

MASSTIMES AND INTENTIONS

8th - 15th March 2026

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	Dipton Stanley Dipton	9.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	People of the Partnership; Marie Rostron People of the Partnership; Deceased members of the Dodds & Hughes families Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Monday 9th March	Dipton	9.30am 10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am Kevin Lee
Tuesday 10th March	Stanley Mountsett	10.00am 10.45am 11.15am 3.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10.40am Station of the Cross Audrey Turnbull Funeral Liturgy for Colleen Rennie
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 12th March	Stanley Dipton	10.00am 6.00pm	Sr Assumpta Stations of the Cross
Friday 13th March	Dipton	9.30am 10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am Deceased members of the Costello & Boyd families
Saturday 14th March	<u>Dipton</u>	9.30am 10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am A sick Person (TS)

Followed by discernment meeting on the Pastoral Strategy

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 Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
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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
<i>M = Memorial F = Feast S = Solemnity</i>	

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

Finance - 1 March 2026	Offertory Total	Standing Order	Family Fast
STANLEY	£456.95	£197.25	£299.81
DIPTON	£115.35	£172.85	£141.70

Future Collections: Sunday 15th March - Easter Flowers St Patrick's March coffee morning raised £114.10 for church funds.
Sunday 29th March - Holy Places St Joseph's February coffee mornings raised £148.10 for Lourdes.

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 MARCH 2026 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 17: 3-7 | Psalm 94 | Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8 | John 4: 5-42

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water. God said, "Let there be light" and there was light. Genesis 1: 1-3.

Water is an absolute necessity for life. It is central to God's creation of the earth, as this quotation from the beginning of the Book of Genesis tells us. Water is a living thing: it flows through our rivers and our streams; it is replenished by the rain that falls on the earth; it refreshes our seas and oceans. All living creatures depend on a supply of water, and our human bodies are mainly composed of this precious liquid. Jesus knew the power of water. When he encounters water, as at His baptism, something is about to happen.

The passage from John telling the story of the meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has hidden depths. It begins simply enough with a request for a drink but as a simple, sometimes combative, discussion continues we are drawn deeper into the scene. There are taboos, which are broken in the passage: men do not speak to women they do not know, Jews do not speak to Samaritans and rarely would such a conversion happen with its religious undertones. The story teaches us about the nature of God. We are told that buildings and places are not important, that we should seek God in spirit and truth. That through Jesus we too can drink of living water which will gush up to eternal life.

It is through the passage that Jesus reveals himself as the Messiah to those outside the Jewish world. He uses the Samaritan woman as the vessel through whom others will come to belief. Are there people that you know who have brought you closer to faith?

Today we should reflect on those we have encountered at the well of life. Those whose words and actions inspired us to think more deeply about our own spiritual journey. We need to ask ourselves, are our hearts filled with the living water of Christ? How do we respond to its urgings? And more importantly, how do we pour that living water into the hearts of those we meet?

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

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

First Reading

Exodus 17:3-7

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the LORD said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R7c, 8a

**Response: O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts.'**

Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise.

O come; let us bow and bend low.
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.

Gospel

John 4: 5-42

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 came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'

Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you seek?' or, 'Why are you talking with her?' So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?' They went out of the town and were coming to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, "There are yet four months, then comes the harvest"? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.'

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



*Scripture Readings from the English Standard Version of the Bible, Catholic Edition (ESV-CE) © 2017 Crossway.
Responsorial Psalm from Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018 USCCB.*

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
Saturday 14th November 2026 - Christmas Craft Fair

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 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 continue this Tuesday after 11.15am 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.

EASTER RAFFLE

Tickets are on sale from this weekend 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!*

COFFEE MORNING AFTER MASS

This Sunday we have Coffee Morning after Mass in St Joseph's. Do please come along and support your family of parishes. All proceeds raised helps to support our parishes and helps the mission. It is also a good opportunity to see friends new and old.

SCRUTINIES

On the 3rd, 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.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of **Florrie Duffy** and **Colleen Rennie**.

Colleen's Funeral Liturgy will take place at Mountsett Crematorium on Tuesday 10th March at 3.30pm. **Florrie's** Requiem Mass will take place in St Joseph's on Friday 27th March at 10.15am (celebrated by Fr Kevin Dixon).

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.

PROUD CATHOLICS

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17th March at St Andrew's RC Church, Worswick Street, NE1 6UW at 7:30pm. We will be discussing our experiences of our faith and being LGBTQ+ in Education - whether you are/were a teacher, student or staff member, we'd love it if you could join us to share your experience! There will be a Zoom link available.

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.