

# Holy Family

## Roman Catholic Parish

St Mary's, St John Vianney's, St Patrick's and St Joseph's Churches

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle



### Parish Diary — Week beginning 14th December 2025

\*Live stream: [www.youtube.com/@HolyFamilyHartlepool](http://www.youtube.com/@HolyFamilyHartlepool)

Date	Feast	Saint Joseph's	Saint Patrick's	Saint John Vianney's	Saint Mary's
Saturday 13th December	(Vigil) 3rd Sunday of Advent	3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Jamie Liy Anniversary		6.00pm Mass Susan Hay	
Sunday 14th December	3rd Sunday of Advent	10.30am Mass Special Intention (80th Birthday)	9.00am Mass Kathleen Nicolson		
Monday 15th December		10.00am Funeral Service Pat Waterland 6.00pm Exposition & Confessions 6.30pm Mass Michael Windram Anniversary			
Tuesday 16th December		12.05pm Mass Joseph Allen Hayes 6.00pm Secondary Schools Carol Service		10.30am Requiem Mass Mary Stott	
Wednesday 17th December		4.00pm Primary Schools Carol Service		9.30am Mass Thanksgiving to Our Blessed Lady	
Thursday 18th December			10.00am Requiem Mass Norma Twydale 2.00pm Funeral Service Anthony Frain		
Friday 19th December		12.05pm Mass Deceased Members of the Banks & Blacklock Families 6.30pm Reconciliation Service			
Saturday 20th December	(Vigil) 4th Sunday of Advent	11.30am - 1.30pm Baptisms 3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Brigid Carroll Anniversary		6.00pm Mass Michael Linighan	
Sunday 21st December	4th Sunday of Advent	10.30am Mass Glover, Spalding, Best & O'Donnell Families	9.00am Mass Edith Henderson		

#### SCHOOL MASSES

No School Masses this week

#### Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, in Baptism You called us by name and made us members of Your family, the Church. Help all people to know their vocation in life and to respond by living a life of holiness. For Your greater glory and for the service of Your people, raise up dedicated and generous men who will serve as priests for the Church of Hexham and Newcastle. Send Your Spirit to guide and strengthen our communities, our seminarians and all who are discerning their vocation. Amen.

### Parish Clergy

#### Parish Priest

Very Rev. Canon Paul Douthwaite  
BA Hons PGCE

✉ [pp.holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:pp.holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk)

☎ 01429 272985

Deacon Jeff Parkes

✉ [jeff.parkes@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:jeff.parkes@diocesehn.org.uk)

### Parish Office

#### Secretary

Laura Dolan

✉ [holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk)

☎ 01429 866288

**Opening Hours**  
10am - 2pm  
Monday to Friday

Parish Centre  
Grosvenor Street  
Hartlepool  
TS26 8DP

### Churches

#### St Joseph's

St Paul's Road  
TS26 9EY

#### St Patrick's

Owton Manor Lane  
TS25 3QG

#### St John Vianney's

King Oswy Drive  
West View Estate  
TS24 9LX

#### St Mary's

Durham Street  
TS24 0HD

### Weekly Groups

Sun: After 9am Mass  
Coffee Morning @ St Patrick's Hall

Sun: After 10.30am Mass  
Coffee Morning @ Parish Centre Hall

Mon: 11am-12pm  
Praise & Worship Prayer Group  
@ Nazareth Room, Parish Centre

Tues: 12.30pm-2.30pm  
Lunch Club @ Parish Centre Hall

Tues: 1pm-3pm  
Over 60s Club @ St Patrick's Hall

2nd Sat of Month: After 6pm Mass  
Coffee Evening @ St John Vianney's

# THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE** - Please save these dates for your diary over the Christmas period.

