

MASSTIMES AND INTENTIONS

26th April - 3rd May 2026

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Brian McDermott People of the Partnership; James Keers
Monday 27 th April	Dipton	2.15pm	NBF
Tuesday 28 th April	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Mr Gerard (Gerry) McConnell
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 30 th April	Stanley	12noon	Requiem Mass for Margaret Pendleton <i>Margaret's Mortal remains will be received into Church on Wednesday evening at 4.00pm</i>
Friday 1 st May	Stanley	10.30am	Requiem Mass for Patrick (Pat) McCue
Saturday 2 nd May	Stanley	9.30am 10.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Margaret Pendleton
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Vera & Tommy Roddy People of the Partnership; Terry Taggart

LITURGICAL CALENDAR	
Monday	Weekday of Easter
Tuesday	Weekday of Easter
Wednesday	St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe (F)
Thursday	Weekday of Easter
Friday	St Joseph the Worker (op M)
Saturday	St Athanasius (M)
<i>M = Memorial F = Feast S = Solemnity</i>	

PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK	
Wednesday	Outreach Tea (Stanley)
Next Sunday	Coffee Morning (Dipton)

Finance - 19 April 2026	Offertory Total	Standing Order	Sick & Retired Priests
STANLEY	£438.73	£197.25	£117.50
DIPTON	£125.00	£172.85	£67.20
Future Collections: 26 th April - Little Sisters of the Poor 17 th May - World Communications Day 25 th May - Lay Training Fund 7 th June - Quarterly Diocesan Levy 21 st June - Day for Human Life 29 th June - Peter's Pence			

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

GETTING YOUR CHILD BAPTISED

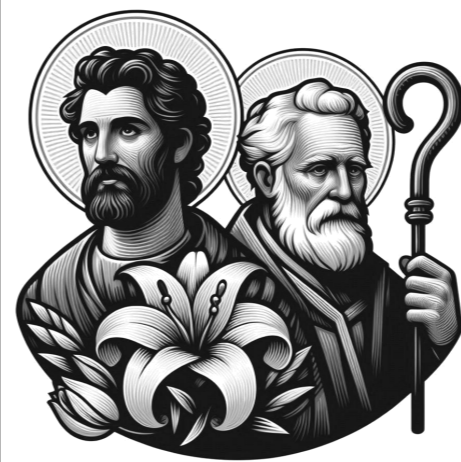
If you or a family member is looking to have your child baptised, please collect the leaflet 'Getting your child baptised' from the back of church. This policy of how we access the Sacraments of Initiation is applicable across the Pontop Partnership. Please read the leaflet carefully before returning 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

26TH APRIL 2026 - 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 2: 14, 36-41 | Psalm 22 | 1 Peter 2: 20-25 | John 10: 1-10

When I was a boy my father sent me into the hills outside Bethlehem to look after his flock of sheep. There were a group of shepherds who walked those hills caring for the sheep and keeping them from harm. They taught me how to watch for wild animals that came to take the sheep, how to build sheepfolds to keep the sheep from harm and how to talk to the sheep so that they became familiar with my voice. I have never forgotten that wonderful night when that bright star appeared and we were woken by the sound of heavenly music in the skies above Bethlehem. I still do not understand what that was all about, but I remember following the shepherds into the town and to the stable and that beautiful baby boy.

It was many years later when I heard about Jesus the carpenter; my father had passed away, and the flock was now mine. I was their shepherd. I was watching my sheep one day when I came across a large crowd sitting in a green valley and I stopped to listen to the man who was speaking to them. Shepherds carry the smell of their sheep with them and are not welcomed into polite society, so I stayed on the outside of the crowd.

The man, Jesus, looked across and saw me, he waved and called to me, reluctantly I walked through the crowd until I was standing beside him. He smiled and greeted me with a kiss and put his arm round my shoulder: I have never felt so at ease, so welcome, in my entire life. Then he started to tell the people about a Good Shepherd and everything he said rang true. He told the crowd how the shepherd cared for his sheep and used his rod and his staff to protect them from harm. How they listened for his voice, and, if any of the sheep went astray, he would leave the others and search and find him and bring him back, on his shoulders, to the flock.

There are many things that can harm you in this life. Each of us needs someone to take care of them, a shepherd who will watch over them and find them when they are lost. We are each called to be shepherds, caring for our families, our friends and our neighbours. When we follow the shepherd's example we are following Christ.

*Lord, teach me to be your shepherd today
Amen.*

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

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

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.' And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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

1 Peter 2:20b-25

Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord.
I know my sheep and my own know me.

Gospel

John 10:1-10

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS SUNDAY

Loving God,
your Son, Jesus, has shown us that an open heart finds the way.
Help me to find my way in this world.
Keep my heart open to following Jesus' way of serving
others in love.

Give me the courage to accept the guidance you offer me
through my family, my friends, and my parish community.

