

MASSTIMES AND INTENTIONS

3rd - 10th May 2026

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Dipton Stanley	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Partnership; Vera & Tommy Roddy People of the Partnership; Terry Taggart
Monday 4 th May	Dipton	10.00am	The Ryans, Walker, Hillas, Mulhearn & Lovell families
Tuesday 5 th May	Stanley	10.00am	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion
NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY			
Thursday 7 th May	Stanley	10.00am	Glenn Dimmick
Friday 8 th May	Dipton	10.00am	For a sick person
Saturday 9 th May	Stanley	12noon	First Holy Communion Mass For the intentions of the Children and their Families
6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Dipton Stanley Stanley	9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	People of the Partnership; Kevin McCormick and First Holy Communion of Charlotte People of the Partnership; Tom Hovvels & Toby & Ben Hall Rosary Procession and Benediction with the Diocesan Lourdes Hospitalité

LITURGICAL CALENDAR	
Monday	The English Martyrs (F)
Tuesday	Weekday of Easter
Wednesday	Weekday of Easter
Thursday	Weekday of Easter
Friday	Weekday of Easter
Saturday	Weekday of Easter
<i>M = Memorial F = Feast S = Solemnity</i>	

PARISHES CALENDAR THIS WEEK	
This Sunday	Coffee Morning (Dipton)
Saturday	First Holy Communion Mass (Stanley)
Next Sunday	First Holy Communion Mass (Dipton) Coffee Morning (Stanley)

Finance - 26 April 2026	Offertory Total	Standing Order	Little Sisters of the Poor
STANLEY	£368.51	£197.25	£170.10
DIPTON	£131.10	£172.85	£101.95

Future Collections: 3rd May - Sick & Retired Priests
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.

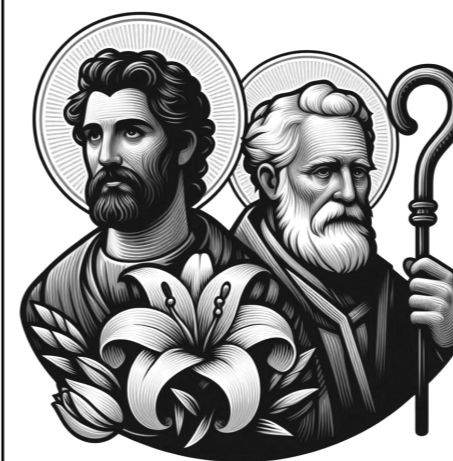
A GENTLE REMINDER...

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

3RD MAY 2026 - 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 6: 1-7 | Psalm 32 | 1 Peter 2: 4-9 | John 14: 1-12

For many years now the church has been quietly changing. In my youth the church was mainly a place of worship: there were numerous priests serving the community and the opportunity for lay service was limited. Today, the lay people are called more and more into service. The place of the priest at the centre of worship is still paramount but the lay people are called now into roles as Deacons, Ministers, Catechists and Volunteers by a church which recognises their contribution in both pastoral and spiritual dimensions.

This is nothing new. In today's first reading we hear that the apostles are being overwhelmed by the many calls on their time. The church was growing and those in positions of responsibility were finding it difficult to cope. One answer was to appoint deacons who would be responsible for the distribution of food and for the pastoral needs of the people. The second answer was for priests called from the temple to be part of the growing "Jesus" movement. From these beginnings we can see the infant structure of the church changing the lives of its believers; that response to emerging problems continues in our church today.

We must never forget that at the centre of our spiritual and pastoral life is Jesus, the cornerstone. Peter reminded his readers in his day and speaks to us today across the centuries. We are baptised as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession" and we are called to live out that role. The need for service in the church in all sorts of ways, humble and great, is growing and you are part of that need. Peter speaks of being "called out of darkness into his marvellous light". It is for each of us to share that light with those around us.

