

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 16th August 2026

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

Date	Feast	Saint Joseph's*	Saint Patrick's	Saint John Vianney's	Saint Mary's
Saturday 15th August	(Vigil) Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	11.30am Baptisms 3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Charles & Elizabeth Hewitt	12.30pm Baptisms	6.00pm Mass Lawrence & Doreen Coulton	
Sunday 16th August	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.30am Mass Marie & Alan Ferguson	9.00am Mass Ann Parkinson		
Monday 17th August		6.00pm Exposition & Confessions 6.30pm Mass Emily McPartland			
Tuesday 18th August		10.00am Funeral Service Edward Hills 12.05pm Mass Susan Lynas Scott			
Wednesday 19th August				9.30am Mass Lynn Ryan 10.30am Funeral Service Andrew Dagg	
Thursday 20th August	St Bernard		9.30am Mass Shirley Burton		
Friday 21st August	Dedication of St Mary's Cathedral	12.05pm Mass Maureen & John Bailey			
Saturday 22nd August	(Vigil) 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Michael Fearon		6.00pm Mass Hilda Smith	
Sunday 23rd August	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.30am Mass Nora Garthwaite Birthday Remembrance	9.00am Mass Paul Lennard		

Parish Clergy

Parish Priest

Very Rev. Canon Paul Douthwaite
BA Hons PGCE KHS

✉ pp.holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk

☎ 01429 272985

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Father Joseph O'Brien
STB JCL

✉ pv.holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk

☎ 07838247492

Parish Deacon

Rev. Deacon Jeff Parkes

✉ jeff.parkes@diocesehn.org.uk

Parish Office

Secretary

Laura Dolan

✉ holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk

☎ 01429 866288

📍 Parish Office
Grange Road
Hartlepool
TS26 8JE

Opening Hours
10am - 2pm
Monday to Friday

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: 10.30am-11.30am Praise & Worship Prayer Group Nazareth Room, Parish Centre	Restarting 8th September Lunch Club	Tues: 1pm-3pm Over 60s Club St Patrick's Hall	2nd Sat of Month: After 6pm Mass Coffee Evening St John Vianney's
--	---	---	---	---	---

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.

✉ holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk

🌐 www.holyfamilyhartlepool.org

✉ @HolyFamilyHP

📘 HolyFamilyHartlepool

📺 @HolyFamilyHartlepool

THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027 - The programme is now closed for applications, thank you to all who applied. Over the summer holidays, we'll be working on finalising a plan and schedule based on the number of applicants. All the details will be confirmed and shared at the parents meeting on Wednesday 16th September at 6.30pm in St Joseph's Church.

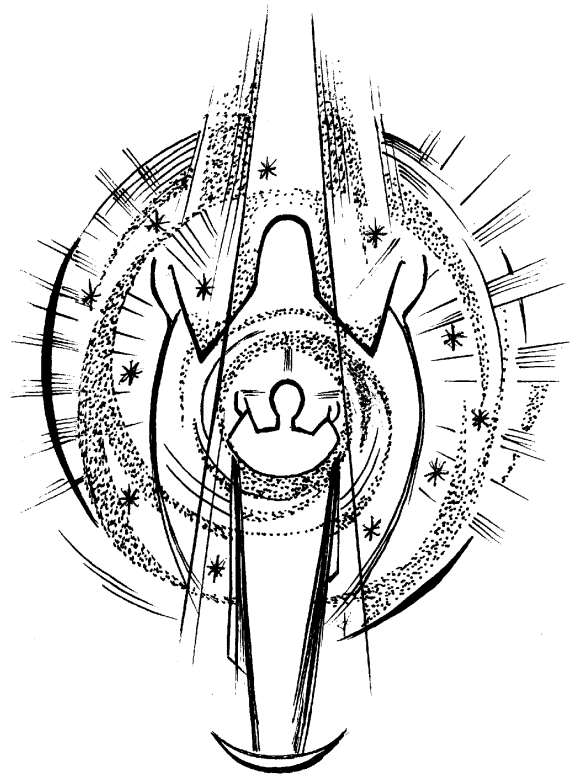
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - Application forms for infant Baptism are available at the back of each Church. Please return completed forms to the parish office and come along to a Preparation Meeting to secure your booking. The next Preparation Meeting is on Wednesday 9th September at 6pm, in the Parish Centre Hall at St Joseph's.

