

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS
23rd - 30th March 2025

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i> <i>Dipton</i>	9.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	People of the Partnership Anton Prochazka Stations of the Cross and Benediction
Monday <i>24th March</i>	<i>Dipton</i>	<i>5.30 - 5.55pm</i> <i>6.00pm</i> 6.30pm	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i> Veronica Rafferty (SVP)
Tuesday <i>25th March</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	<i>10.45 - 11.10am</i> <i>11.15am</i> 12noon	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i> Jim McLaren
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday <i>27th March</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	Kevin Cuthbertson
Friday <i>28th March</i>	<i>Dipton</i>	<i>9.30 - 9.55am</i> 10.00am	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation</i> N.B.F
Saturday <i>29th March</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	<i>9.30am - 9.55am</i> 10.00am	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation</i> Anne Kennedy (SVP)
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i> <i>Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	Brian McDermott People of the Partnership Stations of the Cross and Benediction

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK		PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK	
Monday	Weekday of Lent		
Tuesday	The Annunciation of the Lord <i>(Solemnity)</i>	Tuesday	Soup Lunch after Mass <i>(Stanley)</i>
Wednesday	Weekday of Lent	Thursday	Tea and Coffee after Mass <i>(Stanley)</i>
Thursday	Weekday of Lent		RCIA <i>(Stanley)</i>
Friday	Weekday of Lent	Friday	Film Night 7.00pm <i>(Stanley)</i>
Saturday	Weekday of Lent		

Finance - 16 March 2025	Offertory Total	Standing Order	CAFOD Family Fast
STANLEY	£589.44	£197.25	£174.21
DIPTON	£97.77	£172.85	£79.00
Future Collections: 6th April - Northern Brethren Fund			

Prayer for the Jubilee Year

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen

Franciscans

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

Margaret Convey, Maureen Dixon, Doreen Bailes

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.

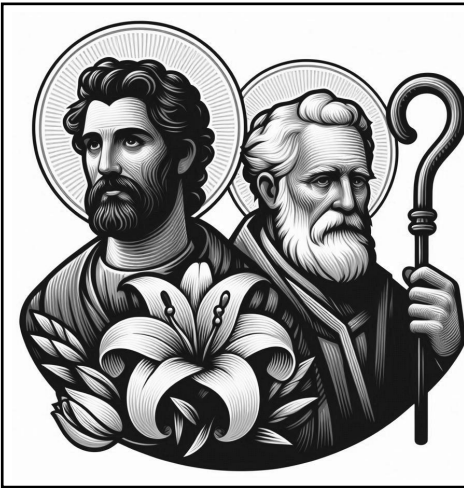
A GENTLE REMINDER...

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.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our defence against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



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

✠

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
23RD MARCH 2025 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Exodus 3: 1-8, 23-15 | Psalm 102 | 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12 | Luke 13: 1-9

Lent is a time for repentance; it is a time to reflect on our lives and to start to make right those things that are out of harmony with God’s love. There is a danger that we can lose the sense of what is sinful in our behaviour; that we take the mercy of God for granted. We have become familiar with the God of love, but we cannot just rely on His love to bring us to eternal life; we must live in a way that speaks to others of the love of God.

When I read the passages of scripture for this week, I am struck by the uncompromising message that they bring. The story of Moses and the burning bush always seemed very exciting; here was God choosing Moses to go to Pharaoh and demand freedom for the people of Israel. I had the image of Moses as a mighty warrior challenging the power of Egypt and bringing his people through the barren desert to a land of Milk and Honey. Then I read an article which described Moses as a murderer and a coward; one who killed an Egyptian and then ran away into the desert to hide from justice. I began to see that God chose him not out of his strength but out of his weakness, not because he was a hero but because he was a sinner. His strength came from repentance and through allowing God to transform him into someone who the people would follow, not through strength, but through faith.

