

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS
14th - 21st September 2025

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Aaron Crowl People of the Partnership; Margaret Ferguson
NO MASS ON MONDAY			
Tuesday 16 th September	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 9.55am Monica Heaton
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 18 th September	Stanley	9.15am	Deceased Members of the Townley Family
Friday 19 th September	Dipton Mountsett	9.30am 10.00am 2.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 9.55am Jim Walker Funeral Liturgy for Joyce (Pauline) McCallum
Saturday 20 th September	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 9.55am Winnifred Caulfield (SVP) (Mass will be in Church)
25 TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; John & Bridget Madine People of the Partnership; Bill & Ivy Mulhearn

LITURGICAL CALENDAR		PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK
Monday	Our Lady of Sorrows (<i>M</i>)	
Tuesday	Ss Cornelius and Cyprian (<i>M</i>)	This Sunday Thursday
Wednesday	Feria	
Thursday	Feria	
Friday	Feria	
Saturday	The Korean Martyrs (<i>M</i>)	
<i>M</i> = Memorial <i>F</i> = Feast <i>S</i> = Solemnity		Coffee after Mass (<i>Stanley</i>) Coffee after Mass (<i>Stanley</i>)

Finance - 7th September 2025	Offertory Total	Standing Order
STANLEY	£412.51	£197.25
DIPTON	£82.00	£172.85
Future Collections: 14 th September - Catholic Education 21 st September - Evangelii Gaudium 5 th October - CAFOD Family Fast		

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, Norman King

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.

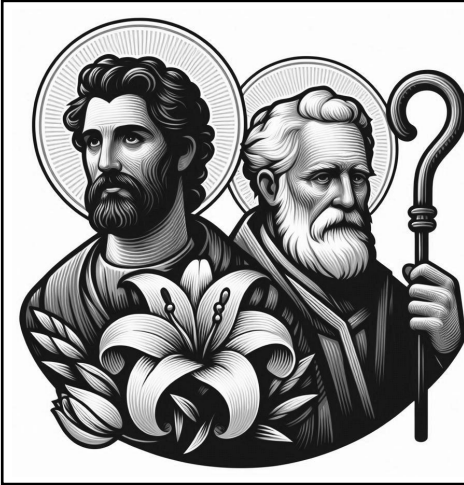
A GENTLE REMINDER...

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

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.

✠

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



LISTEN TO THE WORD

14TH SEPTEMBER 2025 - EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
Numbers 21: 4-9 | Psalm 78 | Philippians 2: 6-11 | John 3: 13-17

Today we have a special feast which is celebrated on 14th September each year but only falls on a Sunday when that date falls on the Sabath Day. According to Christian tradition, the True Cross was discovered in 326 during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem by St Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was then built in Jerusalem at the site of the discovery. On this day we are called to reflect on the Cross of Christ and the sacrifice that Our Lord and Saviour made to free us from the chains of our sins.

In today’s first reading we find ourselves in the desert with the Israelites on our way to the promised land. The journey was long, and the people grumbled to Moses about the conditions and the time taken for the journey. They complained that God had forsaken them. God punished the people with a plague of snakes whose bite was poisonous and many perished. Moses called on the Lord for mercy, and God relented. He asked Moses to set up, on a pole, an image of the serpent and promised that everyone who looked upon this symbol would live. There is great symbolism in this story. Jesus himself was raised up before the people in His crucifixion and if we gaze at his image and believe, then we too will be healed and saved.

The passage from Paul is an Affirmation of Faith, a prayer which summarises for the reader the belief in Christ as the Son of God. Saint Paul emphasises the humanity of Christ and his subsequent exaltation of His divinity by God the Father. Crucifixion was seen as a punishment by the people, but Paul in his preaching changed the emphasis from punishment to glorification so that we should bend the knee and confess with our tongues that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The discussion between Jesus and Nicodemus can be seen as the meeting of the Old Testament and the New as Jesus explains to Him, through the scriptures, that the Son of Man must be raised up, must suffer, to bring people to faith in God. The passage emphasises that God is a God of Love and that through the sacrifice of Jesus all people may be brought to believe in Him and be saved.

