

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS
30th November - 7th December 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<i>Dipton Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Tommy Newton People of the Partnership; Tommy Coyle
Monday <i>1st December</i>	<i>Dipton</i>	<i>9.30am</i> 10.00am	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 9.55am</i> Michael Bradley (SVP)
Tuesday <i>2nd December</i>	<i>St Mary's School</i>	2.15pm	Intentions of Lorraine Murray
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday <i>4th December</i>	<i>Stanley in Church</i>	10.00am	Jean Suddes (SVP)
Friday <i>5th December</i>	<i>Mountsett Dipton</i>	11.00am 2.15pm	Funeral Liturgy for Jane (Jean) Margaret Suddes For a sick person
Saturday <i>6th December</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	<i>9.30am</i> 10.00am	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 9.55am</i> Angie Nichol (SVP)
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<i>Dipton Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Brian Duffy People of the Partnership; Paul Pendleton

LITURGICAL CALENDAR		PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK	
Monday	Weekday of Advent	Monday	Journey in Faith <i>(Stanley)</i>
Tuesday	Weekday of Advent	Tuesday	Godfellas <i>(Sheperd and Shepherdess)</i>
Wednesday	St Fracis Xavier <i>Day of prayer for Migrants and Refugees</i>	Thursday	Coffee after Mass <i>(Stanley)</i>
Thursday	Weekday of Advent	Friday	Free Film Night <i>(Stanley)</i>
Friday	Weekday of Advent	Saturday	First Holy Communion Preparation <i>(Stanley)</i>
Saturday	St Nicholas	Next Sunday	Coffee after Mass <i>(Dipton)</i>

Finance - 16th Nov 2025	Offertory Total	Standing Order	Catholic Youth
STANLEY	£377.91	£197.25	£131.10
DIPTON	£101.03	£172.85	£61.60
Future Collections: 7 th December - Advent Alms 14 th December - Christmas Flowers 24 th /25 th December - Christmas Offering			

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

Franciscus

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO NEED HEALING IN OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES...

Margaret Convey, Maureen Dixon, Doreen Bales, Norman King, Maureen Emerson

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.

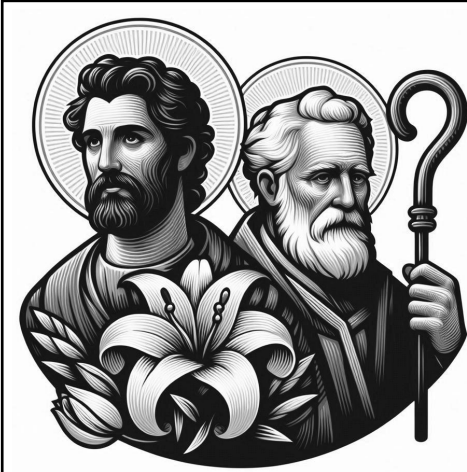
A GENTLE REMINDER...

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

30TH NOVEMBER 2025 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Isaiah 2: 1-5 | Psalm 121 | Romans 13: 11-14 | Matthew 24: 37-44

How often have you spent time waiting for something to happen and when it does, or doesn’t, you feel a great sense of disappointment. Waiting can be a waste of time. We seem to spend our lives waiting; waiting to be born, to go to school, to start work, to retire, and, while we are waiting, our lives go on, in joy and sorrow, and the waiting never stops. Advent is about waiting, but when we wait in Advent we wait with purpose, Advent is a time of anticipation, of longing, of hope. Each Advent our thoughts turn to the coming of the Lord. The Feast of Christmas and the birth of the Christ Child grow ever closer, but so too, at lifetimes own pace, the coming of the Risen Christ at the end of time.

We begin the season of Advent with three passages, many years apart. The readings reflect the faith of the people at the time the events they speak of were taking place. Isaiah speaks of a vision of the latter days; he speaks of the House of God standing on a high mountain, and of all the nations flowing towards it. A God who will teach all people His ways, “so that we may walk in his paths”. His vision is of a God of Peace who will bring justice and security to the nations of the world.