Through the Holy Spirit, you call me to a particular way of
life.

If it is the way of a priest, sister, brother or deacon, then
help me to walk it in joyful service to your people.

With you, my God, I know I can find my way.
Amen.

DATES FOR THE DIARY - NEW DATES ADDED!

Saturday 25th April - Pre-loved Sale/Fashion Show

Saturday 6th June - Stella Maris Pilgrimage to Holy Island

Friday 3rd July - Dipton Club with the Whistle Testers

Saturday 4th July - Indoor 'carboot' sale

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 **Pat McCue, Margaret Pendleton, Margurita (Rita) Mary Mallet** and **Doreen Bailes**. **Margaret** will be received into St Joseph's on **Wednesday 29th April at 4.00pm**, her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday 30th April at 12noon** followed by burial in Stanley Cemetery. **Pat's** Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Friday 1st May at 10.30am** in St Joseph's followed by cremation at Mountsett Crematorium. **Rita's** funeral will take place on **Monday 11th May at 10.15am** in St Joseph's followed by burial in Stanley Cemetery. We are awaiting the arrangements for Doreen's funeral.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026

Are you a First timer or Solo Pilgrim? You are invited to a get together on **Sunday 5th July** at St Michael's Church Hall, Houghton le Spring, DH5 8NF. The afternoon begins at 2.00pm and finish at 4.00pm. It will give you an opportunity to ask any questions you may have and to meet fellow pilgrims.

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 **The Closing date is 30th April 2026**

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. **The Closing date is 30th April 2026**

You can also use this QR code for signing up for the Medical Team or as an Adult helper.



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' All bookings and Enquiries are made through the Tour Operator - 0800 612 3423

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.

STELLA MARIS - ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY ISLAND

The annual Stella Maris Pilgrimage to Holy Island is taking place on Saturday 6th June 2026. A coach has been booked for those who wish to go, with pick-ups from Stanley and Dipton. Following the Pilgrimage to Holy Island, we will stop off at Seahouses for Fish and Chips. The cost of the trip is £15.00 for adults and £5.00 for Children (up to 16). If you would like to go, please contact the office on 01207 299 012.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR APPEAL

A special collection will be held This Sunday, 26th April, for St Joseph's Home, Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle. The collection will assist in the replacement of some specialised bathing units and also ongoing general refurbishment of the Home. If you are able to help, donations can be sent by cheque, payable to Little Sisters of the Poor, to: St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA. Alternatively, secure online donations can be made by visiting: www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/ No gift is too small. Every act of kindness helps to ensure that residents continue to receive the care, dignity, and love they so deeply deserve. Thank you.

OUTREACH AFTERNOON TEA

The Outreach Afternoon Tea will take place **THIS WEDNESDAY**. 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. If you would like to come along or for more information, please contact the parish office. Transport may be able to be arranged for those who need it.

The Outreach is a vital asset to the people of our community, so please help it continue to serve the community and be a place of welcome for many years to come.

FIRE EVACUATION

You will remember we mentioned a few months ago about having an **UNANNOUNCED** Fire Evacuation Drill at the end of Sunday Masses. We haven't forgotten about this, and there are plans in place to have one in the coming weeks. We invite those people who agreed to be fire marshals to stay behind after Mass on **Sunday 26th April** for a brief refresher with Simon on the evacuation plan.

At the end of Mass, one of the fire marshals will shout **"FIRE... FIRE!"** at that point we ask that you leave your hymn books on the benches, pick up your personal belongings and leave the Church as quickly and safely as possible, please do not hang around the Church, but leave the premises. If you are unsteady on your feet or require further assistance, remain in your places and the Fire Marshal will come and help you.

Whilst this is a drill, we ask you to take it seriously, because in the actual event of a fire, we need to know we can evacuate the premises as safely and quickly as possible.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP STEPHEN

Thank you to all parishes who have completed and returned their reflections as part of our diocesan pastoral strategy. I, together with others, look forward to reading and praying through your discernments in the Spirit.

It is not too late for returns to be made if you are yet to submit. We next move to a second phase as we invite local parishes to discern together in their partnerships, or with others in their neighbouring area. Information and updates will be shared on our website. Please keep this discernment in your prayers as we seek to respond to the Lord's call to worship Him and serve our communities in a flourishing and sustainable manner.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Bishop Stephen invites us all to pray for vocations this Sunday 26th April. Please pray particularly for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Please pray every day that people will respond to the Lord's call to serve Him in ordained and consecrated life. They are intimate adventures in God's love. In our parishes and churches and schools and chaplaincies, please offer regular time in prayer for vocations. Pope Leo encourages us to offer time for Eucharistic adoration and to meditate faithfully on the Word of God. Prayer leads to vocations. This is not a last resort; it is the essential first resort. For more information, prayer resources, and for enquiries please contact: vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk, vocationspriest@diocesehn.org.uk vocationsdeacons@diocesehn.org.uk