

MASSTIMES AND INTENTIONS

15th - 22nd February 2026

6TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<i>Dipton Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Dick Christon People of the Partnership; Kathleen Murphy
NO MASS ON MONDAY			
Tuesday <i>17th February</i>	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am</i> Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion
ASH WEDNESDAY - A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE			
<i>18th February</i>	<i>Dipton Stanley</i>	9.30am 6.30pm	People of the Partnership; People of the Partnership; Canon Bob Spence (NBF)
Thursday <i>19th February</i>	<i>Stanley Dipton</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	June Rouse Stations of the Cross
Friday <i>20th February</i>	<i>Dipton</i>	6.00pm	Northern Brethren Fund
Saturday <i>21st February</i>	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am</i> Father Tom Cunningham
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	<i>Dipton Stanley</i>	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Richard Christon People of the Partnership; Terry Taggart

LITURGICAL CALENDAR		PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK	
Monday	Feria	This Sunday	Coffee after Mass (<i>Stanley</i>)
Tuesday	Feria	Monday	Journey in Faith (<i>Stanley</i>)
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday, <i>Day of fasting and abstinence</i>	Friday	Free Film Night - 7.00pm (<i>Stanley</i>)
Thursday	Weekday of Lent		
Friday	Weekday of Lent		
Saturday	Weekday of Lent		
<i>M = Memorial F = Feast S = Solemnity</i>			

Finance - 8 February 2026	Offertory Total	Standing Order
STANLEY	£534.58	£197.25
DIPTON	£87.10	£172.85
Future Collections: Sunday 1 st March - CAFOD Family Fast		

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, Margaret Pendleton

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.

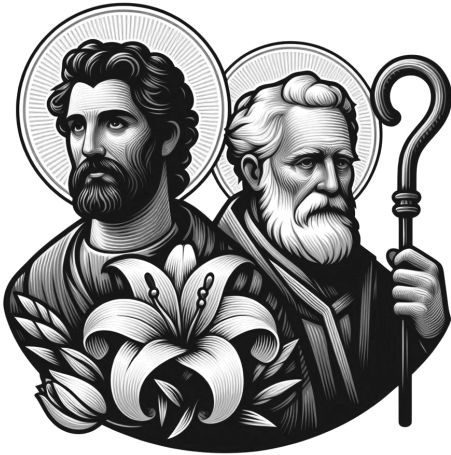
A GENTLE REMINDER...

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

LISTEN TO THE WORD

15TH FEBRUARY 2026 - 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 Sirach 15: 15-20 | Psalm 118 | 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10 | Matthew 5: 17-37

There are two real choices in this world, and they are set before us today. We are free to choose to do good or to do evil. As Sirach tells us: “He has placed before you fire and water, stretch out your hand for whichever you wish”. Our loving Father knows us: “he is mighty in power and sees everything”. So the choice is ours; we can follow Him and live in love, or we can turn away from Him and live in sin.

Lent is a time when we can turn away from sin and return to His loving presence. In scripture you can find inspiration which will lead you in the right path. One passage always comes to mind when I reflect on the path that leads to a Christian life: “This is what the Lord asks of you, to act justly, to love tenderly, to walk humbly with your God”. If you follow these three principles, then the way will be open to you to reconciliation with the Father and He will welcome you back with great joy.

Saint Paul speaks to us of the “secret and hidden wisdom of God”. This is not a human wisdom, for many have proclaimed wisdom but changing times have proved the futility of their thoughts. It is a wisdom given to us from the beginning of the world and it will lead us to God’ glory. It is something that the eye has not seen nor heard or even imagined; it is the glory that God has prepared for those who love him, and it is revealed to us through belief in the Spirit who dwells in us.

We are coming to the end of Matthew’s passage on the Beatitudes. We may have come to realise that at the centre of Christ’s teaching is the human Heart. It is in our hearts that the urge to do good or evil springs into life. Today’s extract goes into great detail concerning the Law that the Israelites have constructed through Moses and the prophets. The principle behind the laws is sound, but it is the application of the many rules that leads us to man’s interpretations and lacks the love of God. If our actions spring from a heart of love, then we can rest in the hope that God sees our good intentions and blesses the humanity in our human hearts.

David Frank.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

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

First Reading *Sirach 15:15-20*

If you desire, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of choice. He has placed before you fire and water: stretch out your hand for whichever you wish. Life and death are in front of people, and whichever one chooses will be given to him. For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows a person's every deed. He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly, and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 119(118):1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R1b*

Response: Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD!

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!
Blessed are those who keep his decrees!
With all their hearts they seek him.

You have laid down your precepts
to be carefully kept.
May my ways be firm
in keeping your statutes.

Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.
Open my eyes, that I may see
the wonders of your law.

LORD, teach me the way of your statutes,
and I will keep them to the end.
Grant me insight that I may keep your law,
and observe it wholeheartedly.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 2:6-10*

Brothers and Sisters: Among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him’ —

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Gospel *Matthew 5:17-37*

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 said to his disciples, ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

‘You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

‘Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.” But I say to you: Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply “Yes” or “No”; anything more than this comes from evil.’

