

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 September 2025

*Live stream: www.youtube.com/@HolyFamilyHartlepool

Date	Feast	Saint Joseph's*	Saint Patrick's	Saint John Vianney's	Saint Mary's
Saturday 13th September	(Vigil) The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	11.30am Baptisms 3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Jimmy Marshall	12.30pm Baptisms	6.00pm Mass David Lyth Thanksgiving for Heart Transplant 31 years	
Sunday 14th September	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	10.30am Mass Jimmy Dobing Anniversary	9.00am Mass Kath Foster		
Monday 15th September	Our Lady of Sorrows	6.00pm Exposition & Confessions 6.30pm Mass Christine Hansell Birthday Remembrance			
Tuesday 16th September	SS Cornelius & Cyprian	12.05pm Mass Sheila Cope			
Wednesday 17th September				10.00am Mass at Hartfields Retirement Village The Wellbeing of Sally Vokes	
Thursday 18th September			9.30am Mass Mark Twydale Birthday Remembrance		
Friday 19th September		12.05pm Mass Jane McEaney 2nd Anniversary		9.00am Requiem Mass Jean Byrne	
Saturday 20th September	(Vigil) 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.30am Baptisms 12.00pm Wedding 2.00pm Wedding 3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Ted & Mary Hitchen		6.00pm Mass Thelma Strickland	
Sunday 21st September	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.30am Mass Bowron & Lannon Family	9.00am Mass Luis Ghaut		

SCHOOL MASSES

St Bega's

Monday 15th September - 9.30am Mass

St Joseph's

Tuesday 16th September - 9.30am Mass

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

☎ 01429 272985

Deacon Jeff Parkes

✉ jeff.parkes@diocesehn.org.uk

Parish Office

Secretary

Laura Dolan

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☎ 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

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

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 Wednesday 1st October at 6pm, in the Parish Centre Hall at St Joseph's.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026 - The parents meeting for those children who applied before the summer holidays is on Wednesday 17th September at 6.30pm in St Joseph's Church.

GIFT AID ENVELOPE NO 9 - Due to an administrative error, we need the holder of Gift Aid Envelope No 9 to contact the Parish Office to confirm your details. Sorry for the inconvenience. Many thanks, Dave Frank

PARKING AT ST JOSEPH'S - If parking in St Joseph's car park is unavailable, the nearest parking is available on Hutton Avenue or the Medical Centre car park. Please note that parking is done at your own discretion, and you must abide by parking regulations as set by the council.

BEFRIENDERS - Members of the SVP have been visiting residents in local care homes, offering companionship and support. We're currently updating our list and would love to know if you have a family member or friend in a care home who would appreciate a visit. Perhaps you yourself may be interested in joining us to visit care home residents yourself? It's a rewarding way to share kindness and brighten someone's day. If you have someone in mind or would like to get involved, please speak to Deacon Jeff, contact the parish office, or speak to any SVP member.

ENGLISH MARTYRS NOTICE - On Wednesday 24th September, English Martyrs School will be hosting a Macmillan Coffee morning. Join us at school from 10.30am, we would love for the Parishioners of Holy Family to come and join our EMS community.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY - Next Sunday is Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (formerly Home Mission Sunday). A collection will be taken.

WALSINGHAM 2025 "REUNION" - We warmly invite all those who joined this year's Walsingham Pilgrimage to a shared buffet lunch this Sunday, 14th September, at 2pm in the Parish Centre Hall at St Joseph's. Whether sweet or savoury, store bought or homemade, please bring a dish to share; tea and coffee will be provided. It'll be lovely to get everyone together again!

MISSING CHEQUES - Due to a banking error, cheques paid in over the weekend of 15th June have not been processed. If you gave a cheque around that time, please check your bank account to see whether it has been cashed. If it has not been processed, kindly contact the parish office as soon as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

ALIVE IN HOPE: A CHURCH FOR MISSION - Bishop Stephen invites you to a Jubilee Day on Saturday 27th September, from 10am to 3pm, at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead. This is an opportunity to connect with old friends and new, and to celebrate our diocesan family as we explore what a Church in Mission invites us to be and do! There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a prayer space in the chapel, and praise and worship led by Durham musicians 'Set A Fire'. Registration and refreshments from 9.15am, but please bring a packed lunch. Ample parking is available and entry is FREE but please register at <https://bit.ly/DHNAlive25>.

NORTHERN CROSS - Our local team of volunteers are looking for a Holy Family car-owning parishioner willing to help for part of an afternoon once a month. We would love to hear from anyone willing to deliver Northern Cross parcels to HF parish office and four other church drops in Billingham and Stockton each month, starting October. Please email: admin@northerncross.org.uk or phone 01429 264625 to discuss the details.

Mass of Christ the Saviour

*Glory to God. Glory to God. Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace on earth, peace to people of good will.*

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly king, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand,
the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes, who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, 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 to make a one-off donation, or use our digital collection plate at the back of St Joseph's Church.

Thank you.

First reading: Numbers 21:4b-9

‘If anyone were bitten by a serpent, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.’

In those days: The people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.’ Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.’ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Response: Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

‘He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him.’

Christ Jesus, 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:

Alleluia, alleluia.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17

‘The Son of Man must be lifted up.’

At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, ‘No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.’

REFLECTION

Today we have a special feast which is celebrated on September 14th each year but only falls on a Sunday when that date falls on the Sabbath Day. According to Christian tradition, the True Cross was discovered in 326 during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem by St Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was then built in Jerusalem at the site of the discovery. On this day we are called to reflect on the Cross of Christ and the sacrifice that Our Lord and Saviour made to free us from the chains of our sins.

