

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 15th March 2026

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

Date	Feast	Saint Joseph's*	Saint Patrick's	Saint John Vianney's	Saint Mary's
Saturday 14th March	(Vigil) 4th Sunday of Lent	3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Joseph Allen Hayes Birthday Remembrance		6.00pm Mass Ken Bulley	
Sunday 15th March	4th Sunday of Lent	10.30am Mass Andrew Smart Anniversary	9.00am Mass Mary O'Connor		
Monday 16th March		6.00pm Exposition & Confessions 6.30pm Mass Margaret & Frank Costello			
Tuesday 17th March	St Patrick	12.00pm Requiem Mass Brenda Stott	6.30pm Titular Feast Day Mass Fr. Tom Cunningham		
Wednesday 18th March			6.30pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction	9.30am Mass Bernadette Jackson 11.00am Funeral Service Peter Austin	
Thursday 19th March	St Joseph	9.30am Titular Feast Day Mass Stephen Herring Birthday Remembrance			
Friday 20th March	St Cuthbert	12.05pm Mass Thanksgiving to St Jude & St Rita			
Saturday 21st March	(Vigil) 5th Sunday of Lent	12.30pm Baptisms 3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Joe & Jean Nealon & Family	11.30am Baptism	6.00pm Mass Thanksgiving to Our Blessed Lady for a Successful Operation	
Sunday 22nd March	5th Sunday of Lent	10.30am Mass Peter & Annie Allen	9.00am Mass Barry & James Parkes		

SCHOOL MASSES

St Bega's

Tuesday 17th March - 9.30am Mass

St Cuthbert's

Friday 20th March - 9.30am Feast Day 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

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Deacon Jeff Parkes

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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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Throughout Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross and Benediction in our parish on a Wednesday evening. Please see below timetable for location. This year, at the Easter Vigil, we will welcome a number of new members into our community of faith. For this reason, it will not be possible to celebrate two Easter Vigils. So each Church of our Parish can have a Mass on Easter Sunday, the times of the regular Sunday Masses will be adjusted slightly for Easter Sunday only.

Date	Service	Church	Time
18/03/2026	Stations of the Cross & Benediction	St Patrick's	6.30pm
25/03/2026	Stations of the Cross & Benediction	St John Vianney's	6.30pm
01/04/2026	Chrism Mass	St Mary's Cathedral Newcastle	11.00am
01/04/2026	Stations of the Cross & Benediction	St Joseph's	6.30pm
Maundy Thursday 02/04/2026	Mass of the Lord's Supper	St Joseph's	7.00pm
Good Friday 03/04/2026	Solemn Passion of the Lord	St Joseph's	3.00pm
Holy Saturday 04/04/2026	Easter Vigil Mass	St Joseph's	6.00pm
Easter Sunday 05/04/2026	Easter Sunday Mass	St Patrick's	8.30am
	Easter Sunday Mass	St Joseph's	10.00am
	Easter Sunday Mass	St John Vianney's	11.30am

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS - As a parish we will gather at the Parish Centre Hall on Friday 3rd April, at 10.15am, and walk to Victory Square for a short service of witness at 10.30am. After the service, we will return to the Parish Centre for refreshments.

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 April at 6pm, in the Parish Centre Hall at St Joseph's.

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT SOCIAL - Join us in St Patrick's Hall this Friday at 7pm for a hearty serving of mince and dumplings and good company. Tickets are £5, with a sign-up sheet at the back of church. As we may not be able to cater for all dietary needs, anyone wishing to bring their own meal is very welcome for a discounted ticket price of £2. We hope you can join us for a warm, fun and friendly evening.

RAFFLE PRIZES - If you have any prizes for upcoming social, please leave them with Laura in the Parish Office. Thank You.

LOURDES AMBASSADORS - The Diocesan Lourdes Hospitalité are asking that every parish nominate a Lourdes Ambassador. The ambassador does not have to be an active member of the Hospitalité or currently travelling with the annual pilgrimage. If you would like to volunteer for this role, please speak to Canon Paul.

PARISH CHOIR - In preparation for the Holy Week liturgies, there will be a choir practice at 7pm on Monday 30th March at St Joseph's, and a further practice on Thursday 2nd April at 5pm.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - Thank you for attending the first meeting on Tuesday. As a reminder, the next two meeting dates agreed are Tuesday 24th March at 6.30pm, and Tuesday 14th April at 6.30pm.

200 CLUB - Annual subscriptions are due (£25). The Club is always open to new members. The subscription can be paid yearly, half yearly or quarterly. Each month we draw prizes of £150, £100, £50. If you would like to join, let Laura know in the Parish Office, one of the organisers will be in touch with you. Many thanks to our supporters.

GIFT AID - Envelopes will be distributed across the following Masses: Saturday 14th March Vigil in St John Vianney's, and Sunday 22nd March in St Joseph's. We are unable to issue envelopes for those who are not in the scheme. To join the scheme, follow the instructions at the bottom of this page.

MASS REQUESTS - While we will do our best to accommodate your request, we cannot guarantee the availability of specific dates so we must ask for generous notice. If no date is requested or your requested date is unavailable, Masses will be said in the order they are received.

RED MISSION BOXES - Please empty your box into a bag with your name and address on, and bring it either to the parish office or to Mass to be counted. Thank you very much for your support.

ALTAR SERVERS - In preparation for Holy Week, there will be a practice for all servers who will be assisting at the ceremonies on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. The Practice will be on Saturday 28th March, at 10am in St Joseph's Church.

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 taken on 22nd March 2026.

First reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

David is anointed king of Israel.

In those days: The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

'Arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Gospel Reading: John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

'He went and washed and received his sight.'

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him.

Faith can cause struggle and turmoil; it can literally turn your world upside down. It is a powerful force changing your life and can lead you down unexpected ways where beauty and ugliness exist side by side in disharmony. It is God given, a measure of the love He has for every part of His Creation. It can find us in anywhere in our busy lives or prove elusive as we seek to find meaning. It brings light into even the darkest corners and, when it begins to grow, it leads us towards a place of peace. Faith never leaves us, even in the darkest hour it waits patiently until we are ready to move on.

Faith had a major impact of the life of David. He was raised from a young shepherd boy to be King of the people of Israel. His life was never a simple easy passage. At times, he fell from God's favour because he was human and suffered from the frailties that effect all of us. He made and lost friendships, he was loved and hated, he was a saint and a sinner. He was human. Sometimes blinded by circumstances he turned away from God, but God chose him to be His anointed one and was always waiting for him to open his eyes and see clearly again.

Paul is an example of how faith in Christ can change people. A devout Jew he upheld the principles of the Law against a blasphemous sect, formed by the Nazarene, Jesus, and persecuted them without pity. Struck blind on the road to Damascus his eyes of faith were opened by Christ, and he became the Apostles to the Gentiles. Today he reminds us that "You were darkness once, but you are light in the Lord", a phrase spoken from the depths of his heart as he pleads to the Ephesians to become "children of light" and "try to discover what the Lord wants of you". John's Gospel builds on our need to find firm ground for our faith to grow. His words give an insight into faith through human stories woven into his Gospel. The passage of the Blind man speaks to us at all sorts of levels. We begin in the spittle and dust of healing and move, in the company of the blind man, through the stirrings of his faith, to rejection by family, neighbours and authorities until he emerges from his journey and sees the Lord, perhaps clearly for the first time, and comes out of the darkness into the light of faith.

David Frank

Daily Readings



