

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

8th - 15th February 2026

5TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Dipton 9.00am People of the Partnership; Intentions of the Capuchin Community, Durham
Stanley 11.00am People of the Partnership; Bill & Ivy Mulhearn

Monday 9th February NO MASS TODAY

Tuesday 10th February Stanley 10.00am Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion

NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY

Thursday 12th February NO MASS TODAY

Friday 13th February Dipton 6.30pm Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion

Saturday 14th February NO MASS TODAY

6TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Dipton 9.00am People of the Partnership; Dick Christon
Stanley 11.00am People of the Partnership; Kathleen Murphy

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday Feria
Tuesday St Scholastica (M)
Wednesday Our Lady of Lourdes (Day of prayer for the sick)
Thursday Feria
Friday Feria
Saturday Ss Cyril & Methodius, Patrons of Europe (F)

M = Memorial F = Feast S = Solemnity

Finance - 1 st February 2026	Offertory Total	Standing Order	Crib Collection TOTAL
STANLEY	£494.82	£197.25	£325.75
DIPTON	£106.44	£172.85	£192.89

Future Collections: 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

8TH FEBRUARY 2026 - 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 58: 6-10 | Psalm 111 | 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5 | Matthew 5: 13-16

Lent is fast approaching. It is early this year, and our thoughts may be turning to how we are going to mark this Lenten season. When we were children, we were often told to give up something, usually something we liked. Times change, and now the current idea is not to give up but to take up during Lent. Today's first reading is very relevant to this idea, especially when we look to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Isaiah speaks of a vision that establishes a people who are aware of the world in which they live and how they can serve God through serving others. It is an extension of the thought behind the Beatitudes, which we listened to in last week's Gospel. It is a list of practical actions which will benefit those without wealth or power and leads us closer to our loving father. We have the Father's promise: "Then you shall call and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, "Here I am". Read this passage carefully, for it can lead you to a new approach as to what you can do to help people during Lent and perhaps for the years to come.

Paul speaks to us of his fears as he journeyed among the nations and spoke of the crucified Christ. He did not come as a powerful orator but as one who wanted to share his faith and help people to change. His purpose was to bring us to faith through the Spirit and power "so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the Power of God".

Salt was an important mineral in the ancient world when preserving food was necessary in the demanding climate that the people lived in. Jesus calls his disciples "You are the salt of the earth" but warns them that salt can lose its effectiveness if it is not used.

He also speaks of a lamp, which if put in a basket becomes useless but raised on a lampstand can provide the light that dispels the darkness. In each of these examples he is reminding the people of the words of Isaiah, for unless we act as God wants us to and use our gifts to help those in need then we are in danger of becoming worthless salt: "no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet".

David Frank

LITURGY OF THE WORD FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

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

First Reading

Thus says the Lord:
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'
If you take away the yoke from your midst,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,
if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 112(111):4-5. 6-7. 8a, 9. R4a

Response: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright;
he is generous, merciful, and righteous.
It goes well for the man who deals generously and lends,
who conducts his affairs with justice.

He will never be moved;
for ever shall the upright be remembered.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart, he trusts in the LORD.

With a steadfast heart he will not fear.
Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His might shall be exalted in glory.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

I, when I came to you, brothers and sisters, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Isaiah 58:6-10

Gospel

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 said to his disciples, 'You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.'

'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.'

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

Matthew 5:13-16

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ☒ How would you define holiness?
- ☒ Is Paul conceited or boastful?
- ☒ How should the Christian set out to be salt and light in today's world?

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



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 17th February 2026 - Amici Ladies Group vs The Godfathers 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

WELCOME

This Sunday we welcome the Capuchin Friars from Durham who are celebrating our Sunday Masses whilst Father Shaun is in Lourdes planning the Diocesan Pilgrimage.

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.



LOURDES MASS

On Saturday 14th February at 12noon, there will be a Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes. This Mass will take place at St Bernadette's Church, Wallsend. It is a great opportunity to gather together in the 100th Anniversary year of our Diocesan Pilgrimage. All are welcome to attend.

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, Dilton
6.30pm St Joseph's, Stanley

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

LENTEN LUNCHES

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.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The International Mass for the Feast which takes place on Wednesday, will be available on YouTube (Lourdes Live) and it begins at 9.00am (GMT).

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 barbarts@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 6 February at St. Patrick's Consett (01207 502196) and then £410 deposit per person to secure our flights.

PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

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

PROUD CATHOLICS

Proud Catholics next meeting is on Shrove Tuesday (17th February) at 7:30pm at St Dominic's Priory Church, 186 New Bridge Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 2TE. The meeting will be about Lent Preparation with social time in the Tanner's Arms afterwards and, of course, pancakes. There should be a Zoom link available.

THANK YOU

A BIG thank you to all who supported our fundraising evening with Take This at Dilton Club. A grand total of £1,074.41 was raised for our family of Parishes funds. Thank you to all who made the evening possible.

Thank you also to those who donated during our coffee mornings. St Joseph's January coffee mornings raised £103.04 for Willow Burn, and St Patrick's February coffee morning raised £121.50 for church funds.

AN INVITATION FROM ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

Children at St Patrick's School, Dilton are inviting grandparents, elderly neighbours and elderly parishioners to a special event being held in the school. They would love for guests to join them for a lovely afternoon of arts and crafts, games, tea and coffee in the school hall on Friday 13th February 2025, from 1:15pm to 3:00pm. It promises to be a wonderful opportunity to spend time together, share stories and enjoy some fun activities. Whether making things, playing games, or simply having a friendly chat over a warm cup of tea, the children would be delighted to welcome everyone along. Please complete the following attendance form, or email stpd@stpd.bwct.com by Monday if you would like to attend. <https://forms.office.com/e/syN0Z02jlb>