

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS
30th March - 6th April 2025

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
Monday <i>31st 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> Sister Aelred
Tuesday <i>1st April</i>	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i>	9.30am <i>11.30am</i> 12noon	Intentions of the School (<i>Bishop Stephen is celebrating the Mass and visiting School</i>) <i>Stations of the Cross</i> Eric Rhodes
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday <i>3rd April</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	Christopher White
Friday <i>4th April</i>	<i>Dipton</i>	<i>5.45 - 6.10pm</i> 6.15pm	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation</i> David Denning
Saturday <i>5th April</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	<i>9.30am - 9.55am</i> 10.00am	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation</i> Jenny Richardson (SVP)
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i> <i>Dipton</i>	9.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	People of the Partnership Henry Harrison (SVP) Stations of the Cross and Benediction

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK		PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK	
Monday	Weekday of Lent	Tuesday	Soup Lunch after Mass (<i>Stanley</i>)
Tuesday	Weekday of Lent	Thursday	Tea and Coffee after Mass (<i>Stanley</i>)
Wednesday	Weekday of Lent		RCIA (<i>Stanley</i>)
Thursday	Weekday of Lent	Friday	Film Night 7.00pm (<i>Stanley</i>)
Friday	Weekday of Lent	Next Sunday	Coffee Morning after Mass (<i>Dipton</i>)
Saturday	Weekday of Lent		Coffee Morning after Mass (<i>Stanley</i>)

Finance - 23 March 2025	Offertory Total	Standing Order	CAFOD Family Fast
STANLEY	£470.64	£197.25	£25.00
DIPTON	£120.36	£172.85	-
Future Collections: 6th April - Northern Brethren Fund 13th April - Easter Flowers for our Churches			

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.

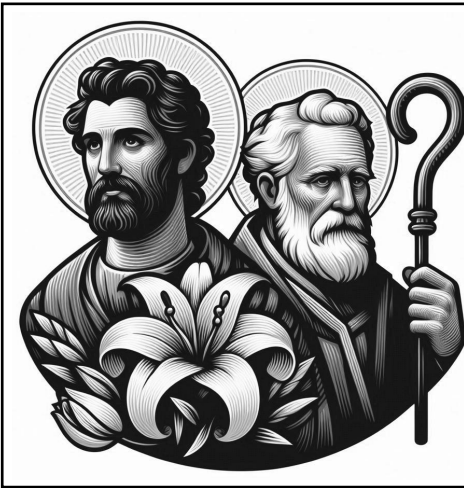
A GENTLE REMINDER...

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

✠

SAINT PATRICK, DIPTON

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

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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

30TH MARCH 2025 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Joshua 5: 9-12 | Psalm 33 | 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 | Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

When we look at a familiar passage from scripture it is very easy to presume that we know the message it contains. Sometimes we fail to grasp the opportunity of looking at the passage through the eyes of today and so we stay with images from our past which can be old and staid. Each time we read a passage we should ask ourselves what is this saying to me now; how relevant is this to who I am today?

At the beginning of today’s Gospel passage there is a reference to two groups: the tax collectors and the sinners and the Pharisees and the scribes. Jesus, in the parable, is trying to teach us something about our attitudes to people and how we need to embrace change in our lives. We begin with the rebel, the younger son, he is the one we take a dislike to because he offends our sense of morality. He takes the hard-earned money his father has made and wastes it on sex, drugs and rock and roll. When it is gone, he reaches rock bottom and feels sorry for himself; reflecting on his life he realises that even the least in his father’s house has much more than he has. He swallows his pride and sets off back towards his home. Just like the tax collectors and the sinners he wants to turn his life round.

The Older son looks on his returning brother with distain. How can this wretch hope for forgiveness, he will always be a waste of space! Why can’t my father see through his lies and deceits and turn him away from the door. Afterall, I am always faithful, I have always led a good life, and I deserve my father’s love so much more than he does. Do you recognise the older son? Does he sound like a Pharisee or a scribe, does he sound like someone you know?