I find it comforting to know that the apostles, who were close companions of Jesus, always had questions and doubts. The questions they ask are questions I need the answers to: "Lord how can we know the way", "Lord show us the Father". John in this beautiful passage explains so much to us about Our Lord; John sees our doubts and questions and throughout his gospel he tries to reassure us. "There are many rooms" takes on a significance far beyond our local church; the words have a cosmic dimension which opens for us a vision of a church which has no boundaries to worship and service. This is the church of the first and the twenty first century.

David Frank.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

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

First Reading

Acts 6:1-7

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33(32):1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R22

Response: May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD.

Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you just; for praise is fitting from the upright. Give thanks to the LORD upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

The word of the LORD is upright, and all his works to be trusted. The LORD loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.

Yes, the LORD'S eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their soul from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Gospel

John 14:1-12

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 said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.'

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



'I am the WAY, and the TRUTH, and the LIFE. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

DATES FOR THE DIARY - NEW DATES ADDED!

Sunday 10th May - Rosary Procession and Benediction (Stanley)

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 **Margurita (Rita) Mary Mallet and Doreen Bailes**. Rita's funeral Liturgy will take place on **Monday 11th May at 10.15am** in St Joseph's followed by burial in Stanley Cemetery. Doreen's Funeral Liturgy will take place on **Tuesday 12th May at 11.45am** in Mountsett Crematorium.

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.

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.

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.

ROSARY PROCESSION AND BENEDICTION

Next Sunday at 3.00pm there will be a Rosary Procession and Benediction in St Joseph's, Stanley. This is being hosted jointly between our Family of Parishes and the Diocesan Lourdes Hospitalité as we commemorate 100 years since the first Diocesan Pilgrimage in 1926. Please come along and give a warm welcome to those who will join us from across the Diocese.

THANK YOU

Our pre-loved clothing sale raised £200 and the Easter raffle raised £525 for parish funds. Thank you to all involved in the organisation and to all who came along on the day.

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.

LECTURE AT HOLY NAME, JESMOND

'From Francis to Leo: the Catholic Church in a Change of Era' - When Pope Francis died a year ago, the Cardinals elected a Pope who would continue and deepen his reform, which they said was key to evangelizing today's world. This is what Francis and now Leo call "the change of era" -- a new apostolic age. In his lecture at the Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3JX on Saturday 16 May at 11am, Pope Francis biographer and noted Catholic journalist and commentator Dr Austen Ivereigh explains the nature of the Francis-Leo transition, how the Church is being called to change its way of operating, and why it matters for the future of faith in these islands. All are welcome, there is no charge and no booking is necessary.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

Role: Cleaner (Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill and St Mary's, Whickham)

Contract: Permanent

Salary: £3497 pro rata per annum

Hours: Part-time 5 hours per week

Working Pattern: Able to be negotiated at interview.

Location: Immaculate Heart of Mary, Malvern Gardens, Lobley Hill, Gateshead, NE11 9LL and

St. Mary, Dockendale Lane, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 4EN

How to apply: Please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/cleaner-7/>

Closing Date: 12:00 pm, 13/05/2026

Role: Cleaner (St Mary's Presbytery, Lobley Hill)

Contract: Permanent

Salary: £2447.9 pro rata per annum

Hours: Part-time 3.5 hours per week

Working Pattern: Able to be negotiated at interview.

Location: Immaculate Heart of Mary, Malvern Gardens, Lobley Hill, Gateshead, NE11 9LL

How to apply: Please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/cleaner-8/>

Closing Date: 12:00 pm, 13/05/2026.

USED STAMPS, MEDALS & JEWELLERY

If you have used postage stamps (any country or period), foreign currency (notes and coins from any country), broken or unwanted pieces of gold/ silver jewellery, military medals from any conflict and any old stamp albums – may be sent to David and Theresa O'Neill. David can be contacted on telephone 0191 264 5771 or email: david-oneill3@sky.com all proceeds go to help the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

GODFELLAS

The next meeting of the Godfellas will be on Tuesday 12th May at 7.00pm in St Joseph's meeting room.