Lent is also a time of transformation. Luke’s gospel is a warning to the people of that time to change before it is too late. The people of Israel were heading towards a confrontation with the might of Rome and the way they were taking could only end in disaster. Jesus was trying to teach them a different way, but they would not listen. The parable of the Fig Tree is a reminder to us that we are given many chances to change and bear fruit; if we do not take these opportunities then we risk everything. God’s love is there for each of us but if we turn away from that love then our fate may well be the same as the Fig tree.

A Prayer based on Luke 13: 6
“But unless you repent, you will all likewise perish”

Lord,
Tough words today in your Gospel.
I try to follow you, but I know there are times when I fall short, frightened that you will take me somewhere I don’t want to go.
Give me the courage, wisdom and strength to overcome my weakness.
Grant that all who are faithful to you may come to you and find your peace.
Amen.

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

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

First Reading *Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15*

In those days: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, ‘I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.’ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then he said, ‘Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’ And he said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, ‘I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.’

Then Moses said to God, ‘If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, “The God of your fathers has sent me to you”, and they ask me, “What is his name?” what shall I say to them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: “I AM has sent me to you.” ’ God also said to Moses, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: “The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.” This is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.’

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8, 11. R8a*

Response: **The LORD is compassionate and gracious.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

The LORD does deeds of justice,
gives full justice to all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
and his deeds to the children of Israel.

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so strong his mercy for those who fear him.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12*

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not

desire evil as they did, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse *Luke 13:1-9*

Repent, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Gospel *Luke 13:1-9*

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

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.’

And he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, “Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?” And he answered him, “Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.” ’

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

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ✠ What qualities in God are most important to you in your approach to God?
- ✠ Is Christ a rock that follows you around in life? Does he give you water?
- ✠ What is the most rotten part of your fig tree that you really need to change? Would the Sacrament of reconciliation help?

Taken from the Sunday Word, Henry Wansbrough OSB

<i>During Lent, we shall be using the second form of the penitential Act:</i>	
Priest:	Have mercy on us, O Lord.
All:	For we have sinned against you.
Priest:	Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
All:	And grant us your salvation.

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.

FUNDRAISING EVENING WITH TAKE THIS

Tickets are close to selling out for our family of parishes fundraiser on Friday 25th April. Doors open from 7.00pm. Dipton Club. This will help us raise money for our Family of Parishes. Tickets are £5.00 and and available at the end of Mass. Don’t miss out!

SOUP LUNCH

Our Lenten Soup lunch continues this Tuesday after the 12noon Mass. Come along and enjoy a bowl of homemade soup, a hot drink and time with friends. All proceeds will go to the Lenten Alms fund (St Cuthbert’s Care).

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Henry Harrison, Veronica Rafferty, Jane (Jenny) Richardson and Anne Kennedy.

Henry’s Funeral Liturgy will take place on Thursday 10th April at 12.30pm in St Joseph’s, followed by private committal.
Veronica’s Funeral Liturgy will take place on Friday 11th April at 11.30am in St Patrick’s, followed by committal in St Patrick’s Cemetery.
Jenny’s Funeral Liturgy will take place on Monday 14th April at 10.00am in St Joseph’s, followed by committal in Pelton Cemetery.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from Friday 25th July – Friday 1st August 2025.

The Lourdes pastoral theme for 2025 is: “With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope” The pilgrimage is led by Bishop Stephen Wright.

To book your place go to the Tangney Tours website:
www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-hexham-newcastle/departures/ or call 01732 886666

Some parishioners have booked already and are staying in the Hotel Stella. If you are considering going, it would be nice to stay together as a family of parishes in the same hotel.

COULD YOU HELP IN LOURDES?

Adult and Youth section volunteer registration forms are now open and live until 31st March 2025

Please register via one of the following links. Thank you very much for registering your help and support.

