

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 20th September 2026

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

Date	Feast	Saint Joseph's*	Saint Patrick's	Saint John Vianney's	Saint Mary's
Saturday 19th September	(Vigil) 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	11.30am - 12.30pm Baptisms 3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Michael Jacques		11.30am Baptisms 6.00pm Mass Bob Garraghan Jnr	
Sunday 20th September	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.30am Mass Joseph Allen Hayes	9.00am Mass Luis Ghaut Memorial & A Special Birthday		
Monday 21st September	St Matthew	6.00pm Exposition & Confessions 6.30pm Mass Peter R Wilson	9.00am Funeral Service Mary Ellen Littler		
Tuesday 22nd September		12.05pm Mass Wallace James Reed Birthday Remembrance	10.15am Funeral Service Mary June Reed		
Wednesday 23rd September	St Pius of Pietrelcina			9.30am Mass Valerie Gouldsbrough (Nee Marwood)	
Thursday 24th September	Our Lady of Walsingham	12.05pm Mass Adrian Howard	9.30am Mass Living & Deceased Walsingham Pilgrims		
Friday 25th September		12.05pm Mass Peter McManus' Cancer Operation			
Saturday 26th September	(Vigil) 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	11.30am Baptisms 3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Peter Grieves 4th Anniversary	12.30pm Baptisms	6.00pm Mass Richard Powell, Billy & Margaret Thornton	
Sunday 27th September	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.30am Mass Deceased Members of the Hodge & Feeney Families	9.00am Mass My Granddaughter (DG)		

Parish Clergy

Parish Priest

Very Rev. Canon Paul Douthwaite
BA Hons PGCE KHS

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Parochial Vicar

Rev. Father Joseph O'Brien
STB JCL

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Parish Deacon

Rev. Deacon Jeff Parkes

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Parish Office

Secretary

Laura Dolan

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☎ 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

SCHOOL MASSES

No School Masses this week

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	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
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THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION - We will shortly begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation on 24th November. Application forms are available at the back of our churches and on our website. If anyone in Year 9 or above would like to be Confirmed, please return your completed application form to the parish office.

CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS - Our Confirmation programme will be commencing in mid-October. Current Catechists and anyone interested in assisting in the programme, please meet in the Parish Centre Hall at 6pm on Tuesday 22nd September for a brief meeting to discuss the programme.

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 4th November at 6pm, in the Parish Centre Hall at St Joseph's.

MASS REQUESTS - Please place any Mass request envelopes, ensuring that all details are filled in especially the telephone number, in the collection basket at the offertory of the Mass. Mass intentions will be coordinated from the Parish Office. 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.

"BRENDA'S BUSES" DAY TRIP - For those joining our bus trip to Skipton on Wednesday 23rd September, please meet at St Joseph's for 8.50am, the bus will be leaving promptly at 9am. The car park will be open. Many thanks.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - Could those ministers who visit our sick and housebound parishioners on behalf of the parish please ensure the parish office has up-to-date details about whom you are visiting. If circumstances or details change, please let Laura know as soon as possible so we can update parish records.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - English Martyrs Sixth Form would like to invite members of our parish to their MacMillan Coffee Morning, which will take place on Wednesday 23rd September, starting at 10am in the Sixth Form Building. All are welcome.

PET BLESSING SERVICE - All pets and their owners are invited to join us for a special Blessing Service, on Sunday 4th October at 12.30pm, at the side of St Joseph's on the grassed area adjoining Hutton Avenue.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE - As part of our ongoing diocesan wide discernment, the Parish Pastoral Council have identified various areas which we can develop as a parish. It is proposed that we establish our own parish marriage preparation course. We are looking for volunteers (married couples) to be trained to deliver this course. For further details, please contact the parish office or speak to Canon Paul.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE - There will be a meeting of the Social Committee on Friday 25th September after 12.05pm Mass in the Parish Centre Hall to discuss future events. All parishioners are welcome, you don't have to be a regular committee member, and new faces would be very much appreciated.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP - The Parish Pastoral Council have also proposed that we establish our own bereavement support group. We are therefore looking for volunteers to be trained to deliver this listening support. For further details, please contact the parish office or speak to Deacon Jeff.

FUNERALS (EXTRA ECCLESIAM) - The funeral of Colin Hewitt is on Thursday 24th September at 2pm at Stranton Crematorium.

HOLY FAMILY YOUNG ADULTS - Join us on Thursday 1st October at 6.30pm in St Joseph's Church for our first parish young adults gathering. We will have a Holy Hour of adoration together before the Blessed Sacrament, followed by some time together in the hall. All over-18s welcome. Please speak to Fr Joseph for more information.

DAY TRIP - Unfortunately the Over 60's Club day trip to Bury Market on Friday 25th September has been cancelled.

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.

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 4th October, for CAFOD.

First reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

‘My thoughts are not your thoughts.’

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Response: The Lord is close to all who call him.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

‘For to me to live is Christ.’

Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.
Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.
Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

‘Do you begrudge my generosity?’

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, “You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.” So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, “Why do you stand here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You go into the vineyard too.”

‘And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, “Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.” And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?” So the last will be first, and the first

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.

