



# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

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

### First Reading

*Isaiah 49:3, 5-6*

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him — for I am honoured in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength — he says: 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.' The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** *Ps 40(39):2, 4ab. 7-8a. 8b-9. 10. R8a, 9a*

**Response: Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the LORD, and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God.

You delight not in sacrifice and offering, but in an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and sin offering. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come.'

In the scroll of the book it stands written of me: 'I delight to do your will, O my God; your instruction lies deep within me.'

Your uprightness I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O LORD.

### Second Reading

*1 Corinthians 1:1-3*

Paul, called by the will of God to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

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

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; to all who did receive him, he gave the authority to become children of God.

**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: John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!' This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me." I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

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

*John 1:29-34*

### QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ✠ To what extent am I called to follow Christ as the Servant of the Lord?
- ✠ Reflect on Jesus as the Lamb standing as if sacrificed.

*Taken from The Sunday Word - Henry Wansbrough, OSB.*



**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

### POST - CHRISTMAS BREAK

Father Shaun will be going on his post - Christmas break from after Masses this Sunday until Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> January. Canon Bob was for many years the Parish Priest of All Saints, Lanchester. Funeral details will be shared when they have been finalised.

### 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.

### LOURDES PETITIONS

Father Shaun will be in Lourdes from 8th - 12th February planning the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes which takes place in July. If you would like petitions taken to the Shrine, please leave them in the boxes by the Lady Altar in either St Patrick's or St Joseph's by Friday 6th February.

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE

After many faithful years of service, Margaret Arthurs is stepping down as Parish Safeguarding Representative for both Dipton and Stanley. We thank Margaret for her dedication and support to all in our family of parishes in this most important role. We wish Margaret well in her retirement.

We are grateful to Sharon Fenwick who has agreed to take on the role of PSR for both Dipton and Stanley. Sharon's contact details are on the poster in both Churches. Sharon is your first point of contact for all matters regarding your DBS and any safeguarding concerns you might have. **Safeguarding is the responsibility of EVERYONE. Doing nothing is NOT an option.**

### 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](mailto:annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk)

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

### 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](http://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp) If you are interested or want more information please email [barbarr@svp.org.uk](mailto:barbarr@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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### THANK YOU

St Patrick's January coffee morning raised £120.56 for church funds.

### FUNDRAISING DONATION BOX

A box will be available at the back of church throughout the year for fundraising donations suitable for tombolas and raffles. Any bottles or unwanted gifts would be greatly appreciated. Our next fundraising event is the Take This concert on 30<sup>th</sup> January.