

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

11th - 18th January 2026

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Dipton	9.00am	People of the Partnership; Father Tony Walsh
	Stanley	11.00am	People of the Partnership; Hugh Norman Telford
Monday 12 th January	Dipton	9.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 9.55am
		10.00am	Canon Bob Spence
Tuesday 13 th January	Stanley	9.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 9.55am
		10.00am	Gunilla Hubbard
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 15 th January	Stanley	10.00am	Carole Ricketts
Friday 16 th January	Dipton	6.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 6.25pm
		6.30pm	Northern Brethren Fund
Saturday 17 th January	Stanley	9.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 9.55am
		10.00am	Claire Mills
2 ND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Dipton	9.00am	People of the Partnership; Bill and Marian Veitch
	Stanley	11.00am	People of the Partnership; Paul Pendleton

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday	St Benet Biscop
Tuesday	Feria
Wednesday	Feria
Thursday	Feria
Friday	Feria
Saturday	St Anthony of Egypt

M = Memorial F = Feast S = Solemnity

PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK

This Sunday	Coffee Morning (Stanley)
Monday	Journey in Faith (Stanley)
Thursday	Coffee after Mass (Stanley)

Finance - 4 Jan 2026

	Offertory Total	Standing Order	Crib Offering	Christmas Collection	Diocesan Levy
STANLEY	£472.56	£197.25	£93.30	£193.68	£132.50
DIPTON	£115.65	£172.85	£51.95	£-	-

Future Collections:

PRAYER BEFORE MASS

Almighty and ever-living God,
I approach the sacrament of Your only-begotten Son
Our Lord Jesus Christ, I come sick to the doctor of life,
unclean to the fountain of mercy,
blind to the radiance of eternal light,
and poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth.

Lord, in your great generosity, heal my sickness,
wash away my defilement,
enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty,
and clothe my nakedness.

May I receive the bread of angels,
the King of kings and Lord of lords, with humble reverence,
with the purity and faith, the repentance and love,
and the determined purpose

that will help to bring me to salvation.
May I receive the sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood,
and its reality and power.

Kind God, may I receive the Body of Your only-begotten Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ, born from the womb of the Virgin Mary,
and so be received into His mystical body
and numbered among His members.

Loving Father, as on my earthly pilgrimage
I now receive Your beloved Son under the veil of a sacrament,
may I one day see him face to face in glory,
who lives and reigns with You for ever.
Amen.

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.

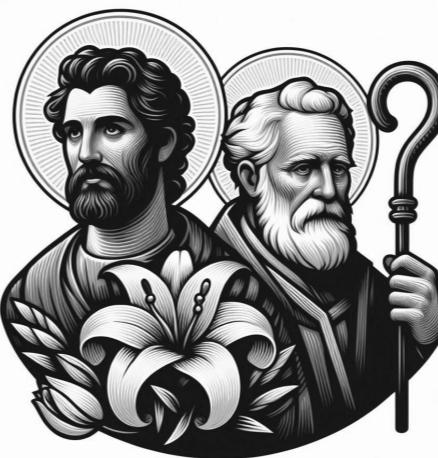
A GENTLE REMINDER...

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

— X —

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

11TH JANUARY 2026 - BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7 | Psalm 29 | Acts 10: 34-38 | Matthew 3: 13-17

Everything must start somewhere, every enterprise, every journey, every action has a starting point, a place where tomorrow becomes today, and a unique set of events begins to unfold. We are all part of the story that begins today; after perhaps thirty years of obscurity, a carpenter from a small village in Galilee steps into our lives and everything changes. First, John came announcing a baptism of repentance, a preparation for the emergence of the Lamb of God, and he begins a chain of events which culminated in the ministry of Our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ and the world was changed forever.

The Baptism of Our Lord speaks to us of our own baptism but, on another dimension, of who we are meant to be. The basic symbols are there; water, to cleanse and refresh us, the Holy Spirit, to be with us throughout our life journey and the Father who acknowledges us as His own children. The inspiring words of Isaiah paint a picture of a role model, one to whom we can aspire to be. Filled with the spirit, he does not call out for attention to himself but stands as an example of a true leader. He speaks without fear, defends the weak, upholds justice, yet he is humble, seeking only to free people from the darkness of this world and to become bearers of light.

Peter is a great example to us of a man who lived the first part of his life as a working man, a fisherman, but, due to a meeting with Jesus, one who leaves his old life for an uncertain future. He never quotes scripture, he is full of doubt, always striving to make sense of this strange force, which compels him to follow Jesus, even though he is struggling to understand what He is about. A man, who, after the resurrection, becomes the leader of the church takes him from his lowly background to a place where he speaks to and teaches Cornelius, a representative of Roman power and influence, about the true King of Kings, Jesus Christ.

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated almost every week in at least one of our churches. It is a public act, open to all. Those of us born into the church cannot remember our own Baptism. If you have the opportunity to be present at a Baptism, just sit quietly and watch, in wonder, at the ceremony unfolding before your eyes. Be present as the Holy Spirit descends on another Christian soul.

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

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

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD:
Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.

