

MASSTIMES AND INTENTIONS

17th - 24th May 2026

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Father Joe Park (Anniversary) People of the Partnership; Margaret Pendleton
Monday 18 th May	Dipton	6.30pm	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 19 th May	Stanley	10.00am	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 21 st May	Stanley	10.00am	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion
Friday 22 nd May	Dipton	6.30pm	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion
Saturday 23 rd May	Stanley	12noon	Mass with the Anointing of the Sick For the Intentions of the Sick and Housebound
PENTECOST SUNDAY	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Mary McDermott People of the Partnership; John Dodds

LITURGICAL CALENDAR	
Monday	Weekday of Easter
Tuesday	Weekday of Easter
Wednesday	Our Lady of Fatima
Thursday	The Ascension of the Lord (S)
Friday	Weekday of Easter
Saturday	Weekday of Easter
M = Memorial F = Feast S = Solemnity	

PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK	
Thursday	Coffee after the Service (Stanley)
Saturday	Mass with anointing of the Sick (Stanley) Followed by refreshments.

Finance - 10 May 2026	Offertory Total	Standing Order
STANLEY	£493.64	£197.25
DIPTON	£398.55	£172.85

Future Collections: 17th May - World Communications Day
25th May - Lay Training Fund
7th June - Quarterly Diocesan Levy
21st June - Day for Human Life

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.

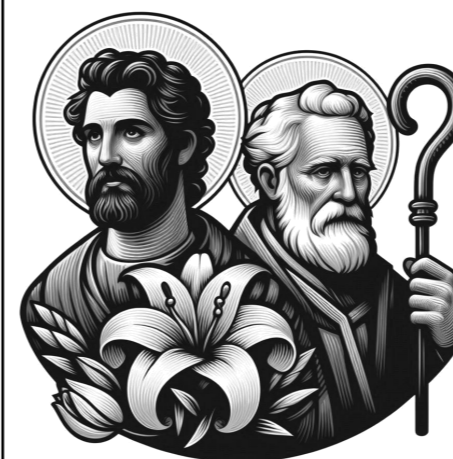
A GENTLE REMINDER...

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

17TH MAY 2026 - 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 1: 12-14 | Psalm 26 | 1 Peter 4: 13-16 | John 17: 1-11

Today is the last Sunday in the season of Eastertide and we hear the final part of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus completes his teaching to the Apostles through a prayer to the Father for all who will follow Him. His time of sacrifice is now upon Him yet His thoughts, as always, turn to His followers and the trials they must endure for His sake. Whenever we say the "Our Father" we recall both the blessing of this prayer, which he has taught us through the Gospels, and these words at the Last Supper which repeat and expand the petitions of that prayer.

In the first reading the apostles take "a sabbath walk", a Sunday stroll, in the warm afternoon air. The mood is sombre; silence is upon them. Their Lord has gone from them, ascended to His Father, and they are alone once more. We cannot imagine the mood; to have lost then regained their saviour and to have been parted from Him again, in what must seem a final time creates among them a feeling of sorrow but also of anticipation. Jesus has told them they are not as orphans, but members of a heavenly family united in spirit and truth, and though they will experience times of trial, times of joy, they will never feel alone and abandoned again. They return to the upper room, their place of safety. Instead of drowning in sorrow, they begin to pray. Whenever we feel lost and forgotten, their example should inspire us too, to turn to Our Father in prayer.

The psalms are the powerhouse of prayer passed to us from the Jewish scriptures. Today's psalm begins "The Lord is my light and salvation, whom shall I fear?" There are times when situations overwhelm us. We all know people who are living with dementia, and often the burden of this illness falls not only on the sufferer but on those who care for them. This psalm calls to the Lord that they may "live in the house of the Lord", when you enter into a prayerful communion with the Lord it can make it seem that you live in His house and His caring hands are holding you and giving you strength to carry on. The psalm ends with a beautiful phrase "Of you my heart has spoken, "Seek His face". The power of prayer is always there for us, in whatever situation we find ourselves, turn to the Lord. "Seek His face".

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

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

First Reading

Acts 1:12-14

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers and sisters.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 27(26):1. 4. 7-8a. R13

Response: I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness in the land of the living.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
whom should I dread?

There is one thing I ask of the LORD,
only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,
to enquire at his temple.

O LORD, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer me.
Of you my heart has spoken,
'Seek his face.'

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:13-16

Beloved: Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer, or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.
I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Gospel

John 17:1-11a

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

'I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.'

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

A PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PREPARATION FOR PENTECOST

O Lord Jesus Christ
Who, before ascending into heaven
did promise to send the Holy Spirit
to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples,
deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me
that He may perfect in my soul,
the work of Your grace and Your love.
Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom
that I may despise the perishable things of this world
and aspire only after the things that are eternal,
the Spirit of Understanding
to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth,
the Spirit of Counsel
that I may ever choose the surest way
of pleasing God and gaining heaven,
the Spirit of Fortitude
that I may bear my cross with You
and that I may overcome with courage
all the obstacles that oppose my salvation,
the Spirit of Knowledge
that I may know God and know myself
and grow perfect in the science of the Saints,
the Spirit of Piety
that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable,
and the Spirit of Fear
that I may be filled with a loving reverence
towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him.
Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples
and animate me in all things with Your Spirit.
Amen.

