

# MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 - 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>O Dawn of the East</i>	Dipton Stanley Stanley	9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	People of the Partnership; Maureen Emerson People of the Partnership; Rose Taggart & Francis & Wallace Ormston Craghead Colliery Band
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> December <i>O King of the Nations</i>	Stanley	11.00am	Requiem Mass for Bob Fullerton
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> December <i>O Emmanuel</i>	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am James Walker
<b>THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>			
Christmas Eve	Stanley Dipton	3.30pm 4.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Carols before Mass For the Deceased Parishioners of our Family of Parishes Carols before Mass Intentions of the Sick and Housebound of our Family of Parishes
Christmas Day	Stanley	9.30am	People of the Partnership
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> December <i>St Stephen</i>	Stanley	12noon	Deceased members of the Lee and Purdy Families
<b>NO MASS ON SATURDAY</b>			
THE HOLY FAMILY	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Mary Stott People of the Partnership; First Anniversary of John McDonnell
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> December <i>St Thomas Becket</i>	Dipton	10.00am	James Walker
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> December <i>6<sup>th</sup> day of the Octave</i>	Stanley	10.00am	Bob Fullerton
<b>NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY</b>			
MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	Stanley	12noon	The Intentions of our Family of Parishes
			<i>Followed by celebration drinks in the meeting room</i>
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> January <i>Ss Basil &amp; Gregory</i>	Stanley	10.45am	Requiem Mass for Maureen Emerson
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> January <i>The Holy name of Jesus</i>	Stanley	10.00am	Danny Fagan
2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Ena English People of the Partnership; Anton Prochazka
<b>THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION</b>			
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan <i>Vigil</i>	Dipton	6.30pm	People of the Partnership; Daphne Graver
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Stanley</i>		10.00am	People of the Partnership; Joe & Kathleen Loftus
<b>NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY</b>			
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Weekday after Epiphany</i>	Stanley	10.00am	Bob & Ivy Mulhearn
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Weekday after Epiphany</i>	Dipton	9.30am 10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am John Woodhead
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Weekday after Epiphany</i>	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am Mary Self
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Father Tony Walsh People of the Partnership; Hugh Norman Telford
Finance - 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2025		Offertory Total	Standing Order
STANLEY		£543.09	£197.25
DIPTON		£107.95	£172.85
Future Collections: 24 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Offering 28 <sup>th</sup> December - Diocesan Levy			

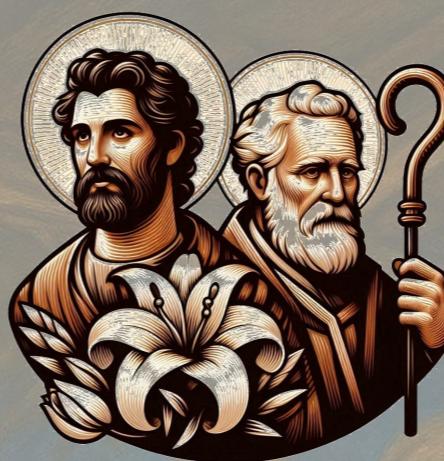
Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle  
a registered charity 1143450

The Parishes of

# SAINT JOSEPH, STANLEY



# SAINT PATRICK, DIPTON



St Joseph's Presbytery  
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Stanley, DH9 0BL

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[www.stanleycatholic.org](http://www.stanleycatholic.org)

[stjoseph.stanley@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:stjoseph.stanley@diocesehn.org.uk)



Father Shaun Purdy  
Parish Priest

[pp.stjoseph.stanley@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:pp.stjoseph.stanley@diocesehn.org.uk)



Reverend Paul Nichol

Parish Deacon  
07906 489 152



Melissa Gillespie  
Parish Administrator



The office is closed until  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025



*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.



21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
Isaiah 7:10-14 | Psalm 23 | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-24

Advent is a time for welcoming. Each year around this time we welcome family and friends into our homes and into our hearts; sometimes the visit is brief, sometimes only a card sending best wishes for Christmas and sometimes they join with us to celebrate with a feast on Christmas day. These days are special.

