

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

30th November - 7th December 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Dipton	9.00am	People of the Partnership; Brian Duffy
	Stanley	11.00am	People of the Partnership; Paul Pendleton
Monday 8 th December	Dipton	9.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 9.55am
		10.00am	A sick person
Tuesday 9 th December	Stanley	9.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 9.55am
		10.00am	Bill and Ivy Mulhearn
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 11 th December	Stanley	10.00am	Jean and Terry Costello
Friday 12 th December	Dipton	6.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 6.25pm
		6.30pm	Gunilla Hubbard
NO MASS ON SATURDAY			
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Dipton	9.00am	People of the Partnership; Mary McDermott
	Stanley	11.00am	People of the Partnership; The McGough Family
	Dipton	4.15pm	Family of Parishes Carol Service
LITURGICAL CALENDAR			
Monday	The Immaculate Conception (S)		
Tuesday	Weekday of Advent		
Wednesday	Weekday of Advent		
Thursday	Weekday of Advent		
Friday	Weekday of Advent		
Saturday	St Lucy		
	M = Memorial	F = Feast	S = Solemnity
PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK			
This Sunday	Coffee after Mass (Dipton)		
Monday	Journey in Faith (Stanley)		
Thursday	Coffee after Mass (Stanley)		
Saturday	Christmas Tree Festival (Dipton)		
Next Sunday	Christmas Tree Festival (Dipton)		
	Carol Service (Dipton)		

Finance - 30 th Nov 2025	Offertory Total	Standing Order
STANLEY	£448.71	£197.25
DIPTON	£139.47	£172.85
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 Bailes,
Norman King, Maureen Emerson

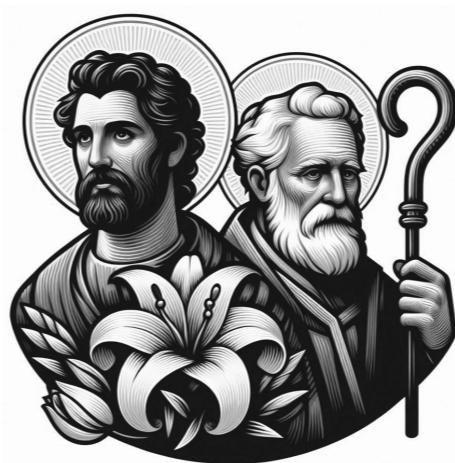
GETTING YOUR CHILD BAPTISED

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
7TH DECEMBER 2025 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Isaiah 11: 1-10 | Psalm 71 | Romans 15: 4-9 | Matthew 3: 1-12

Advent is a time of wonder. We are preparing for the birth of the Son of God. Is there anything more wondrous than this event? Love is born again for us on Christmas morning as the promise of our Creator God is fulfilled in the shape of a small innocent babe.

One figure dominates chapter three of the Gospel of Matthew. He is the last of the prophets: John the Baptist. In the passage from the Old Testament Isaiah describes a heroic figure; one with all the qualities we see in an outstanding human being; someone to measure ourselves against. A man on who rests a spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, Knowledge and fear of the Lord. This man will "stand as a signal for the peoples". Is this John the Baptist?

When Matthew tells the story of John he paints a very vivid picture of a very independent man: someone who does not compromise, who speaks his truth forcefully and is not frightened of authority. John calls to us across the centuries to repentance. He reminds us that we need to be cleansed of our sins as we prepare to receive into our world the Christ child. He speaks of someone who is coming, someone who is far greater than he is, one who will bring justice to the world.

Paul writes to us from a world which has seen John and experienced Christ. He speaks to us about hope, how we should never give up and how that hope will lead to tolerance of each other. We are approaching the gift of Christmas. During these days we should be preparing to receive the Christ child into our hearts. Let us pray that our hearts are ready and open to receive Him

Come Lord Jesus

Come and be born in our hearts.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

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

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

On that day:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fatted calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R cf. 7*

Response: In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth.

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry, the poor who have no one to help. He will have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy.

May his name endure for ever, his name continue like the sun. Every tribe shall be blest in him, all nations shall call him blessed.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that

Isaiah 11:1-10

together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ☒ To you, what is the most attractive feature of the human Jesus?
- ☒ In what way can I be more generous to prepare for Christmas, especially to those who are not my natural friends?
- ☒ Is my scale of values compatible with the Kingship of God? How far do they coincide?

Taken from The Sunday Word - Henry Wansbrough, OSB.

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 Dinton Club. More details to follow...

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Next Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, is also known as Bambinelli Sunday. This was started by Pope St John Paul II, in which in encouraged people to bring the Baby Jesus from their crib to be blessed. Next Sunday, please bring your Baby Jesus to be blessed. If you don't have a Baby Jesus, the Piety stalls in our Churches have Nativity related items for sale.

FAMILY OF PARISHES CAROL SERVICE

Next Sunday we have our Family of Parishes Carol Service at 4.15pm. Please do come and join us for this service at the end of the Christmas Tree Festival

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

CРАГHEAD 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!

CHILDREN'S FILM NIGHT - ELF

On Thursday 18th December at 6.00pm in St Joseph's meeting room, we will be showing the Christmas Film Elf. This is for children accompanied by an adult. There is no cost and treats will be provided. All you need to do is collect a ticket from the back of Church, spaces are numbered.

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

LOVE CHRISTMAS

Recently we launched 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.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of **Bob Fullerton, Maureen Emerson and Aileen Smith (of Doncaster)**. Bob's Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 22nd December at 11.00am in St Joseph's Church.. Aileen's funeral Liturgy will take place on Thursday 18th December at 12noon in St Joseph's Church. We will announce the details of Maureen's funeral in due course.

CHURCH CLEANING - ST JOSEPH'S

Church cleaning will take place on Saturday 20th December after 10.00am Mass. Please do come along and help clean the Church ready for Christmas. Refreshments will be provided.

MASS BY CANDLELIGHT

YMT's Mass by Candlelight promises to be a prayerful and peaceful opportunity to gather with Bishop Stephen Wright, schools, parishes and other groups from across the Diocese.

There will be a mixture of modern and traditional music led by the fantastic musicians at Our Lady and St Cuthbert's Parish, Prudhoe. Prayers led by Lourdes Youth, and a warm welcome from the H&N Youth Council. We look forward to this moment of peace and light in the busy winter period. **Mass will be celebrated at 6.00pm on Wednesday 10th December in the Cathedral.**

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 If the person leaves their contact details, these will be passed on to Michele who will be in touch.

NEURODIVERSITY AND OUR FAITH RESEARCH

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. If you are an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a caregiver of a neurodivergent Catholic, they would like to hear from you. Your experiences will help them to become more inclusive and responsive to your needs. To find out more and to complete the short surveys, please visit: www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys/

THE BUGLE

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

PROUD CATHOLICS

Proud Catholics is hosting a Christmas Mass on 16th December at 7:30pm at St Andrew's RC Church, 9 Worswick Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 6UW. We invite you to join us!

HOLY ISLAND SVP VINNIES 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. Contact: Michael 07787 726 306; Lestrine 07778 656 662.