

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 21st December 2025

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

Date	Feast	Saint Joseph's	Saint Patrick's	Saint John Vianney's	Saint Mary's
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		
Monday 22nd December		6.00pm Exposition & Confessions 6.30pm Mass Tony Ellett Anniversary			
Tuesday 23rd December		12.05pm Mass Elizabeth & George Dixon	1.00pm Requiem Mass Roland Thompson		
Wednesday 24th December		3.30pm Carols 4.00pm First Mass of Christmas Christine Hansell	5.30pm Carols 6.00pm First Mass of Christmas Kitty Kelly	3.30pm Carols 4.00pm First Mass of Christmas Richard Powell	
Thursday 25th December	Christmas Day	10.00am Christmas Day Mass John Cann 3rd Anniversary			
Friday 26th December	St Stephen				
Saturday 27th December	(Vigil) The Holy Family	11.00am Altar Servers Mass Living & Deceased Members of the Fernie & Fearson Families 3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Michael O'Hickey 5th Anniversary		6.00pm Mass George & Peggy Heal	
Sunday 28th December	The Holy Family	10.30am Mass Sheila Dobing Anniversary	9.00am Mass Sarah Cain		



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

✉ 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

Restarts 13th January
Lunch Club @ Parish Centre Hall

Restarts 6th January
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:

Date	Time	Service	Church
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

CAROL SERVICES - Prior to our Vigil Masses on 24th December, each Church will have a Carol Service - 3.30pm St Joseph's, 3.30pm St John Vianney's, and 5.30pm St Patrick'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 & Friday: By appointment only
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.

ADVENT ALMS - There is a tradition of not giving Christmas Cards to fellow Parishioners and in lieu giving to charity. This year's Advent Alms for St Cuthbert's Care will be the 'Offerings for the Crib'. Please put your offerings in the boxes at the Crib in each church of the Parish.

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 enroll 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.

STELLA MARIS APPEAL - If anybody is able to donate any chocolate for our seafarers, donations can be left in the bins at the back of church. Thank you for your generosity and support throughout the year. Your kindness, at Christmas and beyond, makes our work possible.

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.

CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB - The Club will restart on Sunday 4th January 2026. Many thanks.

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.

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS - Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Wednesday 24th December until Monday 5th January. Any voicemails left during this period will be responded to after New Year. In an emergency, please phone the presbytery on 01429 272985.

200 CLUB - The December draw winners are: 1st prize of £150 no. 104 Mary Storer, 2nd prize of £75 no. 4 Hilda Parkes, 3rd prize of £25 no. 97 Sarah Boagey. Congratulations to our winners! The Club is always open to new members. The subscription is £25 per annum and can be paid Yearly, Half Yearly or Quarterly. Each month we draw prizes of £150, £75, £25. If you let Laura know in the Parish Office, one of the organisers will be in touch with you. Many thanks to our supporters.

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 is for St Cuthbert's Care (Advent Alms) over Christmas.

This Sundays Readings

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive.’

In those days: The Lord spoke to Ahaz: ‘Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’ But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.’ And Isaiah said, ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.’

Response: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means, God with us.
Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel’ —
which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

REFLECTION

Advent is a time for welcoming. Each year around this time we welcome family and friends into our homes and into our hearts; sometimes the visit is brief, sometimes only a card sending best wishes for Christmas and sometimes they join with us to celebrate with a feast on Christmas day. These days are special.

I heard a sermon the other day and the priest spoke to us about two Christmases: one the birth of Christ and the other the feast we celebrate this year. It is important to remind ourselves of the separate nature of these two events. The first Christmas was a single event in time, a momentous event which can never be repeated for God became man on that day over two thousand years ago and changed humanity forever. Next week we celebrate that event, but we do so in our own time and place. Sometimes we confuse the birth of our Lord with all the hype of a modern Christmas: however, we cannot make the birth of Christ come alive unless we bring it into our homes on Christmas day.

When Jesus was born the world was very different; most of the known world was ruled by the Roman Empire. There was no mass media, no earth encompassing technology. People struggled to find out what was happening in the next village never mind somewhere on the far side of the world. Today all manner of things are within our grasp. We cannot see Christmas and miss the suffering in our world; we cannot pretend there is peace on earth when it is not so. We must celebrate the love that Jesus revealed to us by his birth, life, death and resurrection but with modern eyes mindful of the needs of his world today.

The message of each of today's readings is summed up by Isaiah:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and shall call his name Emmanuel”- a name which means “God is with us”.

It is important to remember that Mary's son, Jesus Christ, the Son of God is with us every day and in a special way this week when we celebrate his birth. Let us pray that He will guide us on the path to peace and justice for all his creation.

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 Spindloe, 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: Roland Thompson, Marjorie Waller, Mary O'Connor, Clare Tait. *May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.*

Anniversaries that occur at this time: George Edward Dickson, John Winston Malone, Sylvia Veronica Wilkinson, Ernie Watson, Peter McPartlin, Danny McHugh, John Cann, Raymond Michael Watson, Claire Michael, Bill Spalding, Robert Burton, Margaret (Peggy) Mordaunt, John Boyd, Stanley Joseph Beattie, Doris O'Dell, Dave Crisp, Mary Ellen (Nellie) Hubbert, Albert Everitt, Dorothy Cooke, Kathleen Kelly, Tina Shaw, Kevin O'Connell, Mary Laughton, Ann Glita, Colin Swift, Joanna Boagey, Ina Hay, Jane Kempthorne, Jane Hardy, Michael O'Hickey, Cathrine Cronin, Mary Hartin, Thelma Strickland, Charles Fawcett, John Englishby, Josephine Florence Geen, Margaret Helen Kennedy, Mary Hartin, John Thomas Waller, 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:

Jesus' Birthday is almost here!



Now there is less than a week left until Christmas!

In today's Gospel reading God gave St. Joseph a special job. He told him to take care of Mary and the baby Jesus. St. Joseph thought he was just an ordinary person and didn't expect to have such an important responsibility, but he did what God asked.



God has given us a responsibility too. We have to love Jesus as much as we can. How can you love and honour Jesus at Christmas time? If your family has a nativity scene you can pray to Jesus while you look at it. Right now you have a few days left to get ready for Jesus' birthday. Ask St. Joseph to help you prepare for Jesus' coming.

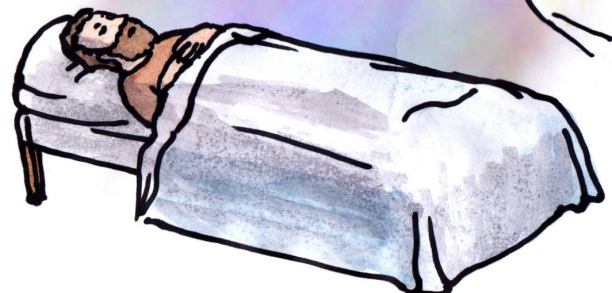


www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

Joseph to not fear to take
Mary as his wife
for that which is
conceived in her
is of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son
and you shall call his
name Jesus.



An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!