I heard a sermon the other day and the priest spoke to us about two Christmases: one the birth of Christ and the other the feast we celebrate this year. It is important to remind ourselves of the separate nature of these two events. The first Christmas was a single event in time, a momentous event which can never be repeated, for God became man on that day over two thousand years ago and changed humanity forever. Next week we celebrate that event, but we do so in our own time and place. Sometimes we confuse the birth of our Lord with all the hype of a modern Christmas: however, we cannot make the birth of Christ come alive unless we bring it into our homes on Christmas day.

When Jesus was born the world was very different; most of the known world was ruled by the Roman Empire. There was no mass media, no earth encompassing technology. People struggled to find out what was happening in the next village never mind somewhere on the far side of the world. Today all manner of things are within our grasp. We cannot see Christmas and miss the suffering in our world; we cannot pretend there is peace on earth when it is not so. We must celebrate the love that Jesus revealed to us by his birth, life, death and resurrection but with modern eyes mindful of the needs of his world today.

The message of each of today's readings is summed up by Isaiah:

***'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and shall call his name Emmanuel'***

- a name which means 'God is with us'.

It is important to remember that Mary's son, Jesus Christ, the Son of God is with us every day and in a special way this week when we celebrate his birth. Let us pray that He will guide us on the path to peace and justice for all his creation.

Amen.

- David Frank.

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

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

### First Reading

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

In those days: The LORD spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R cf. 6*

**Response:** Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

The LORD's is the earth and its fullness, the world, and those who dwell in it. It is he who set it on the seas; on the rivers he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD? Who shall stand in his holy place? The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose soul is not set on vain things.

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive, and right reward from the God who saves him. Such are the people who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

### Second Reading

*Romans 1:1-7*

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Verse

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means, God with us.

### Gospel

*Matthew 1:18-24*

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

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for

he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' — which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

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

### QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

✠ In what way can we experience the presence of God?  
✠ What did Jesus and Joseph talk about as they worked together?

### Hymn for 9.00am and 11.00am Masses

Joseph heard the troubling news:  
Mary was expecting!  
What should he, a just man, do?  
He sought God's directing.  
Joseph thought to send her home —  
leave her, without blaming;  
Then an angel in a dream  
spoke of joy, proclaiming:

"Go, take Mary as your wife;  
Joseph, don't you fear it —  
God has formed a precious life  
by the Holy Spirit!  
Mary soon will bear a son;  
you shall name him Jesus.  
When the prophet spoke of him,  
he said, "God is with us!"

God of love, we too may face  
times of doubt and trouble.  
May we know your daily grace,  
even when we struggle.  
Just as Joseph answered, "Yes!"  
with new dedication,  
We rejoice, for we've been blessed  
by your incarnation.



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.

### NEWSLETTER

This edition of the newsletter will take you to **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. Please note all the Mass times on the back page, especially the Christmas Masses, New Years Day Mass and the Holyday on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

### CRAGHEAD COLLIERY BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Takes place this afternoon. Tickets are £5.00 (under 11's free) which includes mulled wine and mince pie. You can buy your ticket after Mass this morning or pay on the door.

### CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS

Our Christmas Crib offerings this year will go to the Friends of the Holy Land. This charity supports the Christian Communities in the Holy Land who are struggling because of the conflict taking place. The collection will open on Christmas Eve and close on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February. A basket will be by the crib.

### MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of **Bob Fullerton** and **Maureen**. Bob's Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 11.00am in St Joseph's Church. Maureen's Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 10.45am in St Joseph's Church.

### DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

**31<sup>st</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

*Celebrating 100 years since the First Diocesan Pilgrimage*  
Bookings are now open for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. We travel on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July and return on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August. 2026 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the first Diocesan Pilgrimage took place led by Bishop Joseph Thorman. If you would like to book, or for further information, please contact Tangney Tours, our Tour Operator by going to their website <https://www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-hexham-newcastle/> or by calling 01732 886 666.