In today's first reading we find ourselves in the desert with the Israelites on our way to the promised land. The journey was long, and the people grumbled to Moses about the conditions and the time taken for the journey. They complained that God had forsaken them. God punished the people with a plague of snakes whose bite was poisonous and many perished. Moses called on the Lord for mercy and God relented. He asked Moses to set up, on a pole, an image of the serpent and promised that everyone who looked upon this symbol would live. There is great symbolism in this story. Jesus himself was raised up before the people in His crucifixion and if we gaze at his image and believe, then we too will be healed and saved.

The passage from Paul is an Affirmation of Faith, a prayer which summarises for the reader the belief in Christ as the Son of God. Saint Paul emphasizes the humanity of Christ and his subsequent exaltation of His divinity by God the Father. Crucifixion was seen as a punishment by the people but Paul in his preaching changed the emphasis from punishment to glorification so that we should bend the knee and confess with our tongues that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The discussion between Jesus and Nicodemus can be seen as the meeting of the Old Testament and the New as Jesus explains to Him, through the scriptures, that the Son of Man must be raised up, must suffer, to bring people to faith in God. The passage emphasises that God is a God of Love and that through the sacrifice of Jesus all people may be brought to believe in Him and be saved.

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, Catherine Fawcett, Lorraine Galen, Dorothy Geen, David Geen, Catherine Gray, Mary Harris, Andrew Haygarth, Jamie Hitchen, Bella Hoey, Muriel Howe, Molly Hughes, 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, Pam Robertson, Eric Robinson, Joseph Robinson, Paula Rogers, Kathleen Royds, Hilda Ryan, Agnes Scully, Michael Christopher Sheeran, Corazon Simpson, Marie Spindlow, Matthew Steel, Brenda Stott, Brett Swain, Gail Symington, Melvin Thackeray, Lynsey Todd, Kieran Turnbull, John Twydale, Norma 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: Jean Byrne, Thomas Hammond. **May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.**

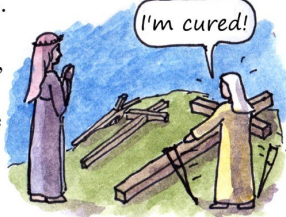
Anniversaries that occur at this time: Laura Jane Relton, Anne Patricia Maughan, Duncan Burdon, Mary Hegarty, Ted Leck, Tony Bentham, Julie Talbot, Michael Collins, Peggy Bentham, Michelle Joynt, James (Jimmy) Dobing, James Glover, Vincent Price, Anne Marie Garthwaite, George Dixon, Ann Horsley, Veronica Thomas, Mary Jukes, Ann Sheridan, Mary Morrow, Olive Carter, George Imray, Mark Proudlock, John Patrick Burns, Peter John Hughes, Fr Owen Murray, Michael Cawley, Stanley Lythe, Jack Fitzgerald, James William Lilley, 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:

The Holy Cross

Today we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation, or Triumph, of the Holy Cross on which Our Lord died. The cross was an instrument of torture used to punish criminals and to show other people what would happen to them too, if they broke the Roman laws. Our Lord used the cross for a different reason though. He offered His sufferings on the cross to repay for the sins of everyone else in the world. He died in a place where many people could see Him so that they could see and know how much He loves us.

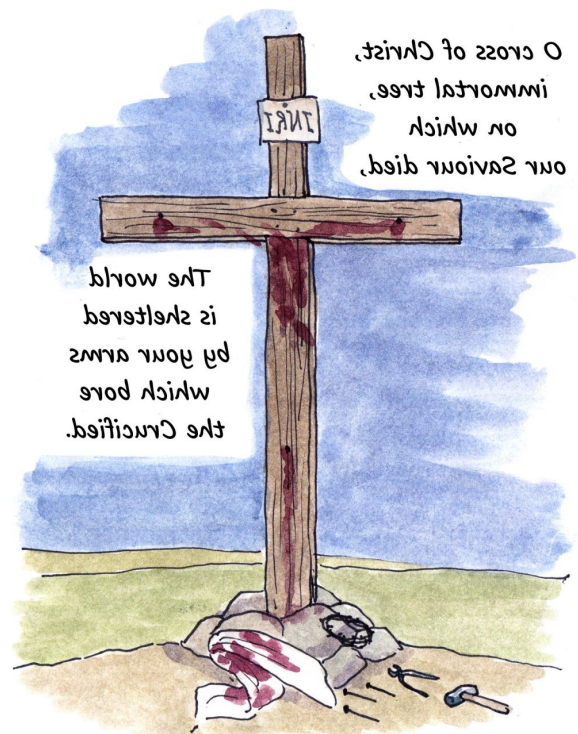
In the 300's AD, St. Helena, who was a Christian queen, went to Jerusalem to find the cross of Jesus. She found three crosses there so she decided to test to see which was Christ's. A very sick woman touched each cross. When she touched the third one she was healed instantly! They had found the cross of Christ!



In hoc signo, vinces! Saint Helena's son Constantine was not a Christian yet, but when he was about to go to war he had a vision of the cross and heard the words "In this sign you shall conquer!" So he had crosses drawn on all the flags and shields, and he won the battle. Then he believed in Jesus and became a Christian.

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
September 14th, 2025



Today is a special feast day when we celebrate the cross on which Jesus died. Look in the mirror to find the words of a hymn that tells us about what the cross means to us.