HARTLEPOOL FOODBANK - Bins are available at the back of our churches, taking donations for Hartlepool Foodbank. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

CHURCH GREETING ASSISTANCE - As you will be aware, we have a number of people who greet people on entering the churches of our parish at the Sunday Masses. This is a very important ministry of welcome. We would like to extend this ministry to other liturgical celebration which take place in our churches. Particularly, we would be grateful if anyone could volunteer, on a rota basis, to welcome people attending the Baptisms at St Joseph's on Saturdays. If you wish to volunteer, please contact the parish office.

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. There is often greater availability for Mass intentions at some of our churches, which may allow your intention to be offered sooner. If no date is requested or your requested date is unavailable, Masses will be said in the order they are received.

200 CLUB - Quarterly subs (£6.25) are due. 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, and one of the organisers will be in touch with you. Many thanks to our supporters.



Mass of Peace

Glory to God in the highest, and 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 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.
Amen, Amen, Amen.

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 is on Sunday 30th August, for the work of the SVP in Hartlepool.

First reading: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

‘A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet.’

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.'

Response: On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-27

‘Christ the first fruits, then those who belong to Christ.’

Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.'

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.
Mary has been taken up into heaven;
the host of angels rejoice.
Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-56

‘He who is mighty has done great things for me; he has exalted those of humble estate.’

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.'
And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

REFLECTION

We have a great affection and devotion to Our Blessed Lady but how much do we know about her. Most of our information comes from the incarnation passages from the Gospel of Luke but there is a great deal in the New Testament about Our Lady that needs to be found and reflected upon. We are privileged to have the gift of the great prayer "Our Lady" and this is a great source of meditation on the life of the mother of Christ. It must be read slowly, and the words need to resonate in our hearts, for this will lead us to a new understanding each time we say this prayer.

One of the sources of information about our Blessed Mother comes from the Book of Revelation and today's passage which speaks of "a great sign appeared in Heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet." Our thoughts immediately associate this vision with Our Blessed Lady and as the narrative continues, we have a image of a woman giving birth and God saving the child from the devil whilst the woman escapes into wilderness. The Book was written in a time of persecution, and the words give us a glimpse of how the events throughout the New Testament, from the escape into Egypt to the martyrdom of the apostles tell the story of the birth of the church.

A more human passage giving a picture of Our Lady is the Gospel passage which presents us with both a loving meeting of Mary and Elizabeth and the prophetic message of the powerful "Magnificat", there are echoes in the prayer of the sermon on the mount with the power of the mighty being defeated by the exaltation of "those of humble estate".

Amid these two hymns of praise and glory to our Blessed Lady comes a passage from Paul. Perhaps this can be looked upon as the culmination of Mary's support for her son which is found throughout the scriptures. Paul speaks of the Resurrection, "the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" and goes on to remind us that "in Christ shall all be made alive", all in their proper order. It is the culmination of the Song of the Magnificat and reminds us that "The last enemy to be destroyed is death" and the promise of resurrection from the dead will be fulfilled.

