

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

1st - 8th February 2026

4 th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Richard and Michael Gillespie People of the Partnership; Luke McAndrew
Monday 2 nd February	Stanley	6.15pm	A sick Person Blessing of Candles and Procession
<i>Mass celebrated in Church</i>			
NO MASS TODAY - CANON BOB SPENCE'S FUNERAL AT USHAW COLLEGE - 12NOON			
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 5 th February	Stanley	10.00am	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion
Friday 6 th February	Dipton	6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 6.25pm Christine Hogg
Saturday 7 th February	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 6.25pm Patrick Hanley
5 th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Intentions of the Capuchin Community, Durham People of the Partnership; Bill & Ivy Mulhearn

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday	The Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas (F)
Tuesday	St Blaise
Wednesday	Feria
Thursday	St Agatha (M)
Friday	St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs (M)
Saturday	Saturday memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
M = Memorial	F = Feast
S = Solemnity	

Finance - 25 th Jan 2026	Offertory Total	Standing Order	Crib Collection
STANLEY	£415.40	£197.25	£29.00
DIPTON	£104.00	£172.85	£39.44

Future Collections: Sunday 1st February - Friends of the Holy Land
Sunday 15th February - Diocesan Levy
Sunday 1st 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.

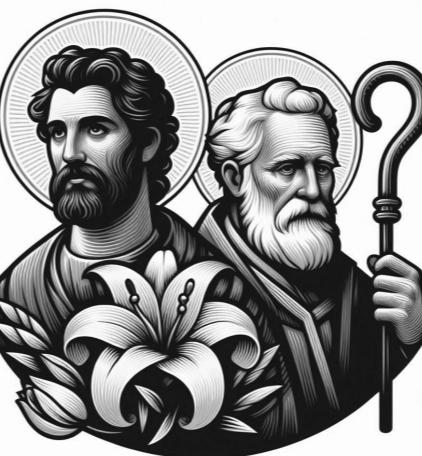
A GENTLE REMINDER...

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

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

✠
Sharon Walker
Parish Safeguarding Representative
07969 212 778

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

1ST FEBRUARY 2026 - 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Zephaniah 2:3, 3: 12-13 | Psalm 145 | 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31 |
Matthew 5: 1-12

Have you a dream that is still waiting to be born; is there something in your life which was once a path to your future which has now become a cul-de-sac, a road which you have never travelled. We all begin life with dreams and aspirations; sometimes they are impossible to achieve, often they are put to one side because the time is not quite right, if we are fortunate, we can live our dreams. Today's readings speak to us of an old dream which is made new because a light has been shone upon it. Perhaps that same light will grow strong and illuminate the path to your dream.

The prophet Zephaniah is writing 600 years before the birth of Christ; he recognises a condition which we may be familiar with. The poor, the humble, are ignored by the rich and powerful; they feel they have no power in a land where power is everything. Their hopes are founded on the Lord; they seek Him with integrity and humility, only God can save them from the hands of wicked men. They pray for justice and a refuge in the Lord.

Paul's dream is of a people who will come and worship God through His Son Jesus Christ. He recognises that those who follow Christ are not the rich and powerful, the worldly wise, but those who simply believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. We are not wise by human reckoning, we have faith, a belief which may seem foolish by those who believe they are wise, but a faith that makes us part of God's kingdom and so He has become our wisdom.

In Matthew's Gospel, we begin a revelation, through Jesus, of the Kingdom of God. We hear the beatitudes, a series of blessings which give honour to the lowliest and not the mighty. We sometimes speak of Jesus "turning the world upside down"; this passage is the beginning of that upheaval; the transfer of power from the powerful to the humble. Each line resonates with our own time. Because today's world is so small we are aware of the suffering of many, an awareness which was not known to past generations. Today we cannot ignore poverty, it is all around us, we cannot ignore injustice, war, persecution because we see it, in real time, on our television screens. Now is the time, armed with the righteousness of God to speak out against the unjust world we live in and seek to change it. In our small way, we can begin to fulfil the beatitudes, all we need to do is to have courage and, through our actions, place our dream of a better world into God's hands.

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

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

First Reading

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD.

I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. R Mtth. 5:3

Response: Blessed are the poor in spirit;
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the LORD who sets prisoners free.

The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the LORD who loves the just,
the LORD who protects the stranger.

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The LORD will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age.