Saint Paul tells us that there is a new creation. All this is from God who, through Christ, reconciled us to himself and gave us the sacrament of reconciliation. We are ambassadors for Christ; we are to work in his vineyard and give all who dwell there the opportunity to be reconciled to our heavenly Father. There will be saints and sinners, the self-righteous and the down trodden. All need to be welcomed, none turned away. The Father, in today’s parable, does not judge but welcomes, does not make rules but embraces the younger son and celebrates. This Lent, today, we are called to do the same.

David Frank.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

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

First Reading *Joshua 5:9a, 10-12*

In those days: The LORD said to Joshua, ‘Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.’ While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. R cf. 18b*

Response: **Taste and see that the LORD is good.**

I will bless the LORD at all times,
praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the LORD with me;
together let us praise his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This lowly one called; the LORD heard,
and rescued him from all his distress.

Second Reading *2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

Brothers and Sisters: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,
‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you’.

Gospel *Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

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 tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them.’

So he told them this parable: ‘There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the

share of property that is coming to me.” And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

‘But when he came to himself, he said, “How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’ ”

‘And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.” But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, “Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!” And he said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.” ’

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

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ✠ Would it help you and your family to make more of religious festivals? How could you do so?
- ✠ Do you see God as angry and vengeful? Is there any truth in this idea?
- ✠ Which brother comes out of the story best? Have you ever felt like the elder brother?

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 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.

Anne’s Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday 24th April at 10.00am in St Joseph’s, followed by committal at Mountsett Crematorium.

We also remember in our prayers **Sister Mary Aelred** from the Convent of Mercy, Sunderland, who died last week.

CHURCH CLEANING

Can you help clean St Joseph’s Church in time for the Easter Triduum? If you are able to help, please come along on **Saturday 12th April** after 10.00am Mass. Refreshments will be provided.

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.

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).*

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Today on Mothering Sunday, we remember all mothers living and deceased. We give thanks for their dedication and witness to their children.

WELCOME - BISHOP STEPHEN

Bishop Stephen will be visiting St Patrick’s School on Tuesday. The day will begin with Mass at 9.30am, followed by a tour of the classes to meet the children and staff. All are welcome to the Mass at 9.30am in St Patrick’s Church.

Please note, there won’t be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament or Confessions in Stanley on Tuesday. Stations of the Cross will be at the later time of 11.30am. Mass and Soup are as normal.

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.

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.

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.

HELP SUPPORT A GOOD CAUSE

St Teresa’s Annfield Plain Community Allotment Project has been shortlisted for the Tesco Blue Token scheme. Voting starts from the 1st week in April until the end of June. Every vote counts! Please spread the word and remember to ask for your blue token after each shop. Voting will be taking place in the following Tesco stores: Consett, Annfield Plain and Blackhill.

THANK YOU

St Joseph’s March coffee mornings raised £127.28 for the Clergy Training Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you to those who came along to the Outreach Tea on Wednesday and for those who helped in any way to make it happen. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Next Sunday after 9.30am there will be the monthly coffee morning after Mass in Dipton. Prizes for the raffle and baked goods will be greatly appreciated. The proceeds from this Coffee Morning will go to support our Young Adults going to Lourdes.

There will also be an additional Coffee Morning after 11.00am Mass next Sunday in Stanley, which is also in support of our Young Adults going to Lourdes.

Please come along and support these two events. *The usual coffee Morning on the Second Sunday of the month in Stanley will continue as normal the week after.*

A PRAYER BASED ON LUKE 15: 20

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him”

Lord, you watch over me every moment of the day.
You know me, you know what I am, my faults and my virtues.
Teach me to look upon others as you look upon me.
Help me to accept their faults, rejoice in their virtues and, when they fall, help me to be there to pick them up.
Then, perhaps, I can truly be your servant.
Amen.

David Frank