Date	Time	Service	Church
Tues 16 Dec	6pm	Secondary Schools Carol Service	St Joseph's
Wed 17 Dec	4pm	Primary Schools Carol Service	St Joseph's
Fri 19 Dec	6.30pm	Reconciliation Service	St Joseph's
Wed 24 Dec	4pm	First Mass of Christmas	St J.V.'s
Wed 24 Dec	4pm	First Mass of Christmas	St Joseph's
Wed 24 Dec	6pm	First Mass of Christmas	St Patrick's
Thurs 25 Dec	10am	Christmas Day Mass	St Joseph's
Sat 27 Dec	11am	Altar Servers Mass	St Joseph's
Thurs 1 Jan	11am	Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God	St Joseph's

**ALTAR SERVERS** - Our Christmas Practice will be on Monday 22nd December, 2pm at St Patrick's, 3pm at St John Vianney's, and 4pm at St Joseph's.

**JUBILEE 2025** - The opening times of the Holy Door this week are as follows:

**Monday: 6pm – 7pm**  
**Tuesday: 11.30am – 12.30pm**  
**Wednesday & Thursday: By appointment only**  
**Friday: 11.30am – 12.30pm**  
**Saturday: 2.30pm – 5pm**  
**Sunday: 9.30am – 12pm**

**CLOSING MASS OF THE HOLY YEAR** - Bishop Stephen will be celebrating the closing of the Holy Year with Mass at St Joseph's on 6th January at 6.30pm.

**HOLY FAMILY PARISH CHOIR** - For special occasions, such as the closing Mass of the Holy Year, we are hoping to establish a parish choir. The inaugural practice for anyone who would like to be part of the choir will take place at St Joseph's Church on 22nd December at 7pm, after the evening Mass.

**ALTAR SERVERS MASS** - Traditionally, a Mass is celebrated around the Feast of St Stephen, the Patron Saint of Altar Servers. We will have an Altar Servers Mass on Saturday 27th December at 11.00am at St Joseph's Church. This will be a celebration for all of the servers of the parish, an opportunity to enrol new servers into the Guild of Saint Stephen and to thank our servers for their faithful service at the altar. Please do join us for this celebration.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** - Application forms for infant Baptism are available at the back of each Church. Please return completed forms to the parish office and come along to a Preparation Meeting to secure your booking. The next Preparation Meeting is on 7th January at 6pm, in the Parish Centre Hall at St Joseph's.

**CHRISTMAS CANDLE INTENTIONS** - Each of the Churches of our Parish will be illuminated over the Christmas period with candles representing the intentions of our parish community. The Candle Intentions will be received at the back of each Church of our Parish until the 18th December inclusive. A donation of at least £3 to cover the cost of the candle is suggested. Lists will be available at the back of each church of our parish.

**LOURDES PILGRIMAGE** - Summer 2026 is the 100th Pilgrimage of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle. The pilgrimage will take place between Friday 31 July to Friday 7 August 2026. If you would like any more information about the pilgrimage, please visit the Facebook page: Hexham and Newcastle Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The pilgrimage organisers are also looking for young people (16+) to register as youth helpers. If any young people of our parish would be interested in taking up this opportunity, there may be some sponsorship available, please speak with Canon Paul.

**PIETY STALLS** - We have a lovely range of Christmas cards, calendars and gifts available at the back of church. We also have Catholic Diaries for 2026. Please visit the stalls, before or after Mass, to view and purchase any items.

**CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB** - Thank you to everyone who supported the Savings Club this year. We raised a massive total of £2327 for Holy Family Parish. The Club will restart on Sunday 4th January 2026. Many thanks.

**DAILY READINGS FOR ADVENT 2025** - Advent is a time of preparation and to reflect, and hold onto, the messages of hope, peace, joy and love which God promised to us in the birth of Christ Jesus. Members of our Diocesan Writing Team offer this Advent resource to help guide a daily space for reading of the Scripture, reflection and prayer. In it you will find a reflection based on the theme of each week of Advent and an easy-to-follow reference to the readings for each day. The reflections will be available to view and download on the homepage of the Diocesan website [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk).

**ST JOHN VIANNEY COFFEE EVENING** - This month, our coffee evening will not be on the 2nd Sunday of the month, instead it will be on Saturday 20th December, following the Vigil Mass. Apologies for the late notice.

