

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS  
18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Bill and Marian Veitch People of the Partnership; Paul Pendleton
NO MASS ON MONDAY			
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Stanley	10.00am	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Stanley	10.00am	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Dipton	6.30pm	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion
NO MASS ON SATURDAY			
3 <sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Margaret Connelly People of the Partnership; Edna Moscardini & Decd. Members of the Moscardini Family

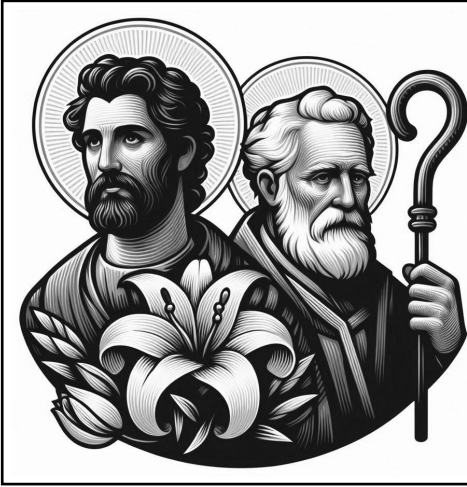
LITURGICAL CALENDAR	
Monday	Feria
Tuesday	Feria
Wednesday	St Agnes ( <i>M</i> )
Thursday	Feria
Friday	Feria
Saturday	St Francis de Sales ( <i>M</i> )
<i>M</i> = Memorial <i>F</i> = Feast <i>S</i> = Solemnity	

PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK	
Monday	Journey in Faith ( <i>Stanley</i> )
Thursday	Coffee after Mass ( <i>Stanley</i> )

Finance - 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026	Offertory Total	Standing Order	Crib Offering
STANLEY	£261.76	£197.25	£12.00
DIPTON	£34.40	£172.85	£21.00
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 <i>in person</i> to your parish priest at the end of Mass.
A GENTLE REMINDER...
Please remember to switch off your mobile phone ( <i>or put it on silent</i> ) when coming into Church.  We show reverence to Jesus present in the Tabernacle.  <i>Please talk to God before Mass and one another afterwards.</i>
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 18 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026 - 2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6   Psalm 39   1 Corinthians: 1-3   John 1: 29-34
Have you ever had the opportunity to rise early in the morning and watch the sunrise in a clear sky? The light finds all the dark corners and transforms them, making them shine so that all is revealed. There is something mystical in the way light transforms the darkness.
In today’s reading from Isaiah, we are called to be the light of the nations. The people of Israel believed they were chosen by God. This belief was founded on the good things that God has done for them; they were a small community living in a very violent age, but through God’s help they survived and prospered. Now Isaiah is calling on them to fulfil the mission that God has given them. They must go out and speak of their God to all the nations of the world so that God’s “salvation may reach to the ends of the earth”.
Paul, in his time, is prepared through prayer and sacrifice to do his part in this calling. In the opening chapter of Corinthians, he sets out the task that lies before him. He sets the foundation of his mission in the prayer of the people. When we are called to speak of God’s love for others, we too must place our trust in prayer.
The Gospel of John was written when the Apostle was in old age and looks back, with remarkably clear insight into the days of Jesus. John lived through the greatest century that mankind has ever known; through John, Jesus, the man, comes to life in a special way. Today we have an account of the baptism of Jesus. John the Baptist calls him “the Lamb of God”. This title has great significance for the Jews for the lamb is the one who takes on a nation’s sins and leads them to repentance. In other translations He is also called “the chosen one of God”; in our time we too are chosen to make God known in our world; let us pray for the gift of the spirit to descend on us also so that we too may become “a light for the nations”.
David Frank.

# 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

*John 1:29-34*

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.**

### 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!**

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.

### 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 [barbart@svp.org.uk](mailto: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 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.