

MASSTIMES AND INTENTIONS

15th - 22nd March 2026

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT	Dipton Stanley Stanley	9.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	People of the Partnership; Maureen Emerson People of the Partnership; Paul Mosley <i>Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Monday 16 th March	Stanley	9.30am	Colleen Rennie (SVP)
Tuesday 17 th March	<u>Dipton</u>	6.30pm	People of the Parish
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 19 th March	Stanley Stanley	9.30am 6.00pm	People of the Parish <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Friday 20 th March	Dipton	9.30am 10.00am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am</i> For a speedy recovery from an operation
Saturday 21 st March	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am</i> Florrie Duffy (SVP)
<i>Followed by discernment meeting on the Pastoral Strategy</i>			
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	Dipton Stanley Dipton	9.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	People of the Partnership; John McGuiness People of the Partnership; Patricia Lee-Telford <i>Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament</i>

LITURGICAL CALENDAR	
Monday	Weekday of Lent
Tuesday	St Patrick, Solemnity
Wednesday	Weekday of Lent
Thursday	St Joseph, Solemnity
Friday	St Cuthbert, Feast
Saturday	Weekday of Lent
<i>M = Memorial F = Feast S = Solemnity</i>	

PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK	
This Sunday	Coffee after Mass (<i>Stanley</i>)
Monday	Journey in Faith (<i>Stanley</i>)
Tuesday	Soup lunch after Mass (<i>Stanley</i>)
Friday	Free Film Night - 7.00pm (<i>Stanley</i>)
Saturday	Discernment Meeting (<i>Dipton</i>)

Finance - 8 March 2026	Offertory Total	Standing Order	Family Fast
STANLEY	£486.24	£197.25	£22.00
DIPTON	£109.47	£172.85	£7.46

Future Collections: Sunday 15th March - Easter Flowers
Sunday 29th March - Holy Places

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.

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If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact the office.



LISTEN TO THE WORD

15TH MARCH 2026 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 | Psalm 22 | Ephesians 5: 8-14 | John 9: 1-41

Faith can cause struggle and turmoil; it can literally turn your world upside down. It is a powerful force changing your life and can lead you down unexpected ways where beauty and ugliness exist side by side in disharmony. It is God given, a measure of the love He has for every part of His Creation. It can find us in anywhere in our busy lives or prove elusive as we seek to find meaning. It brings light into even the darkest corners, and when it begins to grow, it leads us towards a place of peace. Faith never leaves us; even in the darkest hour it waits patiently until we are ready to move on.

Faith had a major impact of the life of David. He was raised from a young shepherd boy to be King of the people of Israel. His life was never a simple, easy passage. At times, he fell from God's favour because he was human and suffered from the frailties that affect all of us. He made and lost friendships, he was loved and hated, he was a saint and a sinner. He was human. Sometimes blinded by circumstances, he turned away from God - but God chose him to be His anointed one and was always waiting for him to open his eyes and see clearly again.

Paul is an example of how faith in Christ can change people. A devout Jew, he upheld the principles of the Law against a blasphemous sect, formed by the Nazarene, Jesus, and persecuted them without pity. Struck blind on the road to Damascus his eyes of faith were opened by Christ, and he became the Apostles to the Gentiles. Today he reminds us that: "You were darkness once, but you are light in the Lord", a phrase spoken from the depths of his heart as he pleads to the Ephesians to become "children of light" and "try to discover what the Lord wants of you".

John's Gospel builds on our need to find firm ground for our faith to grow. His words give an insight into faith through human stories woven into his Gospel. The passage of the Blind man speaks to us on all sorts of levels. We begin in the spittle and dust of healing and move, in the company of the blind man, through the stirrings of his faith, to rejection by family, neighbours and authorities until he emerges from his journey and sees the Lord, perhaps clearly for the first time, and comes out of the darkness into the light of faith.

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

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

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

In those days: The LORD said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23(22):1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6. R1

Response: *The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name.

Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me.

Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

In the LORD's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

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.

Gospel

John 9:1-41

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, 'Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' And they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, 'Are we also blind?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DATES FOR THE DIARY - NEW DATES ADDED!

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

Friday 3rd July - Dipton Club with the Whistle Testers

Saturday 11th July 2026 - Summer Craft Fair

Friday 31st July 2026 - Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Saturday 12th September 2026 - The last afternoon of the Proms

Sunday 29th November 2026 - First Sunday of Advent

Saturday 14th November 2026 - Christmas Craft Fair

Sunday 20th December 2026 - Christmas Brass Concert

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of **Florrie Duffy**.