**SANTO NIÑO** - A Novena to Santo Niño will begin on Thursday 15th January, and will continue daily concluding on 23rd January. Everyone is welcome to join us in prayer. The Feast of Santo Niño will be celebrated in Hartlepool with a Mass at 10.30am in St Joseph's Church on Sunday 25th January.

## Mass of Peace

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.  
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
 we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

**PARISH DONATIONS** - Anyone wishing to provide regular giving, you can instruct your bank to set up a standing order using these details:  
 Beneficiary: DHN Holy Family Hartlepool      Account Number: 11173928      Sort Code: 40-34-45



We are also able to take contactless donations. Please scan the QR code on the left to make a one-off donation, or use our digital collection plate at the back of St Joseph's Church.  
**Thank you.**

Gift Aid adds 25% to your donation at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK tax payer and wish to join the scheme, please scan the QR code on the right, or contact Laura in the Parish Office. The Parish benefits greatly from those who are members of the scheme.  
**Many thanks.**



**UPCOMING COLLECTIONS** - Our next collection for the work of the SVP will be on 14th December.

## This Sundays Readings

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**First reading:** Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

**‘God himself will come and save you.’**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Response:** Come, Lord, and save us.

**Second Reading:** James 5:7-10

**‘Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.’**

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

he Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

Alleluia.

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 11:2-11

**‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’**

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’

And Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.

‘What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

‘Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

## REFLECTION

Advent is a time for watching. To everything there comes a time; in springtime the crocus and the daffodil tell us that summer is on its way, in autumn the falling leaves and the migrating birds tell us that winter is near. Advent is about watching for the signs of the times; we watch in hope, in anticipation and in joy. Today is Gaudete Sunday. This is the day when we take a break from the long preparation for the coming of the Christ Child and rejoice that He is so near.

When you live in a country which is nearly all desert you watch for the signs of nature. Crops will only grow if the seed is sown at the right time and if rain and sun will follow the sowing and bring forth a harvest. The people of Israel had waited a long time. They had the vision of Isaiah, which we share today, to sustain them through the long dry spell of history when nothing would grow and their nation suffered from powerful enemies. Isaiah's words are full of the joy of dreams being fulfilled; the coming of Christ was that fulfilment but how would the people know that He is the Messiah?

John the Baptist was imprisoned because he spoke out against the actions of King Herod. During his time in prison, he must have felt depressed and disillusioned. He loved the freedom of the open air, the wide clear skies of the desert places. He must have felt like a bird caught in a cage, deprived of his freedom. In his despair he asks for a sign that the Messiah was indeed walking the land. When he is told that the blind see, the deaf hear and the lame walk again he recognised the words of Isaiah in the work of Jesus, the one he baptised in the Jordan and John is then content to wait in joy for the coming of the Kingdom.

James asks us to be patient; Christ will be along soon, don't despair but be prepared. Patience is a gift that is sorely lacking in our world of today; we want everything and we want it now. We need to find a way to enjoy the waiting; to be good to ourselves and our neighbours just for today is not sufficient, we must find a way to make goodness a way of life.