Paul senses the immediacy of the day of the Lord. He looked back to Isaiah and saw the world in a different light; after all, if Jesus was the Messiah, and Paul certainly believed he was, then all was fulfilled and all he waited for was the second coming in glory. So, he urges the people, be patient in your waiting, be ready, don’t lose it all now after all we have been through, keep going. “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ”.

The Apostles were waiting; their impatience showed at times. When Lord? was often on their lips, when the Kingdom? when the glory? when will we be free? Jesus tells them; be ready, always be ready; “Stay awake for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming”. This idea that we should always be ready is good advice because our lives are fragile; we do not know when this life will come to an end.

A Prayer based on Isaiah 2:5

“Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord”

Lord,

As Advent begins so too does the countdown to Christmas.

Give us patience Lord to treat these days as blessings, days when we can prepare for your presence.

It is good to wait; it gives us time to prepare.

Let us live these days with joy, with hope, with faith, and in love.

Give us your grace to stay awake until your glory returns.

Amen.

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

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

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.’
For out of Sion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 122(121):1-2. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R cf. 1

Response: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.

I rejoiced when they said to me,
‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as it is decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
There were set the thrones for judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray,
‘May they prosper, those who love you.’
May peace abide in your walls,
and security be in your towers.

For the sake of my family and friends,
let me say, ‘Peace upon you.’
For the sake of the house of the LORD, our God,
I will seek good things for you.

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14a

Brothers and sisters: You know the time, that the hour has come
for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than
when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand.
So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the
armour of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in
orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality,
not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Show us, O LORD, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.

Gospel

Matthew 24:37-44

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

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: ‘For as were the days of
Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those
days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and
giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and
they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away,
so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in
the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be
grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay
awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what
part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed
awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore
you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour
you do not expect.’

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

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ✠ What can I do this advent to increase peace?
- ✠ How can Christmas be to me a coming of Christ?
- ✠ Should we look forward to or dread the final meeting with the Lord?

Taken from The Sunday Word - Henry Wansbrough, OSB.



STAY AWAKE!

PARISH EVENTS - DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th December 1pm - 4pm - Christmas Tree Festival at St Patrick’s in aid of family of parishes funds.

Sunday 14th December - Carol Service at St Patrick’s Church at conclusion of Christmas Tree Festival.

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

Friday 30th January 2026 - Back by popular demand - an evening with Take This at Dipton Club. More details to follow...

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.*

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2025

The Christmas Masses are at the following times this year:

Christmas Vigil	4.00pm	St Joseph’s
Christmas Vigil	6.30pm	St Patrick’s
Christmas Morning	9.30am	St Joseph’s

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St Patrick Dipton’s annual Christmas Tree Festival is Saturday 13th - Sunday 14th December 1pm - 4pm. Anyone wishing to display a tree can contact Aileen on 07745 943 455 or Anne on 07944 094 157. There is a donation of £10 per tree.

CRAGHEAD COLLIERY BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tickets are now on sale for the Christmas Concert with Craghead Colliery Band, which takes place on Sunday 21st December at 3.00pm. Tickets are £5.00 (under 11’s free) which includes mulled wine and mince pie. Get yours today, it will be a great afternoon!

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place each year, departing on the last Friday of July for a full week’s pilgrimage in Lourdes. Being the Centenary year since the first Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Joseph Thorman, we have had increased interest in people wanting to go to Lourdes in 2026. It would help our Tour Operator (*Tangney Tours*) greatly if you could fill in the pre-registration form on their website if you are contemplating travelling with them. This will assist in helping with travel arrangements and hotels. Please note, this is pre-registration, it does not mean you have booked your place. Please follow the link. <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-newcastle-2/> or alternatively you can phone 01732 886 666

Like last year, if any parishioners sign up, you may wish to book the Stella where we can be together as a parish group.