A Prayer based on John 3: 15
“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son that he who believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”

Lord,
As I gaze upon you, hanging on your cross, exposed to the world, I cannot help but think. Why?
Why did you do this for me? I do not deserve it. I am a sinful man, not worth the effort, certainly not worth dying for.
Then love comes to mind, not human love but a love so all-embracing that the whole of creation is changed by its existence.
Then I can see the answer: you are love, and through love your forgiveness comes to me, and I am made new.
Amen.

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (C)

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

First Reading

Numbers 21:4b-9

In those days: The people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.’ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.’ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 78(77):1-2. 34-35. 36-37. 38. R cf. 7b

Response: Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

Give ear, my people, to my teaching;
incline your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable
and utter hidden lessons of the past.

When he slew them, then they sought him,
repented and earnestly sought God.
They would remember that God was their rock,
God the Most High their redeemer.

Yet they deceived him with their mouths;
they lied to him with their tongues.
For their hearts were not steadfast towards him;
they were not faithful to his covenant.

Yet he who is full of compassion
forgave them their sin and spared them.
So often he held back his anger,
and did not stir up all his rage.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.

Gospel

John 3:13-17

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: Jesus said to Nicodemus, ‘No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.’

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

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ✠ How should Jesus be represented on the Cross, in triumph or suffering?
- ✠ Do you find the second reading an attractive centre of devotion? Why?
- ✠ Should a fervent Christian home be dominated by representations of Christ crucified?

Taken from The Sunday Word - Henry Wansbrough, OSB.



HAIL TO THE CROSS, OUR ONLY HOPE.

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.

EDUCATION SUNDAY

This Weekend is Education Sunday and the Diocesan Department for Education are asking parishes to pray for our Diocesan Catholic schools, their pupils and staff. In addition, they are using the opportunity to make an appeal for governors at the end of Mass. Information posters are available in Church if you would like more information about being a Foundation Governor.

PARISH EVENTS - DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 22nd November 12.30pm –3.30pm - Christmas Craft Fair at St Patrick's in aid of family of parishes funds.

Sunday 21st December 3.00pm - Craghead Colliery Band Christmas Concert in St Joseph's. Proceeds to family of parishes funds.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of **Joyce (Pauline) McCallum** and **Susan Ovington**. **Pauline's** Funeral Liturgy will take place at Mountsett Crematorium on Friday 19th September at 2.00pm. **Susan's** Funeral Liturgy will take place in St Joseph's on Monday 22nd September at 12.30pm, followed by interment at Stanley Cemetery.

FAMILY OF PARISHES RECIPE BOOK

Our last parish recipe book was published in 1986. A new version is to be printed to boost parish funds and will be on sale later this year.

Parishioners are invited to contribute to the book by providing copies of favourite family recipes in any format. It can be a recipe that's been handed down to you, a favourite family dinner, the soup you made for Lenten lunches, the bakes you have made for coffee mornings or fairs, festive favourites or something you like to make with the children. Many people now have an Air Fryer or Slow Cooker, so you might have some recipes for those. Please put hand written or typed recipes in the boxes provided at the back of our churches. **The deadline for recipes to be included in the book is Sunday 28th September.** If you have any questions please text/call 07969 212 778.

