

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

22nd February - 1st March 2026

1 ST SUNDAY OF LENT	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Richard Christon People of the Partnership; Terry Taggart
Monday 23 rd February	Dipton	9.30am 10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am Northern Brethren Fund
Tuesday 24 th February	Stanley	10.00am 10.45am 11.15am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10.40am Station of the Cross The intentions of Gerry Cassidy
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 26 th February	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am Anniversary of Arthur & Bernadette Eagle
	Dipton	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Friday 27 th February	Dipton	9.30am 10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am John & Mary Wilson & Family
Saturday 28 th February	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am Sr Philomena O'Grady FcJ
2 ND SUNDAY OF LENT	Dipton Stanley Stanley	9.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	People of the Partnership; Brian Duffy People of the Partnership; John Dodds Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday	Weekday of Lent
Tuesday	Weekday of Lent
Wednesday	Weekday of Lent
Thursday	Weekday of Lent
Friday	Weekday of Lent
Saturday	Weekday of Lent
M = Memorial	F = Feast
S = Solemnity	

PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK			
Monday	Journey in Faith (Stanley)		
Tuesday	Soup lunch after Mass (Stanley)		
Friday	Free Film Night - 7.00pm (Stanley)		
Next Sunday	Coffee after mass (Dipton)		

Finance - 15 February 2026

Offertory Total

Standing Order

Diocesan Levy

STANLEY

£375.10

£197.25

£94.88

DIPTON

£108.90

£172.85

137.00

Future Collections: 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,
Gerry Cassidy

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

22ND FEBRUARY 2026 - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 2: 7-9, 3:1-7 | Psalm 50 | Romans 5: 12-19 | Matthew 4: 1-11

There is a line from "The Lord's Prayer" which is linked to today's readings. We pray: "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil". We probably learned the "Our Father" as children and, as with other prayers we heard at that time, it stays with us but do we really pray the words or just recite them? Lent has begun, it is a time to review our spiritual and prayer life and learn, once again, the lessons we have experienced throughout our lives. As children we received them, as adults we now must put them into practice.

The Genesis reading reminds me that we received this passage in a simple way as children and now, perhaps, we listen with that same simplicity as adults. But the message is far from simple, it established from the beginning our relationship with Our Heavenly Father. We are given the gift of free will and how we use that gift is down to us. We can do wrong or right, we can be disobedient or righteous, the choice is ours. Eve and Adam choose to disobey God's warning of the fruit of the tree and so destroyed the harmony of Eden and brought sin into the world and, with it our deadliest enemy, death.

Paul usually wrote to those communities he had visited with words of encouragement or sometimes admonishment for error but his epistle to the Romans was to a people he had never visited and so the tone is somewhat different from normal. It is a teaching letter, a preparation for what is to come, and if you read this passage closely you will see a link between the first two readings. Paul sees the emergence of Jesus Christ as the blessing which will save mankind from sin as, through the cross, Jesus took our sins on himself and so we are forgiven. Jesus changes us from sinners into the righteous.

The Temptations passage from Matthew is filled with the Holy Spirit and is a gift to us when we are in danger of sin. It speaks to us of the Word; we cannot change stones to bread, but we can be guided by His word. We must not challenge the Lord by asking the impossible, but we can accept His gift of the possible. We may look to the world to provide for all our needs and be tempted by the false promises of prosperity and fame, but there is only one God and He is the only one who can fully satisfy us. Turn to Him.

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

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

First Reading

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die." ' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 51(50):3-4. 5-6b. 12-13. 14, 17. R cf. 3a

Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your merciful love;
according to your great compassion,
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me completely from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions, truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.
Create a pure heart for me, O God;
renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence;
take not your holy spirit from me.

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;
sustain in me a willing spirit.
O Lord, open my lips

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Brothers and Sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness

reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

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: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." ' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." ' Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

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

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ☒ Does the story of the First Reading ring true? Fit it to your own experience
- ☒ Can those who have never heard of Christ enter into his salvation?
- ☒ What is the chief fault that tempts the Church away from the way of Christ today?

Taken from The Sunday Word - Henry Wansbrough, OSB.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

PASTORAL STRATEGY

In Bishop Stephen's Pastoral Letter read at all this weekend's Masses, we heard about God's calling for our Diocese. The hopes and challenges we all face in the coming years. All parishes are asked to reflect and discern on their mission as we continue our journey to live as a flourishing Diocese alive in the Holy Spirit.

More information is available via www.diocesehn.org.uk including details for an online session taking place on Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm.

Following on from the Pastoral Letter, Father Shaun invites our parish communities to discern individually before coming together as our Family of Parishes.

The following Discernment meetings will take place:

St Patrick's Saturday 14th March

St Joseph's Saturday 21st March

The Morning will begin with Mass at 10.00am. We will finish by 12noon.

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.



LENTEN LUNCHES

Lent Lunches begin this coming Tuesday after 11.00am Mass. Do please come along and offer your support. By coming along you are not only getting a lovely bowl of soup provided by fantastic volunteers, you are also supporting the work of St Cuthbert's Care.

PLEASE NOTE...

There was a mistake in the timings on Tuesdays in Lent from the information sheet given last Sunday. The timings will be as follows:

10.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
and Sacrament of Reconciliation until 10.40am
10.45am Stations of the Cross.
11.15am Mass.

Mea culpa!

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 barbarr@svp.org.uk

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

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 WALSHINGHAM 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 Dilton 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.

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.

DIOCESAN VACANCY

Role: Parish Finance Officer

Salary Scale: £43,000 to £45,000

Location: St Vincent's Diocesan Offices, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY

Applicant Pack: From Annie Leaver, Head of HR
annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk

Closing Date: Wednesday 4th March 2026
(we reserve the right to close the post early)

Shortlisting: Wednesday 11th March 2026

Interviews scheduled: Tuesday 17th March 2026

The full advert can be viewed at <https://diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies/>

YOUTH2000 HOLY HOUR

Youth2000 Holy hour, Saturday 28th February 2-3pm plus social time after.

St Cuthbert's RC Church (Durham Chaplaincy) DH1 3HL.

Theme: "This is my Beloved Son".