows you to make your Weekly offering, pay for piety items,
Christmas Crib offerings and fundraising events. Because it works
on WI-FI, the stand is currently at the front of the Church by the
sacristy door. In January the WI-FI is being extended to the back
of the Church, where the stand will be permanently located.
Happy tapping!

NEW WEBSITE

We now have a website for St Joseph’s and St Patrick’s. The
website went live this weekend. On the website you will be able
to find the newsletters and lots of information and links that might
be of help to you. The address for the website is:
www.stanleycatholic.org
We thank Simon McGee for taking on the responsibility of
building the website and maintaining it for us.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Lillian
Osborne who died on 10th December. Lillian’s Funeral Liturgy
will take place on Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 11.30am in St
Joseph’s Church, followed by burial at Stanley Cemetery. Please
keep Lillian and her family in your prayers at this time.

FREE FILM NIGHT

On Friday 10th January there will be a free film night in St
Joseph’s Meeting room at 7.00pm We will be watching the film
Cabrini.

After witnessing disease and poverty in the slums of New York,
Italian immigrant Francesca Cabrini embarks on a daring
journey to persuade the hostile mayor to provide housing and
healthcare for hundreds of orphaned children.

This film is based on the true story of St Frances Cabrini,
America’s first saint.

SVP HOLY ISLAND CHILDRENS CAMP

Did you have fun at the camp as a child and now feel you could
help do the same for another? Would you enjoy volunteering and
helping children enjoy a weeks stay on the Island? The SVP are
looking for volunteers to look after children (years 5-7) and help
organise fun, activities and adventure whilst staying in our
residential centre on Lindisfarne. Most people volunteer for one
week across the summer, and training and support is given., To
find out about how you could help or for more information, please
contact: BarbaraT@svp.org

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

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who organised and attended the Christmas Tree
Festival at St Patrick’s Dipton, which raised £1050.65. The
proceeds will be shared between our two parishes. Many thanks
for your generosity and we hope you all had a lovely time.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish office will close at 3.30pm on Friday 20th December
and reopen at 9.30am on Tuesday 7th January 2025. If you need
to contact Father Shaun during the office closure, please email
him directly or leave a message on the answering Machine and he
will get back to you as soon as he can.

CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS

As is customary at Christmas, a basket will be placed at the crib
for your offerings. This year our Crib offerings will be going to
the Muhoroni Mission in Kenya. This charity was set up by Father
David Smith, a former assistant priest of our parish family. The
crib offerings will remain open until 2nd February.

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

Bishop Stephen will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass
on Saturday 8th February 2025 at 12:00noon in the Cathedral. The
mass will take the theme “Faith, Hope and Love”. This open
invitation will focus on couples celebrating significant
anniversaries in 2025; we are sure there will be couples
celebrating 25 or 50 year anniversaries but is open also to engaged
couples preparing for marriage, those who have been married
since our last Mass in 2024 and all married couples.

Anyone celebrating a special anniversary can request a certificate
by completing a form with their details: https://bit.ly/
DHNMarriageMass or scan the QR code using a
smartphone camera; this will take you directly to
the form or contact marriage@diocesehn.org.uk or
ring 0191 243 3316. Such certificates will be
presented to couples by Bishop Stephen within the
Mass.



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. This Sunday is your
last opportunity to donate towards the Church flowers.

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.

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.