



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

stjoseph.stanley@diocesehn.org.uk | www.stanleycatholic.org



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 – 28TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

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

Sunday 11th October 28 th Sunday of the Year	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership and Fr John Coyle NBF People of the Partnership and Rose Taggart	(Coffee after Mass)
Monday 12th October St Wilfrid	Dipton	6.30pm	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion	
Tuesday 13th October Feria	Stanley	10.00am	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion	
Thursday 15th October St Teresa of Avila	Stanley	10.00am	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion	(Coffee after the Service)
Friday 16th October Feria	Dipton	6.30pm	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion	
Sunday 18th October 29 th Sunday of the Year	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership and Gerry Nichol People of the Partnership and Billy & Ivy Mulhearn	

First reading - Isaiah 25:6-10a

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, 'Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.' For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R1

Response: *In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.*

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| 1. 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. | 2. 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. |
| 3. You have prepared a table before me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. | 4. 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 - Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Brothers and Sisters: I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.

Gospel – Matthew 22:1-14

At that time: Jesus again spoke to the chief priests and the elders of the people, in parables, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast." But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find." And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.

FAMILY OF PARISHES FINANCES – 4TH OCTOBER 2026

ST JOSEPH'S

Offertory Total - £537.34 Standing Order - £197.25

ST PATRICK'S

Offertory Total - £164.81 Standing Order - £172.85

Thank you for your generosity.

LISTEN TO THE WORD

It is good to celebrate, to bring together family and friends and create an atmosphere of love and peace. Sometimes when we celebrate, we make an announcement: a birth, an engagement, a wedding, a homecoming. In today's readings we see glimpses of some of these events and, what is more, we are invited to the feast.

In the first reading we are celebrating a homecoming and a promise. The homecoming is the return of the people of Israel from exile; after many years Jerusalem is once again their city, and they are full of joy. Isaiah however reminds them that all their blessings come from God and, if they are true to Him, then even greater blessings will be theirs. The passage speaks to me of the heavenly banquet that will be held for all who die in God's love. The message is clear: we are only visitors to this earthly place, and our true home is with him in heaven.

Paul's letter reminds us that life is not good for all of God's creation. We bear a heavy responsibility for our fellow human beings and for our planet and all the creatures that dwell upon it. The contrast between Isaiah's banquet and Paul's empty stomach should remind us of our obligations to build a better life for all. Paul knows how difficult this will be but urges us to put our faith in Christ, as "my God will supply every need of yours".

The parable of the Wedding Feast is a reminder that if we do not follow the teaching of Jesus to love God and each other, then we will miss out on the Kingdom of Heaven. We have been invited to the wedding but if, by our actions, we reject this invitation then the invite will go to others. The passage speaks of worthiness; do you think you are worthy to sit at the table of the Lord? Are there ways in which you can change and become one of the invited? Jesus is speaking directly to the chief priests and elders but, in our day, he speaks to us.

In the parable those initially invited do not come to the table and their places are given to others. Some come to the celebration but, like the guest without the wedding garment, they are still proven unworthy. It is up to each of us today to take on the clothes of worthiness and book our place at the heavenly Feast.

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.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of **Father John Coyle**, a priest of the Diocese who died last week. His funeral will take place at the Cathedral on **Friday 23rd October** at **12noon**.

FATHER SHAUN SUMMER HOLIDAY

Father Shaun is on his Summer Holiday and will return Saturday 17th October. If you need a priest urgently, please contact Deacon Paul who will advise on which Priest to contact.

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 DAY 2026

Following our successful Ground Force Day last year, we are looking to do the same this year.

The date is: **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.

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. 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.

COLUMBAN MISSION APPEAL

THIS SUNDAY We welcome Father Tim Mulroy from the Columban Fathers who will give the annual Mission Appeal. There will be a second collection to support their work.

PARKING AT ST JOSEPH'S

When parking your car at St Joseph's, please do not park directly in front of the main doors and side door of the Church or the Sacristy door. These are the means of escape in case of a fire. Thank you for understanding.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2026

The Masses for Christmas will be at the following times in our family of Parishes:

Christmas Eve	4.00pm Stanley	(Carols at 3.30pm)
	6.30pm Dipton	(Carols at 6.00pm)
Christmas Day	9.30am Stanley	

FLAME 2027

Flame 2027 takes place on **Saturday 6th March**. The theme is '**TAKE COURAGE**'. It is open to anyone from school year 9 to University/young adult age. Under 18s must be part of an organised group. Please talk with your school chaplain, catechist or parish priest if you would like to come along. Two years ago, almost 900 young people from our Diocese travelled to Wembley Arena for this national Catholic youth gathering. Once again YMT is hoping to take a large number of young people (up to 1,000 including accompanying adults).

COST: £55 per person (includes return rail travel, Wembley ticket and London travel card). The cost has been generously subsidised by Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott Donnelly. For further information contact Mary Madziva mmadziva@ymt.org

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.