

# MASSTIMES AND INTENTIONS

29<sup>th</sup> March - 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026

<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Anthony Hogan People of the Partnership; Bill & Ivy Mulhearn
<b>Monday</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Dipton St Mary's	9.30am 10.00am 2.15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am Pat McCue (SVP) Stations of the Cross <i>(In the School Hall)</i>
<b>Tuesday</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Stanley	10.00am 10.45am 11.15am 2.15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am Stations of the Cross Eric Rhodes Stations of the Cross with St Joseph's School <i>(In Church)</i>
<b>Wednesday</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Cathedral	11.00am	Chrism Mass

## THE SACRED TRIDUUM

<b>Holy Thursday</b>	Stanley	7.30pm 9.45pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper: For the Bishops and Priests of the Diocese Compline (Night Prayer of the Church) Watching at the Altar of Repose until 10.00pm
<b>Good Friday</b>	Stanley	10.00am 3.00pm	Preached Stations of the Cross Commemoration of the Lord's Passion <i>(Followed by Tea and Hot Cross Buns)</i>
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	Stanley	11.00am 7.30pm	Preparation Rites for those being baptised and received into the Church Easter Vigil: For the intentions of the newly baptised and received

**EASTER SUNDAY** Dipton **10.00am** The intentions of those in our Family of Parishes  
**PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS THE ONLY MASS TODAY**

Finance - 22 March 2026	Offertory Total	Standing Order
<b>STANLEY</b>	£426.74	£197.25
<b>DIPTON</b>	£122.37	£172.85

**Future Collections:** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Holy Places  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>/ Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Offering  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April - Northern Brethren Fund (Sick and Retired Priests) Open until Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

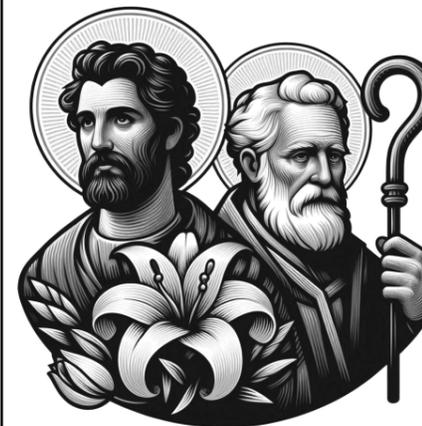
### A GENTLE REMINDER...

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](http://www.stanleycatholic.org)

[stjoseph.stanley@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:stjoseph.stanley@diocesehn.org.uk)



**Father Shaun Purdy**

Parish Priest

[pp.stjoseph.stanley@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto: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

29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026 - PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50: 4-7 | Psalm 21 | Philippians 2: 6-11 | Matthew 26: 14-27: 66

Today's first and second readings give an insight into what can happen if we respond to the challenge that change makes in our lives. The passage from Isaiah speaks of the trials and triumphs of the life of a disciple. Listen closely to the words of the prophet. To be a disciple requires courage, steadfastness and love. It is not an easy way to live. Parenthood is a form of discipleship. When relationships in families are good it is a relatively easy way to be a disciple, but when there is a breakdown in relationships then I am sure that these words of Isaiah ring very true.

Jesus is the supreme example of a disciple. As Saint Paul explains He was divine, yet he became a man and "emptied himself by taking the form of a servant". He had the power to work miracles, to raise people from the dead yet he allowed himself to be taken and crucified, not for his own sake, but for the whole of humankind. He was the Son of God but accepted death, death on a cross. Now he is the name above all other names, exalted by the Father, to be Lord forever.

During this week the words of the Passion of Jesus as told by Matthew should be held in our hearts. They tell a very human story of betrayal, denial, injustice and death. Judas, Peter and Pilate are part of our story. Judas could represent the temptations of the world that turn a devoted follower of Christ into a traitor. Peter makes many promises of fidelity to Jesus but, when the time comes, denies him before the servants in the temple. Pilate is the most powerful man in Jerusalem yet orders the death of an innocent man just to please the Jews. And Jesus, through all His trials, stands firm, a good man brought down by others. While they depart in disgrace, Jesus moves on to His glory and His victory over death.

Throughout our lives we live through periods of "letting go" and "moving on". From childhood, through school, into our working lives and in old age we experience a continuous process of change. In this coming week we walk with Jesus through His most painful period of letting go of His physical human life and moving onto His spiritual life. There are lessons to be learned from these moments, and we have no greater teacher than Our Lord.

David Frank.

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## PALM SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

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

### BLESSING OF PALMS AND PROCESSION

Dear brothers and sisters, since the beginning of Lent until now we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery: that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered his own city of Jerusalem. Therefore, with all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation, following in his footsteps, so that, being made by his grace partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life.

