



Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle a registered charity 1143450

STANLEY FAMILY OF CATHOLIC PARISHES

- Saint Joseph's, Stanley and Saint Patrick's Dipton -

St Joseph's Presbytery, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL | 01207 299 012

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Father Shaun Purdy (Parish Priest) pp.stjoseph.stanley@diocesehn.org.uk

Reverend Paul Nichol (Parish Deacon) 07906 489 152

Melissa Gillespie (Administrator) Tuesday – Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm

Sharon Walker (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.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS – 25TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

*** The order of Mass can be found on page 4 of your Hymn Book ***

Sunday 20th September	<i>Dipton</i>	9.00am	People of the Partnership and Fr Leo Pyle
<i>25th Sunday of the Year</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	11.00am	People of the Partnership and Michael Hall
Monday 21st September	<i>Dipton</i>	6.30pm	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion
<i>St Matthew, Apostle (Feast)</i>			
Tuesday 22nd September	<i>Stanley</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
<i>Feria</i>		10.00am	Fr Joe Kendall
Thursday 24th September	<i>Stanley</i>	10.00am	John Kelly
<i>Our Lady of Walsingham (Feast)</i>			(Coffee after Mass)
Friday 25th September	<i>Dipton</i>	10.00am	Anthony Moat (SVP)
<i>Feria</i>			
Saturday 26th September	<i>Dipton</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>
<i>Saturday Mass of Our Lady</i>		10.00am	Priest's Intention
Sunday 27th September	<i>Dipton</i>	9.00am	People of the Partnership and Brian Duffy
<i>26th Sunday of the Year</i>	<i>Stanley</i>	11.00am	People of the Partnership and In thanksgiving for the welfare of Raffaello Moscardini

First reading - Ezekiel 18:25-28

Thus says the Lord: 'You say, "The way of the Lord is not just." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 25(24):4-5b. 6-7. 8-9. R6a

Response: Remember your compassion, O Lord.

O Lord, make me know your ways.
Teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth, and teach me;
for you are the God of my salvation.

Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth,
nor my transgressions.
In your merciful love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgement;
to the humble he teaches his way.

Second reading - Philippians 2:1-11

Brothers and Sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy; complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, 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.

Gospel Acclamation

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,
and I know them, and they follow me.

Gospel – Matthew 21:28-32

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." And he answered, "I will not", but afterwards he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, "I go, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterwards change your minds and believe him.'

FAMILY OF PARISHES FINANCES – 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

ST JOSEPH'S

Offertory Total - £628.21 Standing Order - £197.25

ST PATRICK'S

Offertory Total - £100.31 Standing Order - £172.85

Thank you for your generosity.

LISTEN TO THE WORD

Have you ever thought about the great responsibility of being a member of the Church of God? In these days, when so many of our family, friends and neighbours seem to have no religious beliefs, there is a sense that we are considered by others to be examples of moral behaviour in the world. Our actions, words and example are faces of Christ; those around us look to us as people who, by our behaviour, bring goodness into our homes and neighbourhoods. When we fail to reach the standards expected of us by others then the message of Christ becomes tarnished and great damage can be done to His church.

The words of Isaiah, in today's first reading, remind us that God is always there for us, but we must actively turn to Him for His help. He is a compassionate God, "for he will abundantly pardon" but He cannot be measured in human terms. Isaiah reminds us that the Lord says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways". When we look for Him, we must rely on the eyes of faith.

At first, when reading the Gospel passage, we may judge the actions of the landowner as being unreasonable. How can he pay the man who has worked one hour the same as one who has worked all day? It seems unjust. But if we consider the first reading and apply the image of a God who does not judge through human eyes but with the eyes of God then we can begin to see a certain understanding of the story.

For example; if you are a cradle catholic who has spent your whole life trying to be a good Christian you would hope that your reward would be eternal life, after all you have worked for it. Then you see others who have spent their lives outside the church, who come searching for God, and finally after they have found Him they become part of the Christian community; could you deny that person eternal life too? It is not always the journey you take or the time you spend, but the destination that you arrive at. There are many good people who have never heard of God; are they too denied eternal life?

Nobody can know the mind of God; we each find a way to serve Him and hope that in that service we are recognised as his sons and daughters.

David Frank

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2026/2027

Following the meeting on Tuesday evening, application forms are now available for this year. The forms can be collected from Father Shaun or Deacon Paul after Mass. Forms will only be given in person, forms will not be given to another parent to hand over. Completed forms need to be returned to St Joseph's Presbytery by **SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2026**. Anyone who applies after this date will need to wait until the following year.

HOME MISSION SUNDAY

TODAY, we will celebrate Home Mission Sunday, a day for us as the Catholic community in England and Wales to celebrate our faith in these lands, and our shared commitment to communicate the beauty and the joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Celebrating the Holy Father's first encyclical, the theme for this year is "Magnifica Humanitas" as the heart of mission. We can celebrate together the call the Holy Father has placed before us to live out our authentic humanity which finds its fullness in Christ. More details about this can be found on the Bishops' Conference website – www.cbcew.org.uk/home-mission-sunday There will be a second collection next Sunday.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Are you considering becoming a Catholic, or would you like to find out more about your faith and the reason why we do the things we do? Our Journey in Faith programme continues THIS Thursday, from 7.00pm until 8.30pm in St Joseph's meeting room. If you would like more information, please contact the family of parishes office.

GROUND FORCE DAYS 2026

Following our successful Ground Force days last year, we are looking to do the same this year in both St Patrick's and St Joseph's.

The dates are: **THIS Saturday 26th September – St Patrick's**
Saturday 24th October – St Joseph's

The time is: **10.30am – 2.00pm**

You may be thinking that you would love to help but the outdoor work might be too much. Why not sign up to help clean the Church on the same days at the same times. Cleaning materials will be provided.

If you can help at one or both, please sign up on the sheets at the back of the Church. A picnic lunch will be provided for all those who help.

CHRISTMAS CANDLES IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES

As we did last year, red sanctuary candles will burn in our churches in memory of loved ones for the octave of Christmas. Today sees the beginning of the initiative. We know it's only September, but it helps us with our ordering to know how many candles we will need to purchase in the run up to December. The candles are priced at **£7.50 each** or **2 for £12.00**. envelopes for your dedications can be found at the back of our churches. The closing date is **December 18th**. There is the option to pay by card at St Joseph's. Please write on the envelope "paid through Dona" and put the amount. When paying on the Dona machine, please select "Christmas Candles" so we can check payment has been received. Thank you.

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HELP AT FUNERALS

We have a limited number of volunteers to help at funerals in our family of parishes. Can you help as a welcomer or even come along and help with the responses and singing? Please speak to Father Shaun if you can help with this important ministry.

CHRISTMAS FAIR DONATIONS

Donations for raffle & tombola prizes and for the children's area would be greatly appreciated for our Christmas Craft Fair which is at 12.30- 3.30 on Saturday 14th November. Proceeds from the fair go towards parish funds for St Joseph's and St Patrick's. Donations of wine, spirits, beers, soft drinks, store cupboard items, biscuits, chocolates, sweets, toiletries, pencils, crayons, colouring books and small games and other suitable unwanted/unused items would be appreciated.

Donation boxes are in church porches. If anyone would like to be involved in organising the fair, helping in the tearoom, carpark, or on one of the stalls this year please contact Lorraine Murray or Sharon Walker. Your help would be hugely valued.

OUTREACH AFTERNOON TEA

The Outreach Afternoon Tea will take place **this Wednesday 30th September**. 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.

We also need some volunteers to help. If you can help with baking and serving, please contact the office.

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.