YOUTH SECTION The Youth Section is a vital part of our Pilgrimage; the assisted pilgrims and hotel pilgrims rely on your generosity in saying ‘yes’ to assist them throughout the week. The Youth Section is organised through the Youth Ministry Team (YMT). If you are aged 16 (on the day of travel) – 21, please follow the link below for more information: <https://ymt.org/be-a-youth-helper-at-diocesan-lourdes-pilgrimage-2025/>

ASSISTED PILGRIMS The pilgrimage offers a special section for Assisted Pilgrims who need Nursing Care or some other form of specialised care during the week in Lourdes. We have a team of doctors and nurses who provide for the medical care needed and a large team of young and adult helpers who assist. If you would like to know more about being an assisted pilgrim, please contact the Lead Nurse through the email address: lourdes@diocesehn.org.uk
Please include in the email your name and a contact number for the Lead Nurse to contact you directly with more information.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of **Jane (Jean) Margaret Suddes** and **Bob Fullerton**. Jean’s Funeral will take place at Mountsett Crematorium on Friday 5th December at 11.00am. Bob’s Funeral Liturgy will take place on Monday 22nd December at 11.30am in St Joseph’s Church.

ST MARY’S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

St Mary’s School Christmas Fair is taking place **this Friday 5th December** at 2.00pm. All welcome.

FREE FILM NIGHT

This Friday we shall watch the Christmas classic - Home Alone. An eight-year-old troublemaker, mistakenly left home alone, must defend his home against a pair of burglars on Christmas Eve. The film will begin at 7.00pm in the meeting room at St Joseph’s. the film is rated PG.

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

St Mary’s, Blackhill, are offering a Christmas lunch on Christmas Day in their Church Hall. Doors open at 11.30am, A three course meal is available along with fun and friendship. All they ask for is a donation. For more information or to reserve a place, please contact Kevin on 07986 561 532 or kevin.walls1957@gmail.com

PILGRIMAGE TO SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF KNOCK

25 - 29 May 2026 with Gillingham’s Coaches. 5 days/4 nights (Belfast, Bundoran, Knock and Belfast). £640pp sharing double room; £790 single occupancy. Full day at the 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.

LOVE CHRISTMAS

This weekend we launch the 2025 Love Christmas campaign. It is across the whole partnership this year and collection envelopes are available in all our churches. With the help of your generosity we aim to make Christmas a little bit better for those across our community who need a helping hand. Last year we distributed “Love Christmas Dinner” bags, Toiletries gift bags for young people living in temporary accommodation, Gift bags for adults with learning needs and lastly, helped the mothers of the children in our local Women's Refuge with something extra for Christmas. Your generosity helped to make a big difference to a lot of people, please be as generous as you can this year.

THE BUGLE

Fr John Bagnall’s new comic The Bugle is now available to buy at the back of church (£5).

THANK YOU FROM SIGNIFICANCE

The Trustees of Significance thank everyone in our parishes and schools who supported the Grand Draw and all those who donated prizes. 1,005 tickets were sold which realised £5,025. The funds raised will help Significance to continue to support YMT and the Emmaus Village; and to provide opportunities to help young people to recognise their own worth and unique gifts. Congratulations to all our winners: Sr Immaculata (Oaklea Convent), Betty Carey-Reynolds, (Ashington), Fiona Standfield, (Diocesan Offices), Andrea Kawanzaruwa (Stanley), Ben Cantwell (Penshaw), Rebecca Leighton (Wallsend).

THANK YOU

St Joseph’s October (Thursday) coffee mornings raised £103.00 for church funds. The grand total raised at our Christmas craft fair was a whopping £2,272 for our family of parishes. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event in any way and for coming along on the day, especially our schools and schoolchildren for opening the fair with Christmas carols. A huge thank you for all the donations and baked goods received and to all our craft stall holders and volunteers. All raffle prizes have been claimed. A list of winners can be found on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JPSHCatholic/>