'I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 29(28):1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10. R/1b*

Response: The LORD will bless his people with peace.

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly powers,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
bow down before the LORD, majestic in holiness.

The voice of the LORD upon the waters,
the LORD on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the LORD full of power;
the voice of the LORD full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders;
in his temple they all cry, 'Glory!'
The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits as king for ever.

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-38

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all — you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:
'This is my beloved Son; listen to him'.

Gospel

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

At that time: Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'

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

Matthew 3:13-17

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ✠ How can I tell what God wants from me?
- ✠ Do I put up barriers, exclude anyone from Christ's love?
- ✠ A quick review: what difference has baptism made to my life?

Taken from The Sunday Word - Henry Wansbrough, OSB.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 30th January 2026 - Take This at Dipton Club
Tuesday 17th February 2026 - Amici Ladies Group vs The Godfellas Quiz Night. 7.00pm (*St Joseph's meeting room*)
Wednesday 18th February 2026 - Ash Wednesday
Sunday 29th March 2026 - Palm Sunday
Thursday 2nd April 2026 - Maundy Thursday
Friday 3rd April 2026 - Good Friday
Saturday 4th April 2026 - Holy Saturday
Sunday 5th April 2026 - Easter Sunday
Saturday 11th July 2026 - Summer Craft Fair
Friday 31st July 2026 - Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes
Sunday 29th November 2026 - First Sunday of Advent

TAKE THIS

The award winning singers and comedy duo are back by popular demand! On Friday 30th 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. Get yours before they sell out!

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF KNOCK

25th - 29th 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.

COFFEE MORNING IN MEMORY OF ANGIE NICHOL
The family of the late Angie Nichol, who sadly died from Motor Neurone Disease (MND), have arranged a coffee morning in her memory to raise money for the MND Association on **Saturday 17th January from 10.00am - 1.00pm at The Venue, Wear Road, Stanley, DH9 6AH**. They would love it if you were able to join them.

TRANSFIGURE PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting of the Transfigure Prayer Group will be on Tuesday 13th January at 7.00pm in St Teresa's, Annfield Plain. An evening of adoration, scripture, reflective music, Sacrament of Reconciliation, and ending with social time.

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. Bookings are now open. To book, please go to <https://www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-hexham-newcastle/> or phone 01732 886 666 for more information.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS

You are invited to a Marriage and Family Life Mass, with Bishop Stephen at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 14th February 2026 at 12 noon. All are welcome to this diocesan celebration, in particular engaged couples, married couples, those widowed and bereaved, couples in crisis and children experiencing difficult family relationships.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Canon Robert (Bob) Spence, who died on Wednesday 7th January. Canon Bob was for many years the Parish Priest of All Saints, Lanchester. Funeral details will be shared when they have been finalised.

DIOCESAN VACANCY

Education Business Manager - Salary Scale from £35,000 to £37,323
Based within our Education Team at St Vincent's Diocesan Offices, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Importantly you will be working in or have experience of education, ideally in a primary or secondary school setting. Similarly, knowledge and experience with Education Trusts will be distinctively advantageous. Moreover, you will need to show us how you have undertaken, reported upon and delivered professional evaluation processes, presenting findings for example to a committee, board or agency.

You will lead on event planning, delivering no less than three annual conferences within the region liaising with our Communications Manager.

You will have the ability to handle sensitive information with discretion and confidentiality and have both excellent verbal and written communication skills.

If you are interested in being at the forefront of developing this role please get in touch with us to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Annie Leaver Head of Human Resources at annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk

The closing date for applications is 12 noon Sunday 1st February 2026 although we reserve the right to close the post early. Shortlisting will be undertaken 13th February 2026, with interviews scheduled for Thursday 19th February 2026.

USED STAMPS, MEDALS & JEWELLERY

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Little Sisters of the Poor. The recent collections have raised £250, taking the full amount raised to £29,128. Items – used postage stamps (any country or period), foreign currency (notes and coins from any country), broken or unwanted pieces of gold/ silver jewellery, military medals from any conflict and any old stamp albums – may sent to David and Theresa O'Neill. David can be contacted on telephone 0191 264 5771 or email: david-oneill3@sky.com

HOLY ISLAND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The SVP Vinnies Camp on Holy Island are looking for more volunteers, some during term-time and others during the Summer holidays. If you feel you have the time to give them a hand, follow these leads for information. Applications are now being received on their website: svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp If you are interested or want more information please email barbart@svp.org.uk

PROUD CATHOLICS

One of the members is hosting a presentation and discussion around Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan priest from the Holocaust.

This will be hosted on Tuesday 20th January at 7:30pm at St Andrew's RC Church, Worswick Street, NE1 6UW.

There is a Zoom link available if anyone can't come in person. There is also social time afterwards, so please bring snacks and drinks to share.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Whilst the Christmas Tress will be taken down this weekend in our churches, our cribs will remain until February 2nd. The baskets will be available for you to make your donations to the Friends of the Holy Land, supporting the Communities suffering because of warfare and conflict. Please keep the people of the Holy Land in your prayers, and if you are able, to support them with a financial contribution.