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

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ✠ How can I express my love for God and for his loving plan?
- ✠ What seeming disasters in your life have, in fact, turned out to be part of the saving plan of God for you?
- ✠ What is the most difficult demand in today's Gospel?

Taken from The Sunday Word - Henry Wansbrough, OSB.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

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.

APPEAL FOR LOURDES MEDICAL TEAM

The Diocesan Pilgrimage relies on the generosity of doctors, nurses, student nurses, Health Care Assistants, and those working in care to help with the Accueil Pilgrims whilst in Lourdes. If anyone would like further information, they can contact the Lead Nurse, Michele Hall via email at lourdes@diocesehn.org.uk Please leave your contact details, these will be passed on to Michele who will be in touch. If you would like to register to be part of the team, please visit <https://bit.ly/DHNLourdes2026> and click on the link to Healthcare Team Volunteers

APPEAL FOR ADULT HELPERS LOURDES

If you are going to Lourdes and willing to be part of the Adult Helpers Teams whilst there, you can sign up through the Lourdes page on the diocesan website <https://bit.ly/DHNLourdes2026> and click on the link to Adult Helpers link.

You can also use this QR code for signing up for the Medical Team or as an Adult helper.



ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 18TH

Masses on Ash Wednesday will be at the following times:

9.30am St Patrick's, Dipton
6.30pm St Joseph's, Stanley

The blessing and distribution of Ashes will take place at both Masses.

GIFT AID LETTERS

The Diocese has now issued the tax confirmation letters for 2024/2025 and these will be available for collection before Mass on both the 8th and 15th of February.

LENTEN LUNCHESES

Like last year, we will offer Lenten Soup Lunches on a Tuesday during Lent. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the soup for us. If you can help, please sign up for one of the dates at the back of our churches. The lunches will take place at 12noon at St Joseph's after Stations of the Cross and Mass. All proceeds go to St Cuthbert's Care.

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

PARTNERSHIP PILGRIMAGE TO KRAKOW, POLAND

Five-day partnership pilgrimage to Krakow in Poland between 14th and 18th October 2026. The pilgrimage will comprise of a guided daily itinerary provided by Tangney Tours and return flights from Newcastle Airport. Total cost, including Twin Room and Breakfast, will be £980. This price is based on a maximum of 40 pilgrims attending. Expressions of interest are needed by Friday 6th February at St. Patrick's Consett (01207 502196) and then £410 deposit per person to secure our flights.

PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM 2026

The Partnership Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place from Friday 31st July – Monday 3rd August 2026. The accommodation options are: Half Board Standard room £77, Half Board Ensuite room £97 per night. To secure your place a deposit of £200 is required. Forms and envelopes are available in local Partnership churches. Cheques to be made out to St. Patrick's RC Church, Consett and to be returned to St Patrick's Presbytery Consett by February 9th.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word Take place at Mass on a Sunday (except 1st Sunday at Dipton and 2nd Sunday at Stanley). This is for children aged **3 - 10 years**. The liturgy takes place during the Liturgy of the Word of the Mass. In Children's Liturgy, the children will hear the Gospel in an accessible way and complete activities based on the Sunday Liturgy. The Children then return for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Please note, the children must be able to attend themselves with the Catechists who have a DBS. Parents and Carers are unable to attend.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions support the life of our parish communities and also invites us to pray for particular intentions as a parish family. If you would like to have a Mass celebrated, envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Please note, if you want a Sunday Mass, please put your intention in at least 6 weeks before the date. The suggested donation for a stipend is £10.00

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

This Lent, CAFOD's Family Fast Day on Friday 27th February invites parish communities to respond through prayer, fasting and almsgiving to the needs of families facing floods and drought in places such as South Sudan, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Through support for CAFOD's Lent Appeal, parishes and schools can help families grow food and care for their communities in the face of the devastating impacts of climate change. Envelopes are available for your donation.

Bishop Stephen writes... *As many of you will be aware I had the privilege of visiting some of CAFOD's projects in Zimbabwe last October. From personal experience, I can assure you of the impact our charitable donations have to the poorest of the poor. Lives are transformed for the better by simple acts of ensuring access to water, the provision of nutritious food for children and the provision of solar panels for electricity. CAFOD, working with its Caritas agencies, around the world enable people to help themselves to a better future*

THANK YOU

Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners for £192.89 and £325.75 raised for Christians in the Holy Land, at a time when they are most vulnerable. Please continue to remember our work in your prayers, giving our brothers and sisters the strength to continue.

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SUPPLEMENT

This week inside your newsletter you have received a Lent and Holy Week Supplement. The information on the sheet gives all the information for the devotions and services coming up in this Holy Season. Please keep to hand.

Please note that on Easter Sunday **there will be only ONE Mass at 10.00am** and this will be celebrated at **Dipton**.

GIVING THINGS UP FOR LENT

Many people will give things up for Lent. Some people do extra things like Stations of the Cross, Benediction of coming to a Weekday Mass. If you are still struggling, here is a reflection by the late Pope Francis...

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.