

MASSTIMES AND INTENTIONS

22nd - 29th March 2026

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	Dipton Stanley Dipton	9.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	People of the Partnership; John McGuinness People of the Partnership; Patricia Lee-Telford <i>Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Monday 23 rd March	Dipton	9.30am 10.00am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am</i> Frank Duffy
Tuesday 24 th March	Stanley	10.00am 10.45am 11.15am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i> Anniversary of John Saunders
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 26 th March	Stanley Dipton	9.30am 6.00pm	Florrie Duffy <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Friday 27 th March	Stanley St Mary's	10.15am 2.15pm	Requiem Mass for Florence (Florrie) Duffy Pat McCue <i>(Mass in the School Hall)</i>
Saturday 28 th March	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am</i> Zoe Conell
PALM SUNDAY	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Anthony Hogan People of the Partnership; Bill & Ivy Mulhearn

LITURGICAL CALENDAR	
Monday	Weekday of Lent
Tuesday	Weekday of Lent
Wednesday	The Annunciation of the Lord (S)
Thursday	Weekday of Lent
Friday	Weekday of Lent
Saturday	Weekday of Lent
<i>M = Memorial F = Feast S = Solemnity</i>	

PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK	
Monday	Journey in Faith (Stanley)
Tuesday	Soup lunch after Mass (Stanley)
Friday	Free Film Night - 7.00pm (Stanley)
Saturday	Church Cleaning 10.30am (Stanley and Dipton)

Finance - 15 March 2026	Offertory Total	Standing Order	Easter Flowers
STANLEY	£429.33	£197.25	£132.65
DIPTON	£130.00	£172.85	£138.50
Future Collections: Sunday 29 th March - Holy Places Saturday 4 th / Sunday 5 th April - Easter Offering Sunday 12 th April - Northern Brethren Fund (Sick and Retired Priests) Open until Sunday 3 rd May			

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.

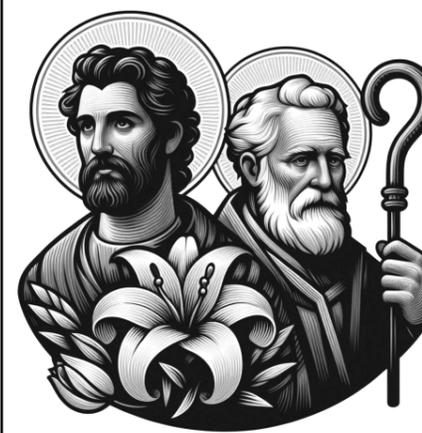
A GENTLE REMINDER...

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
22ND MARCH 2026 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Ezekial 37: 12-14 | Psalm 129 | Romans 8: 8-11 | John 11: 1-45

In today's first reading there is a very cryptic message from the prophet Ezekiel: he speaks of God raising his people from their graves and putting his Spirit into them. This sounds very strange, but I believe that the graves that that he speaks about are the barren empty spaces of our lives where God is not present and the Spirit he is putting in us is the Spirit of Love which will transform those spaces and make them bloom.

This idea of the grave is present in the Responsorial Psalm, which speaks of a soul calling "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord". This should be a familiar prayer known to many as the "De Profundis": a prayer that comes from one whose relationship with God is "dying" because of their sins and who is looking for forgiveness and redemption. It is a plea to a merciful God.

Saint Paul continues this theme. He contrasts those who are dead through sin with those who find life through the Spirit of God living in them. If we believe in Christ then that Spirit lives in us and then, just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we too will find new life in Him.

The Gospel story of the raising of Lazarus contains a very simple, sincere act of faith by someone who has lost a brother to death yet still believes that Jesus is the Son of God and has power over death itself. Her statement of faith - "Yes Lord, I believe" - is from Martha, the sister who did the housework in Luke's gospel, the one we think of as the realist in contrast to her sister Mary, the dreamer, who sits at the feet of Jesus. In the midst of the tragedy of death, Martha's faith is so strong that she can respond to the "Resurrection and the life" in such a clear voice. We have a rare insight into the character of Jesus as He weeps at the death of His friend. This is a great consolation to us, as it reminds us that God shares in our grief at the loss of a loved one. Lazarus emerges from the tomb bound in his grave clothes. Jesus orders that they be removed; His message to us today is that we too can be released from the death of sin and find new life in him. We only need to believe for that life to begin.

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

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

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 130(129):1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8. R7bc

**Response: With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the sound of my pleadings.

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
that you may be revered.

I long for you, O LORD,
my soul longs for his word.
My soul awaits the Lord
more than watchmen for daybreak.

More than watchmen for daybreak,
let Israel hope for the LORD.
For with the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
Everyone who believes in me shall never die.

Gospel

John 11:1-45

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: A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.' After saying these things, he said to them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.' Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

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 souls of **Florrie Duffy** and **Pat McCue**.

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

APEAL FOR LOURDES NURSES

The Lourdes Planning Group make a renewed appeal for Nurses on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Without the help of dedicated nurses we can't offer the support that our Accueil Pilgrims desperately need. If you can help, please sign up by going to <https://bit.ly/DHNLourdes2026> and click on the link to Healthcare Team Volunteers. For more information, please contact the lead nurse - michele.hall@diocesehn.org.uk

APEAL 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 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.

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.

PASTORAL STRATEGY

Thank you to those who took the time to come to the recent Parish meetings, Now that both meetings have taken place, this is not the end of our discernment. You have received your sheets to pray with, and if you maybe couldn't come to the meeting, we now offer you the opportunity to put in what you have discerned. Boxes are available at the back of both churches to put your thoughts in. These boxes will remain in Church until Sunday 12th April.

CHURCH CLEANING

On **Saturday 28th March**, we are looking for volunteers to clean both St Joseph's and St Patrick's churches. This will take place at **10.30am**. If you are able to help, please come along.

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 25th March - All Saints' Lanchester

The talk will be delivered by guest speaker Fr Damian Cassidy, a Carmelite Friar. The 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.

VOLUNTEER CHAPERONES

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is seeking volunteers to support children's choir rehearsals at the Cathedral Church of St Mary as chaperones. Volunteers would need to be available from 4-5.30pm on either Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. No musical experience is necessary, but a valid DBS certificate issued by the Diocese would be required. This can be arranged through Parish Safeguarding Leads or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Eimear via email: eimear.hurley@diocesehn.org.uk or on 07814 461448.

NEW HORIZON CHOIR PRESENTS: HAPPY TOGETHER

New Horizon Choir presents a spring concert - 'Happy Together'. An eclectic mix of music with something for everyone at Emmanuel College, Consett Road, Gateshead NE11 0AN. Friday 27th March at 7.30pm and Saturday 28th March at 1pm. For more information and tickets, visit www.newhorizonchoir.co.uk/events.

REMEMBER NEXT SUNDAY...