REFLECTION

Have you ever thought about the great responsibility of being a member of the Church of God? In these days, when so many of our family, friends and neighbours seem to have no religious beliefs, there is a sense that we are considered by others to be examples of moral behaviour in the world. Our actions, words and example are faces of Christ; those around us look to us as people who, by our behaviour, bring goodness into our homes and neighbourhoods. When we fail to reach the standards expected of us by others then the message of Christ becomes tarnished and great damage can be done to His church. The words of Isaiah, in today's first reading, remind us that God is always there for us, but we must actively turn to Him for His help. He is a compassionate God, “for he will abundantly pardon” but He cannot be measured in human terms. Isaiah reminds us that the Lord says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways”. When we look for Him, we must rely on the eyes of faith.

At first, when reading the Gospel passage, we may judge the actions of the landowner as being unreasonable. How can he pay the man who has worked one hour the same as one who has worked all day? It seems unjust. But if we consider the first reading and apply the image of a God who does not judge through human eyes but with the eyes of God then we can begin to see a certain understanding of the story.

For example; if you are a cradle catholic who has spent your whole life trying to be a good Christian you would hope that your reward would be eternal life, after all you have worked for it. Then you see others who have spent their lives outside the church, who come searching for God, and finally after they have found Him they become part of the Christian community; could you deny that person eternal life too? It is not always the journey you take or the time you spend, but the destination that you arrive at. There are many good people who have never heard of God; are they too denied eternal life?

Nobody can know the mind of God; we each find a way to serve Him and hope that in that service we are recognised as his sons and daughters.

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, 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, Dave Nugent, Joe O'Connor, Mick Olley, Myra Pattison, Carol Price, Mary Reed, Pam Robertson, Eric Robinson, Joseph Robinson, Paula Rogers, Jane Roocroft, Kathleen Royds, Nora Rumble, 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: Mary "June" Reed, Colin Hewitt, Mary Ellen Littler. *May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.*

Anniversaries that occur at this time: Jack Fitzgerald, Cecilia Best, James William Lilley, Stevie Mullins, Cristine Fiorini, Aubrey Decunha, Nora Dwyer, Audrey Crowther, John Bowron, Rosemary Tobin, Jane McEneaney, Olive Merritt, Ronald Slimmings, William Gallagher, Thomas Mulcahy, Carol McLean, Barbara Murphy, Daniel Cummins, Michael Mulcahy, Edmund Smith, Ann Patricia Robinson, Mrs. M. E. Willis, Stephen John McMorris, Maureen Bailey, Thomas Hay, Luis Ghaut, Breda Dignen, Kathleen Sylvia Green, Eric Lake, Yvonne Osborne, Beverley Jones, Brian Feeney, Anthony Scott, Audrey Shave, Raymond James Andrews, Richard Gofton, Jack Collier, Kathleen Laffin, Audrey Stuart, Peter Wilson, Elizabeth Tubb, 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:

A Full Day's Wages

Today in the Gospel, Jesus tells a story of several men who were hired to work at a vineyard. The owner of the vineyard went out at different times to find men to work. At the end of the day, he gave each man a whole day's wages, even though some had only worked for a little while!

WOW! HE PAID US A FULL DAY'S WAGE!



THAT'S NOT FAIR - THEY GOT A WHOLE DAY'S PAY! Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven is like this too: some people spend their whole lives working for God, and some people only turn to Him at the last minute. God opens Heaven to all the people who choose to love Him.

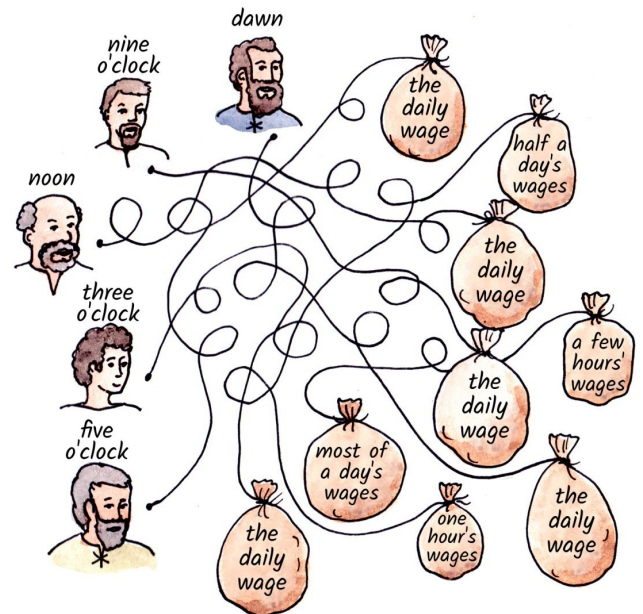
At first this doesn't seem fair. After all, some people give their whole lives to God and some give hardly any! But here is why it is fair: the only reason that any of us turns to God is because He gave us that grace. Some people have to live their whole lives without God's grace until the very end, but some of us have been given grace all our lives.

I PAID YOU AS MUCH AS I SAID I WOULD.



The Kids' Bulletin

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 20th, 2026



In the parable in today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the story of a man with a vineyard who went out to hire men at different times of the day.

*At the end of the day,
how much did each man get paid?
Follow the wiggly lines to see!*

Answers: front page - all received the full day's wage.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

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The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Sarah Boagey, or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk