

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS
7th - 14th September 2025

23RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<i>Dipton Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Kathleen Goldsmith People of the Partnership; Christopher Kennedy
Monday <i>8th September</i>	<i>Dipton</i>	<i>6.00pm</i> 6.30pm	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 6.25pm</i> Deceased Members of the Poole Family
Tuesday <i>9th September</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	9.15am	For a sick person (SVP)
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday <i>11th September</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	Jim Fagan (3rd Anniversary)
NO MASS ON FRIDAY			
Saturday <i>13th September</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	<i>9.30am</i> 10.00am	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 9.55am</i> Kathleen Rhodes
THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	<i>Dipton Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Aaron Crowl People of the Partnership; Margaret Ferguson

LITURGICAL CALENDAR		PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK	
Monday	The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary (<i>F</i>)	This Sunday	Coffee after Mass (<i>Dipton</i>)
Tuesday	Feria	Thursday	Coffee after Mass (<i>Stanley</i>)
Wednesday	Feria	Saturday	Craghead Colliery Band, 3.00pm (<i>Stanley</i>)
Thursday	Feria	Next Sunday	Coffee Morning after Mass (<i>Dipton</i>)
Friday	The Most Holy Name of Mary (<i>op M</i>)		
Saturday	St John Chrysostom (<i>M</i>)		
<i>M = Memorial F = Feast S = Solemnity</i>			

Finance - 31 August 2025	Offertory Total	Standing Order
STANLEY	£479.46	£197.25
DIPTON	£81.74	£172.85
Future Collections: 14 th September - Catholic Education 21 st September - Evangelii Gaudium 5 th October - CAFOD Family Fast		

TWO NEW SAINTS CANONISED BY POPE LEO TODAY!



St Carlo Acutis

St Pier Giorgio Frassati

Both saints are beloved by many Catholic young people for their enthusiastic pursuit of holiness.

St Carlo Acutis, an Italian computer-coding teenager who died of cancer in 2006, is known for his great devotion to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Born in 1991, he is the first millennial to be beatified by the Catholic Church. Shortly after his first Communion at the age of 7, he told his mother: “To always be united to Jesus: This is my life plan.”

St Pier Giorgio Frassati, who died at the age of 24 in 1925, is also beloved by many today for his enthusiastic witness to holiness that reaches “to the heights”. Pier Giorgio was from northern Italy, was an avid mountaineer and Third Order Dominican known for his charitable outreach. At the age of 17, he joined the St Vincent de Paul Society and dedicated much of his spare time to taking care of the poor, the homeless, and the sick as well as demobilised servicemen returning from First World War.

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.

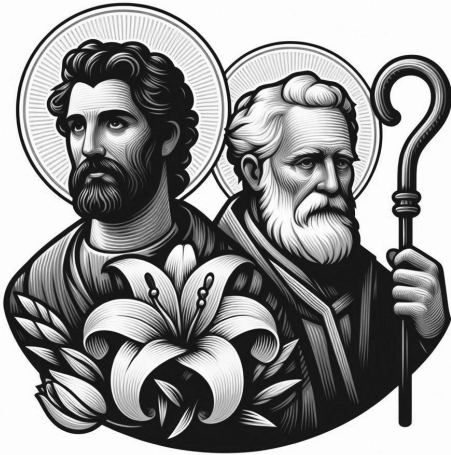
A GENTLE REMINDER...

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

LISTEN TO THE WORD

7TH SEPTEMBER 2025 - 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Wisdom 9: 13-8 | Psalm 89 | Philemon 9:10, 12-17 | Luke 14: 25-33

We all live busy lives, often finding that we have to sacrifice one thing for another, or one person needs to be put off while we give our time to someone else. We are faced, daily, with choices in the knowledge that whatever choice we make someone will have to go without. Was life always like this or have we, in our 21st century lives, finally ran out of time?

There is a cost to the choices we make, and this is evident from the readings this Sunday. The choice today is: how do we serve God and each other? The first reading sets out the problem. We have a limited capacity to think, to understand, to know and to love. God, on the other hand, has an unlimited capacity for all those things. So how can we, as mortal human beings, serve a God who is all knowing, all powerful and all love? The answer comes at the end of the reading: we must seek the wisdom of God whose spirit will guide us in our choices. So, pray for God’s wisdom and seek his guidance and, though it may come slowly, the wisdom of God will show you the way.

Paul was touched by the wisdom of God. He suffered for his faith: he was scourged, left for dead and imprisoned because he laboured for God. Today he writes from prison to Philemon on behalf of a runaway slave called Onesimus. Though Onesimus is a great help to Paul, he sees it as his duty to Philemon to return him his slave. We are all slaves in our world today; we may not be in chains, but the demands of life leave us with very little spare time. Paul lets Onesimus go although he knows he will be sorely missed. What can you let go to give more time to serving Christ?

In the Gospel passage Jesus spells out very clearly the cost that may be demanded if we are to follow him. The loss of family was a very real threat to those who followed Christ. They risked everything for him because they believed in the kingdom he was preparing. The Gospel urges us to think carefully before we make any commitments, then, go ahead, with the wisdom you have gathered. Never underestimate the sacrifices you may have to make for Christ but always remember that the reward for your service is eternal life.

