



Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
a registered charity 1143450



The Parishes of **ST JOSEPH, STANLEY ✱ ST PATRICK, DIPTON**

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

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Father Shaun Purdy - Parish Priest
Reverend Paul Nichol - Parish Deacon
Melissa Gillespie - Parish Administrator

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07906 489 152
Tuesday - Friday 9.30am - 3.30pm

Summer Edition Newsletter

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 17TH - 24TH AUGUST 2025

20TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	Richard Christon People of the Partnership
Monday <i>18th August</i>	<i>Dipton</i>	6.30pm	Maria & Karoline
Tuesday <i>19th August</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	Deceased Members of the Cassidy Family
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday <i>21st August</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	C. A. McKeaver <i>The Dedication of St Mary's Cathedral (Feast)</i>
Friday <i>22nd August</i>	<i>Dipton</i>	10.00am	Michael Chirnside <i>The Queenship of Mary</i>
Saturday <i>23rd August</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	Terry Fenwick (SVP) <i>Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
21ST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<i>Dipton</i> <i>Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	Barbara Guthrie People of the Partnership

LISTEN TO THE WORD

Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10 | Psalm 39 | Hebrews 12 1-4 | Luke 12: 49-53

There is something very sobering about today's readings; they remind us in many ways that living the Christian life was never easy and there are sacrifices to be made if we are to follow Jesus.

If you have ever been in despair over something that you have tried to do, just remember that, unlike Jeremiah in the first reading, you are unlikely to be dropped into a muddy well. Life can be difficult, and sometimes muddy wells are of our own making, but you are never really alone. When things start to get you down, turn to Our Lord in prayer and tell him just how you feel. There is a lot of truth in the saying a trouble shared is a trouble halved.

Sometimes you may feel that the readings are a muddy well and you cannot see the sense of them, do not worry, you are not alone, there are often difficult passages to navigate but nothing good is ever achieved the easy way

I am trying to study the Letter to the Hebrews, and I am finding it difficult but so rewarding. I used to think it was too "Jewish" and the message was not for me but, actually, the book speaks clearly to all Christians and contains many insights into our faith. The important message from today's passage from Hebrews is that we must strive to live good lives in the face of whatever the world may throw our way. We have the supreme sacrifice of Our Lord on the cross as an example to follow in our war against sin.

Jesus warns us in the Gospel that His way is not an easy path to follow; his journey would bring Him to the cross, a source of shame to those who do not believe, but of glory to those who believe in Him. Our journey can lead us into great distress, but the rewards are there at the end. There are always companions on the way who lift us up when we fall. Remember, Jeremiah was rescued from the well by three of his friends so when you are struggling just think of Jeremiah and call out for help.

David Frank.

Finance - 10th August 2025	Offertory Total	Standing Order
STANLEY	£555.20	£197.25
DIPTON	£108.55	£172.85

LITURGY OF THE WORD

20TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C)

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

First Reading

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

In those days: The officials said to the king, 'Let this man, Jeremiah, be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm.' King Zedekiah said, 'Behold, he is in your hands, for the king can do nothing against you.' So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. And there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

Ebed-melech went from the king's house and said to the king, 'My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they did to Jeremiah the prophet by casting him into the cistern, and he will die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city.' Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, 'Take thirty men with you from here, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 40(39):2. 3. 4. 18. R14b

Response: LORD, make haste to help me!

I waited, I waited for the LORD,
and he stooped down to me.
He heard my cry.

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock,
made my footsteps firm.

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the LORD.

Wretched and poor though I am,
the Lord is mindful of me.
You are my rescuer, my help;
O my God, do not delay.

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:1-4

Brothers and Sisters: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,
and I know them, and they follow me.

Gospel

Luke 12:49-53

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptised with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided: three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ✠ In what ways is our faith different from that of the Old Testament Figures?
- ✠ What are the hardest circumstances in which you have to make decisions for or against the demands of Jesus?

Taken from The Sunday Word - Henry Wansbrough, OSB.

GROUNDFORCE DAY

St Joseph's - Saturday 30th August 10.30am - 2pm

To tidy church grounds/gardens. A sign up sheet is at the back of church. Volunteers will need to bring gardening equipment with them if possible. Picnic lunch provided for volunteers.

AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC

On Saturday 13th September at 3.00pm in St Joseph's, there will be an afternoon of music with Craghead Colliery Band. Tickets are £5.00, and are available after Mass today.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Our Journey in Faith sessions will begin in September. Are you thinking about becoming a Catholic, or want to know more about your faith? Then this is for you! For more details please speak to Father Shaun or Deacon Paul.

DIOCESAN VACANCY

Education Operations Manager - Salary £35,000 to £37,323

Closing date 9.00am on 3 September 2025, to discuss the role or for an application pack, contact catherine.craig@diocesehn.org.uk or annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk

CRAFT DE-STASH

If you have any unwanted crafting materials, e.g. wool, knitting needles, embroidery cottons, craft kits, beads, material, craft paints, brushes etc. for volunteers to sell in aid of parish funds at the craft de-stash sale at Dipton jubilee centre 11am-1pm on 6th September. Please leave any items in the boxes at the back of our churches.

RECIPE BOOK

Please leave any recipes you enjoy (*from simple salads to your favourite bakes, savoury, sweet, air fryer & slow cooker concoctions*) and if they have an interesting story behind them please include that to make our book a more interesting read. If you have a handwritten recipe these can be copied into the book. Boxes at back of churches.