David Frank

Daily Readings





# OUR PRAYERS

**The sick of the Parish:** Annie Airey, Stephen Anderson, Maureen Andrews, Neil Apedaile, Pat Baker, Kathleen Barlow, Carole Bew, Michael Blackford, Dennis Bratt, Ronnie Burnett, Kay Burns, Sarah Carroll, Rita Charlton, Michael Conroy, Daniel Cosby, Betty Crane, James Daley, Neil Davis, Louise Dixon, Teresa Falkingham, Grace Fallow, David Frank, Lorraine Galen, Dorothy Geen, Terence Gollogly, Catherine Gray, Mary Harris, Andrew Haygarth, Jamie Hitchen, Bella Hoey, Muriel Howe, Molly Hughes, Nora Humble, Carol Hutchinson, Trish Jeffries, Peter Johnson, Christine Jones, Ceilia King, Isobel Knowles, Maureen Maguire, Baby Pippa Marie, Vera Marriott, Brenda Mathews, Ian Matthews, Owen McEneaney, Fr Seamus McGivern, Jim McKenna, Christopher Mghee, Peter McNaughton, Paul Moore, Ann Mullins, Pat Ness, Kitty Newstead, June Nolan, Sylvice Notrianni, Joe O'Connor, Myra Pattison, Carol Price, Mary Reed, Pam Robertson, Eric Robinson, Joseph Robinson, Paula Rogers, Jane Roocroft, Kathleen Royds, Hilda Ryan, Agnes Scully, Michael Christopher Sheeran, Corazon Simpson, Marie Spindlow, Matthew Steel, Brenda Stott, Brett Swain, Gail Symington, Melvin Thackeray, Christopher Thomas, Lynsey Todd, Kieran Turnbull, John Twydale, Jonathon Vokes, Julie Wallace, Margaret Watt, Edith Wilson, Jeff Wright, Margaret Wright. *Through our prayers may the healing presence of Christ be with them at this time.*

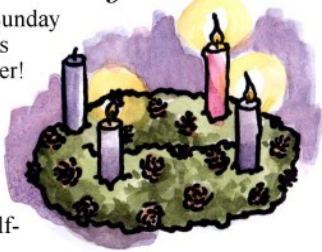
**Recently Deceased:** Pat Waterland, Mary Stott, Norma Twydale, Anthony Frain, Roland Thompson. *May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.*

**Anniversaries that occur at this time:** Bernard John (Bernie), Nellie Bushnall, Arthur Huntley, Michael Windram, Fred Evans, Stephen Tierney, John Dobing, George Hoey, Edgar Stabler, Vincent Butler, Margaret Peart, Elizabeth Neil, Emily Hammerton, James Pender, James Kilrairie, Brenda McGarry, James Pender, Mary Louise Parpa, Mark Linighan, Elsie Close, Patricia Measor, James Gormley, Pauline Taylor, Brigid Carroll, Maurice (Moss) Costello, Fr Joe Travers, John (Curly) Goulding, Eileen Wright, Elizabeth (Liz) Horwood, Kathleen Waugh, Anne Wilkinson, Julia Selina Bosworth, William Spence, Dorothy Birkbeck, Doreen Miller, Fr Kevin Daly, Richard Jacques, John K Judson, Sandra Priestley, Elise Morrison, Evelyn Ryan, Raymond Crawford, Glen Watson, James Duffy, Pat Watson, Elizabeth Cooper, Mrs. A. Robertson, David S Murray, Joan Hall, John Dobing, Kathleen Pickering, Josephine Ibbitson, Peter Measor, Marlene Muers, Audrey Weegram, Louis Martin, Mary Parpa, Joan Burke, Kathleen Gray, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.*

## Kids Corner:

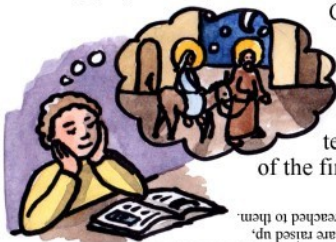
### *Advent is Half Over!*

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. That means that half the wait is over! If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. Pink is a symbol the joy we have because we're half-way to Christmas.



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the people that John the Baptist was a prophet and messenger. A prophet is someone who tells the truth. In the Old Testament the prophets told God's people the truth about God. Saint John was a prophet because he told the people that the Messiah, or saviour, was coming soon, and that they needed to repent of their sins.

Saint John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance. You can help prepare for Christmas by thinking and talking about how Jesus came to earth on the first Christmas. Can you tell somebody the story of the first Christmas today?



Answer to front page: St. John was in prison. Answer to match up puzzle: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.

[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)

## The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14th, 2025



*Saint John the Baptist was the messenger who prepared the world for Jesus' coming.*

*Where was he in today's Gospel reading?  
Connect the dots to find out!  
Then you can finish colouring in the picture.*