A Prayer based on Psalm 90
“At dawn, fill us with your merciful love. We shall exult and rejoice all our days”

*Lord,
When I rise each morning fill me with your merciful love.
Throughout my day, may all my thoughts and actions be a reflection of your love.
Even in times of stress and anger, let your love rest upon me and calm my mind,
still my hand, and hold me in your peace
So that, at the end of the day, I may rejoice in the knowledge that I have served you.
Amen.*

David Frank.

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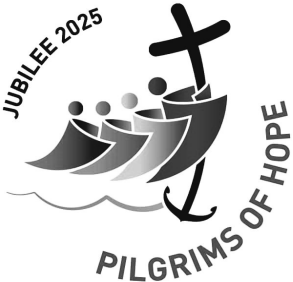
Office Hours

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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

23RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C)

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

First Reading

What human being can learn the counsel of God?
Or who can discern what the Lord wills?
For the reasoning of mortals is worthless,
and our designs are likely to fail,
for a perishable body weighs down the soul,
and this earthy tent burdens the mind full of thoughts.
We can hardly guess at what is on earth,
and what is at hand we find with labour;
but who has traced out what is in the heavens?
Who has learned your counsel,
unless you have given wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from on high?
And thus the paths of those on earth were set right,
and people were taught what pleases you.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14, 17. R1

**Response: O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.**

You turn man back to dust,
and say, ‘Return, O children of Adam.’
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away like a dream,
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;
by evening it withers and fades.

Then teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O LORD! How long?
Show pity to your servants.

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the LORD our God be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands.

Second Reading

Philemon 9b-10, 12-17

Beloved: I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus — I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother — especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Let your face shine forth on your servant,
and teach me your decrees.

Gospel

Luke 14:14:25-33

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: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, “This man began to build and was not able to finish.” Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.’

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

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

✠ ‘Of what we speak, it is better to keep silent.’ Is this true of God?

✠ Does Jesus really mean we must hate father and mother?

Taken from The Sunday Word - Henry Wansbrough, OSB.

Hymn at 9.00am Mass:

*Like a flame my hope is burning,
may my song arise to you:
Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path I trust in you.*

Ev’ry nation, tongue, and people
find a light within your Word.
Scattered fragile sons and daughters
find a home in your dear Son.

God, so tender and so patient,
dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heav’n and earth are recreated
by the Spirit of Life set free.

Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,
for our God is born in time.
Son made man for you and many
who will find the way in him.



PARISH EVENTS - DATES FOR THE DIARY

THIS Saturday - Craft de-stash sale at Dipton Jubilee 11 - 1pm
Saturday 13th September 3.00pm - Craghead Colliery Band in St Joseph’s. Proceeds to family of parishes funds.
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.

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.

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 hand your recipes to Lorraine Murray at St Joseph’s Church or to Sharon Walker at St Patrick’s Church. If you have any questions please text/call 07969 212 778.

ALIVE IN HOPE: A CHURCH FOR MISSION

A Jubilee Day in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Bishop Stephen invites you to a Jubilee Day on Saturday 27th September, from 10am to 3pm, at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead. Everyone is welcome! There'll be guest speakers from the Prisons’ Chaplaincy and the Justice & Peace Refugee Project, and a choice of seminars/forums to reawaken and empower us for mission. This is an opportunity to connect with old friends and new, and to celebrate our diocesan family as we explore what a Church in Mission invites us to be and do! There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a prayer space in the chapel, and praise and worship led by Durham musicians ‘Set A Fire’. Take a look around the marketplace where there'll be stands and gifts from some of our Catholic partners and groups. Registration and refreshments from 9.15am, but please bring a packed lunch. Ample parking is available and entry is FREE but please register at <https://bit.ly/DHNAlive25> where you'll also find more information about the seminars you'll be able to join during the day. For enquiries and parish/group bookings, email Amy at: adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk or telephone 0191 243 3316. For more information or to book, please visit <https://bit.ly/DHNAlive25>

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.

EDUCATION SUNDAY

Next 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. They are inviting headteachers, school or Catholic Education Trust staff and governors to make the short appeal. The narrative has been provided. Please contact Rebecca Daglish rebecca.daglish@diocesehn.org.uk if you are able to support. Thank you.

SVP UPDATE

Without the very generous contributions made every week by our parishioners, the SVP would not be able to continue their work and we are most grateful to you all. In addition to our regular work in visiting the elderly at home and in care homes and having Masses said for the sick and the recently dead - over recent months the SVP have also given financial assistance to:

- A family who needed a new washing machine
- A young parishioner towards their expenses in travelling with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes to help with the sick
- A family who needed help to buy school uniforms
- Funding for 4 children to attend the SVP Camp on Holy Island during the school holidays
- Funding for children to attend the Emmaus Youth Village at Allensford
- Financial support to an SVP Conference in India.

God Bless you all for your help - we couldn’t do it without you!

CHILDREN’S LITURGY

Children’s Liturgy of the Word will recommence next 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.*

JUBILEE OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

This Tuesday at 12.05pm in St Mary’s Cathedral, Bishop Stephen will celebrate a Jubilee of Ordained Ministry in this Holy Year. Tuesday happens to be the 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of Bishop Stephen. We offer our prayerful congratulations to him and wish him many more years of priestly and episcopal ministry. All are welcome to the Mass on Tuesday,