Second Reading

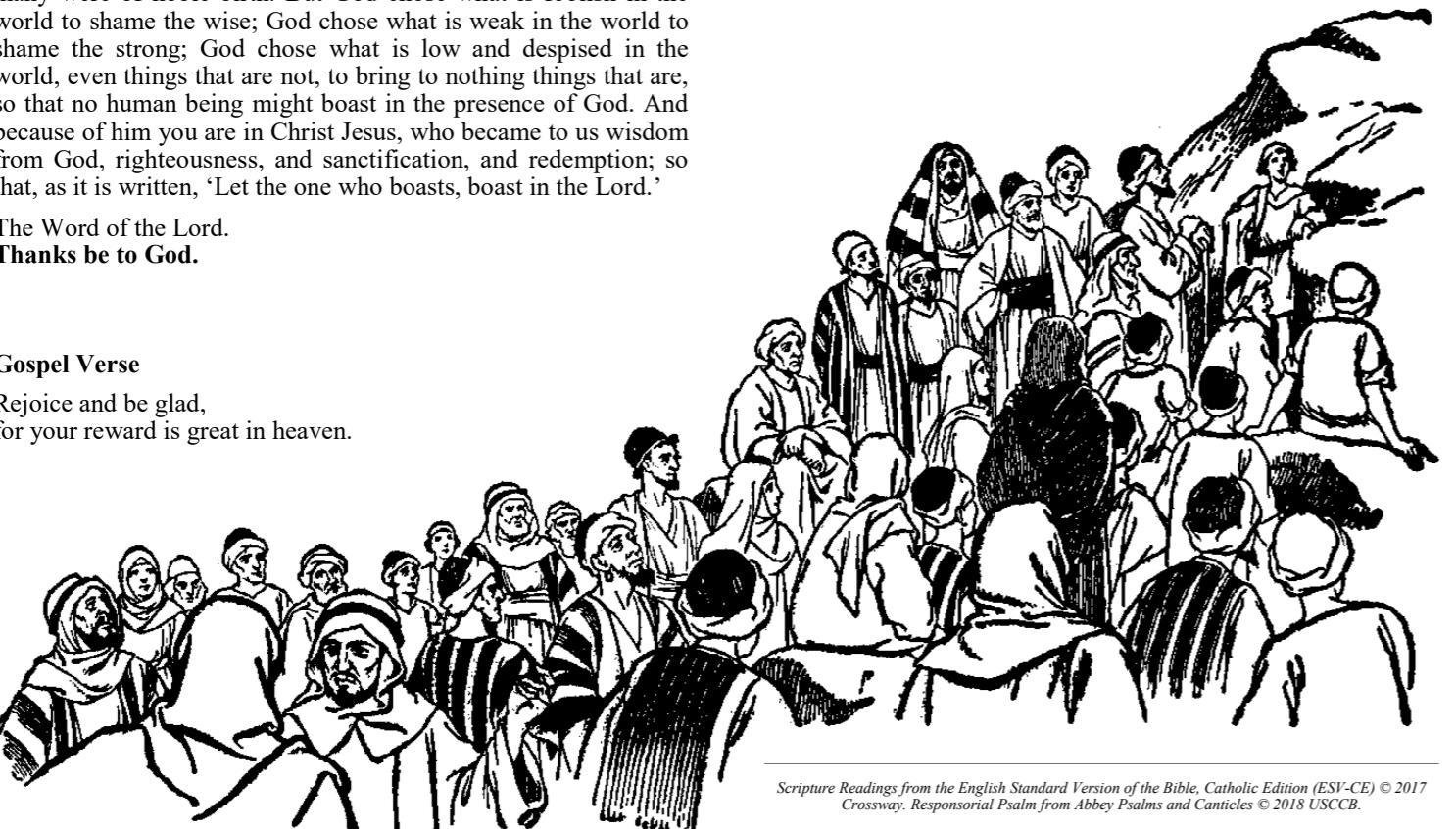
I Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven.



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.

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time:

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

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

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ✠ What, then, is true Christian humility? Is it to say that I am no good at anything, or to recognise my talents and be grateful for them?
- ✠ Isn't it a blessing that none of us is conceited or cliquish?
- ✠ Are any of the beatitudes more basic than others?

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

CRIB OFFERINGS

The Crib offerings closes this Sunday. There will be a retiring collection for The Friends of the Holy Land at Masses this weekend.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Monday is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (*Candlemas*). During this Mass we begin with the blessing of candles and procession. It is a beautiful Mass reminding us that Christ is the light of the Nations. You are invited to bring the candles you may use at home to be blessed during this Mass. Mass will be celebrated at **6.15pm** in **St Joseph's**.

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@dioceschn.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.



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.

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.

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.

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. Canon Bob will be received into All Saints', Lanchester on **Monday 2nd February at 6.00pm**, where Mass will be celebrated. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Tuesday 3rd February at 12noon** in Ushaw College Chapel. He will then be taken for burial at Lanchester Cemetery.

LENTEN LUNCHEES

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 barb@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 WALSHAM 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.

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.

WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR TOUR 2026

Saturday 14th February 2026 3pm
Lanchester Methodist Church DH7 0ER
TICKETS ARE FREE!

We are delighted to welcome the internationally loved Watoto Children's Choir to Lanchester for a vibrant, hope-filled afternoon of music, dance, and inspirational stories. This special event is led by children aged 10-12 from Uganda with their adult team, sharing powerful testimonies of restoration and joy through an energetic and heart-lifting performance. Watoto Children's Choirs have travelled extensively around the world since 1984 sharing a message of hope—not only for Africa's most vulnerable children and women—but for each of us all around the world. We're thrilled they're coming here to perform songs off their brand-new album, "Better Days—There Is Hope". Come join us for this heartwarming, musical performance.

This is a FREE event but tickets must be reserved through Eventbrite. Book early as tickets are limited: www.tinyurl.com/watotolanchester

"If you 'sow' the 'Beatitudes,' you will 'reap' the 'fruit of the Spirit.'"

— Mark Besh