DATES FOR THE DIARY - NEW DATES ADDED!

Saturday 6th June - Stella Maris Pilgrimage to Holy Island
Friday 3rd July - Dipton Club with the Whistle Testers
Saturday 4th July - Indoor 'car boot' 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

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.

MASS FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

On Saturday 23rd May at 12noon in St Joseph's we have our annual Mass for the sick and housebound from our Family of Parishes.. During Mass the Sacrament of the sick will be celebrated. If you are ill and would benefit from the Sacrament of the sick, then please come along to this Mass and receive the Lord's healing in this great sacrament. Following Mass there will be refreshments in the meeting room,

STELLA MARIS - ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY ISLAND

***A FEW SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE ***

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 Seashouses 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.

FIRE EVACUATION

In the coming weeks there will be an **UNANNOUNCED** Fire Evacuation Drill at the end of Mass. The process will be as follows...

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.

BISHOP SÉAMUS CUNNINGHAM - 60 YEARS A PRIEST

On Saturday 20th June, Bishop Séamus will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at St Mary's, Sunderland, for his Diamond Jubilee. The Mass begins at 11.00am followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall. All are welcome!

FAITH REFERENCES

If you are applying for a job in a Catholic School and require a faith reference, would you please speak to Father Shaun in person, before putting his name down as a reference. This helps Father Shaun identify the person he is writing the reference for, and also so he knows to expect the reference request arriving.

SVP CAMP - HOLY ISLAND

Calling all young adults 18+. Do you have a week to spare to spend on Lindisfarne this Summer helping out at the Holy Island SVP Camp? Volunteers are needed to work alongside the children who stay in the SVP purpose-built centre on the island. Weeks, 3, 5 and 6 of the Summer have 60 children ready to have a great time rock pooling, walking, arts and crafting and enjoying outdoor activities but we need more helpers to ensure they have the best time!

- Week 3 Sat 1st August - 8th August
- Week 5 Sat 15th August - 22nd August
- Week 6 Sat 22nd - 29th August

If you are interested have a look at the website visit <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> or email Barbara Taws barbarat@svp.org.uk
All helpers receive training and will need to be DBS checked.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Today is World Communications Day and there will be a Retiring Collection Pope Leo XIV's message, titled "Preserving human voices and faces," focuses on the need to protect human dignity and authentic relationships in an age shaped by artificial intelligence and digital media. He stresses that technology must serve the human person—not replace or diminish what is uniquely human, such as real voices, faces, thinking, and relationships. He warns that the real challenge is not technological but human: if used poorly, digital tools risk weakening our ability to think, relate, and communicate authentically. Instead, he calls for responsible, discerning use of technology that safeguards truth, fosters genuine encounter, and keeps communication rooted in the richness of human identity.

ST BEDE'S OPEN DAY

To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our school opening, we are delighted to invite pupils, families, former students, and members of the community to our School Open Day on Saturday 27th June 10:00am – 2:00pm at the school site.

PROUD CATHOLICS

Our next meeting will be on 19th May at St Andrew's Worswick Street, NE1 6UW at 07:30pm. It is our Annual General Meeting where we come together to discuss the upcoming year for the group, any changes that would like to be made and democratically vote for members of the Committee. We would like as many of you to attend as possible so if you can make it, please come. There will be a Zoom link available for this meeting.

FIRE EXITS AROUND ST JOSEPH'S

Please could we remind you not to park in front of the steps by the Sacristy door or in front of the Church doors when using the car park. These areas need to be clear AT ALL TIMES in case we need to evacuate the Church in the event of a fire. Thank you for your understanding.

AMICI MEETING

There will be an Amici group meeting (lady's group) on Thursday 21st May at St Patrick's Church Dipton at 7pm. All ladies from our parishes are welcome.

LAUDATO SI'

To celebrate Laudato Si' Week, Mass for the Care of Creation is to be celebrated at 10.00 am on Saturday 23rd May at St Augustine's Church, 30 Coniscliffe Road, Darlington DL3 7RG.

The Diocesan Environmental Group wishes to extend an invitation to everyone in the Diocese to attend and to bring family and friends – everyone is welcome!

THANK YOU

St Patrick's May coffee morning raised £126.95 for parish funds. St Joseph's April coffee mornings raised £102.20 for the Clergy Training Fund.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Just a reminder that if you are fulfilling your ministry at Mass, to please come up to the Sanctuary as soon as the Lamb of God is being said or sung. Please do not wait until the end or half way through. Thank you.

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

Ushaw will be hosting a Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, starting at 3pm on Sunday 7th June in St. Cuthbert's Chapel. Weather permitting, the procession will go through Ushaw's beautiful gardens, returning to the Chapel for Benediction. Last year, more than 300 people attended this event, so arrangements are in place to help Ushaw to estimate numbers and plan accordingly. You do not need a ticket for this event, but there is a signup sheet available at the back of our churches, so that we can let Ushaw know in advance how many people intend to come.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

This year, after 18 years as Head Teacher at Dipton (2 of which were as executive Head Teacher at Stanley), we say "farewell" to Mrs Burgess, who is retiring. A special Mass will take place on Monday 13th July at 6.30pm in St Patrick's Church, followed by refreshments. All are welcome!