Florrie's Requiem Mass will take place in St Joseph's on Friday 27th March at 10.15am (celebrated by Fr Kevin Dixon).

PASTORAL STRATEGY

In Bishop Stephen's recent Pastoral Letter, 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.

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

The discernment meeting for St Joseph's will be this Saturday after 10.00am Mass.

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.



EASTER RAFFLE

Tickets are on sale for our Easter Raffle in aid of our family of parishes. There are some fabulous prizes to be won. It is £1 for a strip. The draw will take place at the Coffee Morning on Easter Sunday after Mass in St Patrick's, Dipton. *Please encourage your family and friends to buy some too!*

SCRUTINIES

On the 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent we pray for the Catechumens and Candidates to be received into Church. During Mass the scrutinies will take place. Please keep them in your prayers.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Envelopes for 2026/27 will be available for collection before Mass on both Sunday 22nd and Sunday 29th March. Please do not use any of the current year's envelopes after the end of the month as all numbers have changed.

LAY CHAPLAINS FROM OUR DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

Tomorrow (Monday), we welcome the Lay Chaplains from our Diocesan Schools who are here for their termly meeting which is taking place in the meeting room at St Joseph's. Mass on Monday will be celebrated at **9.30am** in St Joseph's (in the Church). All are welcome to attend, and to show our prayerful support for the Lay Chaplains of our schools.

WASHING OF THE FEET

On Holy Thursday we have the Tradition of the washing of the feet, in which we follow the command of Jesus to be a servant of others. The washing of the feet is of great importance, it isn't just about re-enacting something that Jesus did, it is reminding those gathered that the Priest is the servant of the people, and in humility he unites himself to Jesus in washing the feet of his parishioners on Holy Thursday.

A sign up sheet are available at the back of Church for you to put down your name if you would have your foot washed. You don't need to leave your bench when it is done, Father Shaun comes to you in your seat. It is open to everyone - men, women and children.

THE SOLEMNITIES OF ST PATRICK AND ST JOSEPH

On the 17th and 19th March, we will celebrate the solemnities of our patronal saints in our family of parishes.

❖ Mass for the Solemnity of St Patrick will be celebrated at 6.30pm in Dipton on 17th March.

❖ Mass for the Solemnity of St Joseph will be celebrated at 9.30am in Stanley on 19th March.

Both Masses will be followed by refreshments. All are welcome!

DIOCESAN LENTEN REFLECTION RESOURCES

These are available at diocesehn.org.uk. This includes We Dare to Ask which is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions on the theme of our Baptismal Vocation. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. Please consider joining with others this Lent to use We Dare to Ask, as we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter. The booklet, which includes a foreword by Bishop Stephen, is available to view and download now

A RELAXED PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 2027

Father Shaun is organising a Pilgrimage to Rome from 14th - 18th June 2027, staying at Villa Palazzola, the Summer Residence of the Venerable English College. The Villa overlooks Lake Albano and Castel Gandolfo, the Summer Residence of Pope Leo. Price: £1,395 per person sharing a twin/double room on a half-board basis. A limited number of single rooms are available at a supplement of £100. Price includes return airfare including **15kg hold Luggage**, accommodation as detailed in the itinerary, all transport whilst in Italy, services of a guide, gratuities and all entrance fees. Please note that this itinerary is not suitable for less able travellers. Price does not include lunches, drinks or items of a personal nature. Deposit of £300 and completed booking required by **14.8.26** with balance and any single supplement due by **15.3.27**. Booking is now open. You can book by visiting pilgrimagepeople.org and clicking on book, then on Italy and you will then find in the list 'Pilgrimage to Rome with Father Shaun Purdy' or alternatively there is a paper form at the back of Church. All bookings and Enquiries are made through the Tour Operator. A full itinerary is available from the back of Church.

LENTEN TALKS

Wednesday 18th March - St Teresa's

Wednesday 25th March - All Saints'

These talks will be delivered by guest speaker Fr Damian Cassidy, a Carmelite Friar. Each evening will begin with Mass at 6:30pm and the talk will follow in the hall after Mass. Light Refreshments will be served. This is a great way to prepare ourselves for Easter. Donations will be collected to support the important work of the Carmelites in our diocese. Please support this great opportunity in our partnership. All are welcome.

OUTREACH TEA PARTY

We will be starting the monthly Outreach Afternoon Tea Party again after our winter break on **Wednesday 25th March at 2pm**. If you would like some company, a bit of a natter, with refreshments then this is for you! The afternoon takes place in St Joseph's meeting room and promises to be a good time.