New Adult Volunteer Registration Form
If you wish to register as a volunteer for 2025, please click here: <https://forms.office.com/e/PbtE9Jd6aS>

Youth Section Registration Form
The Youth Section of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is for those aged 16-21 (on the date of travel) or in full-time education. Please click here to register: <https://forms.office.com/e/m1MQfReuZD>

If you would like any more information about becoming a registered helper on the pilgrimage, please email: lourdes@diocesehn.org.uk or visit our Facebook page: Hexham and Newcastle Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

WASHING OF THE FEET - HOLY THURSDAY

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.” (John 13:14-15)

It is a real privilege and a very humbling experience as a priest to follow in Jesus’ footsteps and wash the feet of his parishioners on Holy Thursday. Please consider having your foot washed on Holy Thursday - the washing of the feet is open to everyone. If you can help, please put your name on the list at the back of the Church. On the evening you remain in your allocated bench and Father Shaun comes to you, all you need to do is stick your foot out. Many people use the excuse, “I couldn’t let Father see my feet, they’re terrible!” Don’t worry, there is no judgement, please just once in your life, experience this very humbling moment.

HOLY ISLAND PILGRIMAGE

On Saturday 31st May, there will be a pilgrimage to Holy Island joining in with the Stella Maris annual pilgrimage. We will be leaving around 8.00am and then leaving Holy Island and 4.00pm for a stop off in Seahouses. If you would like to go, please contact the office to put your name on the list and whether you are to be picked up at Stanley or Dipton. Spaces are limited, so please get your name down asap. The cost is £20 for adults and £5 for children. *(The cost includes your tip for the driver).*

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

Blessed Carlo Acutis is scheduled to be the first millennial saint when he is canonised in April 2025. A relic of Blessed Carlo will visit our diocese between 26th -30th March 2025. There will be opportunities to attend Mass in the presence of the relic, as well as times of veneration and talks about the life of Blessed Carlo. All are welcome. Further information about the visit and how to book your ticket for an event can be viewed on the following website: CarloAcutis.bwcet.com

MILL HILL MISSIONS

Donations are now due for March 2025. Could members please pick up Mission Today books at the back of church. Any boxes or donations please hand in at the piety stall, ensuring they are clearly named. Thank you - Maureen B.

OUTREACH AFTERNOON TEA

The Outreach Afternoon Tea will take place on **THIS WEDNESDAY**. If you would like some company, a bit of a natter, with refreshments, then this is for you! The afternoon takes place in St Joseph’s meeting room and promises to be a good time. If you would like to come along or for more information, please contact the parish office. Transport may be able to be arranged for those who need it.

We also need some volunteers to help. Because of illness, some of the volunteers are unable to commit at this time. If you can help with baking and serving, please contact the office.

The Outreach is a vital asset to the people of our community, so please help it continue to serve the community, and be a place of welcome for many years to come.

RAFFLE AND TOMBOLA PRIZES

We are currently looking for prizes for our raffle and tombola at the fundraising evening at Dipton Club. If you have any items you can donate, you might be looking to find a new home for unwanted Christmas presents, please bring them along to Church and leave them in the Church porch. Thank you for your help.

DIOCESAN VACANCY

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint to the following vacancy:

Safeguarding Co-ordinator, based at the Diocesan Offices in Newcastle – full-time, permanent contract. Closing date: 25th March at 12.00pm.

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

We will be holding an Easter Egg raffle on Easter Sunday after Mass at St Patrick’s. Raffle tickets will be sold each Sunday, at St Patrick’s and St Joseph’s during Lent, after Mass, £1 a strip. Money raised will go towards fundraising to send two young adults, Christian and Oliver on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Any donations of Easter eggs and chocolates are greatly appreciated and can be brought to church during Lent.

YOUTH2000 HOLY HOUR WITH CARLO ACUTIS

Young people are welcome to join a Holy Hour during the tour of the Carlo Acutis relics. This will be held on Friday 28th March from 6-7pm as part of the vigil at St Michael’s Church, Houghton le Spring. Praise and worship music provided by Set a Fire from Durham University and Sunderland University chaplaincy.