ALIVE IN HOPE: A CHURCH FOR MISSION

Jubilee Day is fast approaching and we hope you have seen the line-up of guest speakers invited along to share their stories about being Alive in Hope: A Church for Mission. Ordinary people doing extraordinary work in our parish communities, diocese and beyond, they share the joys and struggles of doing mission for the Church. Perhaps something will resonate with you? Bishop Stephen invites all of us to come to this day as a diocesan family in this Holy Year of Jubilee. Full details of the day's programme are available online and in the Northern Cross, or please ring Amy to find out more. Haven't booked yet? There's still time to register at <https://bit.ly/DHNAlive25> where you'll also find all the information about the Jubilee Day. For enquiries and parish/group bookings, email Amy at formation.mission@diocesehn.org.uk or telephone 0191 2433316. Saturday 27th September, from 10 am to 3 pm, at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead. Registration and refreshments from 9.15am, but please bring a packed lunch. Ample parking is available and entry is FREE but please register by Sunday 21st September.

WELCOMERS - ST JOSEPH'S

St Joseph's needs volunteers to help with welcoming at Sunday Mass. The duties involve handing out the Hymn books and Newsletters. If you can help, please speak to someone on the Piety Stall, thank you.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR

This month, the Cathedral Choir are celebrating 25 years in their current format. The choir have asked Father Shaun to lead them in a morning of reflection which is taking place in Stanley on **Saturday 20th September**. The Cathedral Choir will sing the 10.00am Mass in Stanley, to which all are welcome to attend. Mass that morning will take place in Church. Do please come along and celebrate with them.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2025/26

We will shortly beginning the Sacramental programme for 2025/26. We invite parents of children in year 4 or above, who are baptised Catholic, from our family of parishes to an information evening on **Monday 15th September at 6.30pm** in **St Joseph's Church meeting room**, where information will be given for the process this coming year and how you can register your child.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy of the Word will recommence this Sunday. This is for children aged **3 - 10 years**. The liturgy takes place during the Liturgy of the Word of the Mass. In Children's Liturgy, the children will hear the Gospel in an accessible way and complete activities based on the Sunday Liturgy. The Children then return for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Please note, the children must be able to attend themselves with the Catechists who have a DBS. Parents and Carers are unable to attend.

CHRISTMAS CANDLES IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES

This year we would like to invite parishioners to burn a candle in memory of loved ones. These red Sanctuary Candles will burn continuously around our Churches through the Octave of Christmas for loved ones. If you would like a candle, please pick up an envelope from the back of the Church. The cost of the candles are £7.50 or 2 for £12.00. The closing date for orders is **20th December**. *Please put your envelopes in the offertory basket when it comes around on Sunday.*

THANK YOU

Saturday's craft de-stash sale at Dipton Jubilee - including some kind donations - raised £220 for family of parish funds. Many thanks to all involved.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

Parish Secretary, Parishes of Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert, Crook, St Thomas of Canterbury, Wolsingham; and St Joseph, Tow Law 14 hours per week. 12 Month Fixed Term Contract The Applicant Pack can be obtained by contacting nell.dewhirst@diocesehn.org.uk or human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk Closing date: 12:00 noon Tuesday 16th September 2025.

Parish Secretary, Parish of St Bede & Ss Peter and Paul South Shields 12 hours per week; Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9.00am to 12:00 The Applicant Pack can be obtained by contacting nell.dewhirst@diocesehn.org.uk or human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk Closing Date: 12:00 noon Wednesday 17th September 2025.

Parish Secretary, St Mary's Cathedral, St Dominic's and St Michael's, Newcastle 17 hours per week to be agreed. The Applicant Pack can be obtained by contacting nell.dewhirst@diocesehn.org.uk or human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk Closing date:12.00 noon on Wednesday 17th September 2025.

Parish Secretary, Parish of All Saints, Lanchester and St Teresa, Annfield Plain. 9 hours per week; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am - 12noon. The Applicant Pack can be obtained by contacting nell.dewhirst@diocesehn.org.uk or human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk Closing date: 12.00 noon 25th September 2025.

Cleaner, St Matthew's Presbytery, Jarrow 6 hours per week with a degree of flexibility which can be discussed during the interview process. The Applicant Pack can be obtained by contacting nell.dewhirst@diocesehn.org.uk or human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk Closing date: 12 noon Tuesday 16th September 2025.