### APPEAL FOR LOURDES MEDICAL TEAM

2026 The Diocesan Pilgrimage relies on the generosity of nurses, student nurses, Health Care Assistants, and those working in care to help with the Accueil Pilgrims whilst in Lourdes. We would be grateful if parishes would be able to advertise in their newsletters this important aspect of the Pilgrimage. If anyone would like further information, they can contact the Lead Nurse, Michele Hall via email at [lourdes@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@diocesehn.org.uk) If the person leaves their contact details, these will be passed on to Michele who will be in touch.

### HOLY ISLAND SVP VINYNNIES CAMPS SUMMER 2026 VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

We would love to have more volunteers help out at our weekly SVP Summer Camps on Lindisfarne. Helping is a really great thing to do and you would need to be prepared to give a week of your time over the Summer holidays, have high levels of energy, patience, a sense of humour, be a team player, flexible and good at communicating with adults and children. If you would like to volunteer or know someone who would be great please look at our website - applications for volunteering in 2026, open in December: <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp>

### PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF KNOCK

25 - 29 May 2026 with Gillingham Coaches. 5 days/4 nights (Belfast, Bundoran, Knock and Belfast). £640pp sharing double room; £790 single occupancy. Full day at Shrine with Mass, guided tour and prayer opportunities. 2 half day visits included: Belfast Titanic Museum and Cong 'Quiet Man' village, Mayo. Optional evening Mass at Clonard Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. Contact Michael: 07787 726 306; Lestrine: 07778 656 662.

### THANK YOU

The Christmas Tree Festival at St Patrick's Dipton raised a total of £842.20 for our family of parishes. Thank you to all involved and to all those who turned up on the day.

### OFFICE CLOSURE

The office is closed until **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026** If it is urgent, please leave a message on the voice mail or send an email. Father Shaun will check the messages as and when he can. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

### YOUTH MINISTRY TRUST Administrator (Maternity Cover)

The Youth Ministry Trust (YMT), based at the Emmaus Youth Village, is seeking a friendly, organised, and dedicated **Administrator** to join our team for a six-month maternity cover. This important role supports the day-to-day running of our mission with young people through administrative, financial, and office support. **Location:** Emmaus Village, Allensford

**Salary:** £24,570–£25,953 FTE  
**Closing Date:** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATOR

Supporting the Safeguarding team, the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle are looking for a consummate administrative professional who handles sensitive information with the utmost discretion and confidentiality. Similarly, you'll be a person who has an eye for detail recognising the need for accuracy and precision. Salary scale - £26,000 to £27,768 If you are interested in applying for this 12 month Fixed Term Contracted Safeguarding position, please get in touch to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Bernadette Aquino HR Business Partner at [Bernadette.aquino@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:Bernadette.aquino@diocesehn.org.uk) Please note the Diocese cannot accept CV's and as such to be considered for the position you must request our Applicant Pack and then complete and return our Application Form. The closing date for applications is 9:00am Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 although we reserve the right to close the position early.

### TAKE THIS

The award winning singers and comedy duo are back by popular demand! On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026, join us for what will be an entertaining evening in Dipton Working Men's Club. Doors will open at 7pm. Tickets are £5.00 (you can't pay on the door) and are available from our Churches or Dipton Club from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December. Get yours before they sell out!

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

We hope the Staff and Pupils of St Joseph's, St Mary's and St Patrick's Schools have a wonderful Christmas Holiday and come back refreshed in the New Year. Wishing you all a happy Christmas and joy-filled New Year.

### From Father Shaun...

As Christmas draws near and the New Year approaches, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity and continued support throughout the year.

Everything that happens within our family of parishes is because of the generosity of so many people who each week give of their time to help in the various ministries. There are the things we see, but there are also the other things that go on behind the scenes, which people may not know about. Thank you to all those who will help over Christmas in our Masses and who will help decorate our churches and in the other preparations that will take place.

As a Family of Parishes we have become a strong community, working together in building up the Kingdom of God in our own little area. Never underestimate the difference our Family of Parishes is making in the area, welcoming people in many different ways.

On behalf of the whole of the Family of Parishes, I would particularly like to thank the SVP who have a special ministry among the sick and housebound. I know just how much those you visit appreciate what you do.

Wishing you and your families a very happy and holy Christmas and every blessing for 2026.

Father Shaun