David Frank

Daily Readings



OUR PRAYERS

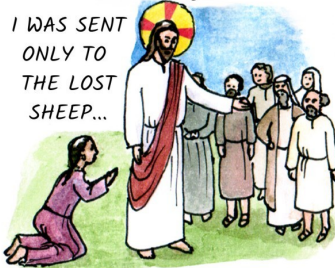
The sick of the Parish: Annie Airey, Stephen Anderson, Maureen Andrews, Neil Apedaile, Pat Baker, Kathleen Barlow, Carole Bew, Michael Blackford, Dennis Bratt, Ronnie Burnett, Kay Burns, Sarah Carroll, Rita Charlton, Michael Conroy, Daniel Cosby, Betty Crane, James Daley, Neil Davis, Louise Dixon, Michael Docherty, Teresa Falkingham, Grace Fallow, Lorraine Gallen, Dorothy Geen, Catherine Gray, Andrew Haygarth, Jamie Hitchen, Bella Hoey, Muriel Howe, Molly Hughes, Nora Humble, Carol Hutchinson, Trish Jeffries, Peter Johnson, Christine Jones, Andrew Kenny, 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, Owen Milligan, Paul Moore, Ann Mullins, Pat Ness, Kitty Newstead, June Nolan, Sylvice Notrianni, Joe O'Connor, Mick Olley, Myra Pattison, Carol Price, Mick Readman, Mary Reed, Pam Robertson, Eric Robinson, Joseph Robinson, Paula Rogers, Jane Roocroft, Kathleen Royds, Peter Saint, Agnes Scully, Michael Christopher Sheeran, Corazon Simpson, Marie Spindloe, Matthew Steel, Brett Swain, Gail Symington, Melvin Thackeray, Christopher Thomas, Lynsey Todd, Kieran Turnbull, John Twydale, Jonathon Vokes, Julie Wallace, Margaret Watt, Kath Wilkinson, Edith Wilson, Jeff Wright, Margaret Wright. *Through our prayers may the healing presence of Christ be with them at this time.*

Recently Deceased: Edward Hills, Andrew Dagg. *May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.*

Anniversaries that occur at this time: Patricia Foley, Dorothy Readman, Teresa Garbutt, Letitia McLaughlin, John Byrne, Elaine Morrell, Dorothy Northey, Michael McLaughlin, Thomas Cussons, Jacqueline Jarvis, Mary Ellen Hall, Keith Stainsby, Pat Waller, John Reid, Ethel Wood, Bryan Hanna, Katy Linighan, David Hegarty, Ingram Hutchinson, Bryn Mulchay, Hilary Bradbury, Brian Davidson, Michael Elsdon, Thomas Buckley, Theresa De Cunha, Denise Talbot, Margaret Myers, William McDonald, Francis Albert Keegan, Michael Edward Gray, John Patrick Ashurst, Ronald Fitzgerald, Joe Beha, Fr Isaac Carter ScJ, Sheila Spellman, Charles Cavanagh, Patricia Finn, Robena Doherty, Joan Nicholson, 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:

Does God Only Care for the Chosen People?



Long ago God had set aside the Israelites as His chosen people. He gave them laws and prophets and set up a covenant with them, that they would be His people and He would be their God. He promised them that He would send them a Savior.

When Jesus the Savior came, His first mission was to care for God's chosen people. In today's Gospel reading, however, a woman who was not an Israelite came to ask Jesus for help. At first Jesus refused- He had been sent to God's children, and "it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." But the woman said, "even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table." She knew that Jesus could help her. When He saw how much faith she had, He did what she asked and cured her daughter.

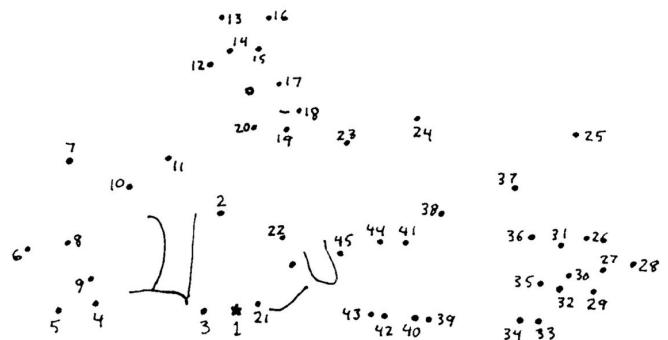
Jesus wasn't trying to make the woman give up. He was giving her a chance to show how much humility and faith she had. Jesus used this to show the people that God will let anyone who believes, like this woman, become part of His chosen people.



Dot to dot: dogs.

The Kids' Bulletin

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 16th, 2026



In today's Gospel reading, a foreign woman was asking Jesus to cure her daughter. But Jesus said that He was sent to care for the children of Israel, not foreigners.

The woman replied to Jesus, "But even the _____ eat the scraps that fall from their master's table!"

*What did she say she was like?
Connect the dots to find out!*