Let us pray.  
Almighty ever-living God,  
sanctify ✠ these branches with your blessing,  
that we, who follow Christ the King in exultation,  
may reach the eternal Jerusalem through him.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### Gospel

*Matthew 21:1-11*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**  
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord needs them", and he will send them at once.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Say to the daughter of Sion, "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."' '

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.'

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

*A short homily is given*

Priest: Dear brothers and sisters, like the crowds who acclaimed Jesus in Jerusalem, let us go forth in peace.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*We join in singing hymn number 17 - All glory, laud and honour.*



### First Reading

*Isaiah 50:4-7*

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backwards. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 22(21):8-9. 17-18a. 19-20. 23-24. R2a*

**Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

All who see me deride me;  
they curl their lips, they toss their heads:  
'He trusted in the LORD, let him save him;  
let him release him, for in him he delights.'

For dogs have surrounded me;  
a band of the wicked besets me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;  
I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them,  
they cast lots for my robe.  
But you, O LORD, do not stay afar off;  
my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my kin,  
and praise you in the midst of the assembly;  
'You who fear the LORD, give him praise;  
all descendants of Jacob, give him glory;  
revere him, all you descendants of Israel.'

### Second Reading

*Philippians 2:6-11*

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Verse

Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY - NEW DATES ADDED!

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026** - Palm Sunday  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026** - Maundy Thursday  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026** - Good Friday  
**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2026** - Holy Saturday  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026** - Easter Sunday  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** - Dipton Club with the Whistle Testers  
**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026** - Summer Craft Fair  
**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026** - Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes  
**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2026** - The last afternoon of the Proms  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2026** - First Sunday of Advent  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2026** - Christmas Craft Fair  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2026** - Christmas Brass Concert

### MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of **Pat McCue**. Pat's Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 1st May 2026 in St Joseph's. The time is to be arranged.

### 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 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](mailto:michele.hall@diocesehn.org.uk)

### 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!*

### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Envelopes for 2026/27 will be available for collection before Mass Today. Please do not use any of the current year's envelopes after the end of the month as all numbers have changed.

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> April.

### HELP!

Father Shaun was going through the Parishes diary for later this year and he has come across an entry for a wedding at St Patrick's, Dipton on Saturday 10th October 2026. All it says in the diary is "WEDDING TBC". Father Shaun hasn't booked this in, so it predates his time as Parish Priest. If you are the couple who are to be married at St Patrick's, Dipton, or you know who the couple is, can you ask them to contact Father Shaun as a matter of urgency.

*As an aside, if you are thinking about getting married in Stanley or Dipton you must give at least six months notice. If you are to be married abroad, a year's notice is needed for the necessary paperwork to be completed.*

### HOLY WEEK BEGINS

Today we begin Holy Week with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The week will take a dramatic turn when we recall the Passion and Death of Jesus. This will culminate in the glory of the resurrection.

Thank you to those who have agreed to have their foot washed on Holy Thursday. We ask that you be seated by **7.20pm** at the ends of the benches reserved for you.

On Holy Saturday we will welcome those new members of our community who are to be baptised, received into Church, confirmed and receive their First Holy Communion.

Following Mass on Holy Saturday, there will be Prosecco, Orange Juice and Cake in the meeting room for those who wish to continue the Easter celebration.

Please remember that on Easter Sunday there will only be one Mass and this will be celebrated at 10.00am in St Patrick's, Dipon. Mass will be followed by Tea, Coffee and Cake. The Easter Raffle will also take place.

### A RELAXED PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 2027

Father Shaun is organising a Pilgrimage to Rome from 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

### 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](mailto:eimear.hurley@diocesehn.org.uk) or on 07814 461448.

### PRE-LOVED SALE - JUBILEE CENTRE

We've managed to secure a table at two events being held at the Jubilee Centre Dipton: on 25<sup>th</sup> April for their preloved clothing/accessories sale and fashion show, and on 4<sup>th</sup> July for their 'indoor carboot sale'. If you're spring cleaning your home or wardrobe/accessories, please consider donating your unwanted items in the donation boxes at the back of our churches. Proceeds from any sales will boost our parish funds. Your support attending this community event (11am until 1pm) would also be welcomed.

### DIOCESAN VACANCY

Role: Parish Secretary  
Contract: Permanent  
Salary: £8430.24 pro rata per annum  
Hours: Part-time 12 hours per week  
Working Pattern: Able to be negotiated at interview.  
Location: St Mary's, Great Lime Road, Forest Hall, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE12 7AB  
How to apply: Please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/parish-secretary-18/>  
Closing Date: 12:00 pm, 13/04/2026.