

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 22nd March 2026

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

Date	Feast	Saint Joseph's*	Saint Patrick's	Saint John Vianney's	Saint Mary's
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		
Monday 23rd March		6.00pm Exposition & Confessions 6.30pm Mass Lyn & Kit Ryan			
Tuesday 24th March		12.05pm Mass Bernadette Jackson			
Wednesday 25th March	The Annunciation of the Lord			9.30am Mass Holy Souls 6.30pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction	
Thursday 26th March			9.30am Mass at St Teresa's School Catherine Hadfield		
Friday 27th March		12.05pm Mass Jim & Joyce Kealy			
Saturday 28th March	(Vigil) Palm Sunday	1.00pm Wedding 3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Pat Hoey 1st Anniversary		6.00pm Mass Kath Gray	
Sunday 29th March	Palm Sunday	10.30am Mass Mary Ollerton (Nee Elliott)	9.00am Mass Jimmy Docherty		

SCHOOL MASSES

St Teresa's
Thursday 26th March - 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

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☎ 01429 272985

Deacon Jeff Parkes

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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

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
25/03/2026	Stations of the Cross & Benediction	St John Vianney's	6.30pm
30/03/2026	Reconciliation Service	St Joseph's	6.00pm
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

RECONCILIATION SERVICE - There will be a service of Reconciliation with individual confession in preparation for Easter on Monday 30th March at 6pm in St Joseph's Church. Please note the parish Mass that day will be at 12.05pm in St Joseph's Church.

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.

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

YOUTH COUNCIL - The next Youth Council meeting date agreed is Saturday 28th March at 11.30am.

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.

GIFT AID - Envelopes will be distributed at the following Mass: Sunday 22nd March in St Joseph's. If you have not received your box after next Sunday, please contact Laura in the parish office for collection. We cannot leave boxes without supervision because it is important that the right person receives the correct box for tax purposes. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

"BRENDA'S BUSES" DAY TRIP - Join us for our next day out on a trip to Leeds on Wednesday 29th April. The cost is £15 per person. To book your place, please see Brenda at the back of church or give her a call on 07599511066. Spaces are limited.

LENTEN LUNCH - St John Vianney's School are hosting a Lenten Lunch of soup and a roll, from 12pm till 1.30pm in their Community Room on Friday 27th March. All are welcome.

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 - The collection this weekend is for the work of the SVP.

First reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

‘I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.’

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.

Response: With the Lord there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

‘The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.’

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
Everyone who believes in me shall never die.
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Gospel Reading: John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

‘I am the resurrection and the life.’

At that time: The sisters of Lazarus sent to Jesus, saying, ‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’ But when Jesus heard it he said, ‘This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judea again.’

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.’

Jesus was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?’

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, ‘Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out.’ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

REFLECTION

In today's first reading there is a very cryptic message from the prophet Ezekiel; he speaks of God raising his people from their graves and putting his Spirit into them. This sounds very strange, but I believe that the graves that he speaks about are the barren empty spaces of our lives where God is not present and the Spirit he is putting in us is the Spirit of Love which will transform those spaces and make them bloom.

This idea of the grave is present in the Responsorial Psalm which speaks of a soul calling “Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord”. This should be a familiar prayer; known to many as the “De Profundis”; a prayer that comes from one whose relationship with God is “dying” because of their sins and who looking for forgiveness and redemption. It is a plea to a merciful God.

Saint Paul continues this theme; he contrasts those who are dead through sin with those who find life through the Spirit of God living in them. If we believe in Christ then that Spirit lives in us then, just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we too will find new life in Him.

The Gospel story of the raising of Lazarus contains a very simple, sincere act of faith by someone who has lost a brother to death yet still believes that Jesus is the Son of God and has power over death itself. Her statement of faith “Yes Lord, I believe” is from Martha, the sister who did the housework in Luke's gospel, the one we think of as the realist in contrast to her sister Mary, the dreamer, who sits at the feet of Jesus. In the midst of the tragedy of death, Martha's faith is so strong that she can respond to the “Resurrection and the life” in such a clear voice. We have a rare insight into the character of Jesus as He weeps at the death of His friend. This is a great consolation to us as it reminds us that God shares in our grief at the loss of a loved one. Lazarus emerges from the tomb bound in his grave clothes. Jesus orders that they be removed; His message to us today is that we too can be released from the death of sin and find new life in him. We only need to believe for that life to begin.

David Franko

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 Gallen, 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, Eileen Lyle, Maureen Maguire, Baby Pippa Marie, Vera Marriott, Brenda Mathews, Ian Matthews, Owen McEaney, Fr Seamus McGivern, Jim McKenna, Christopher Mghee, Peter McNaughton, Paul Moore, Ann Mullins, Pat Ness, Kitty Newstead, June Nolan, Sylvice Notrianni, Joe O'Connor, John George Parsons, Myra Pattison, Carol Price, Mary Reed, Pam Robertson, Eric Robinson, Joseph Robinson, Paula Rogers, Jane Roorcroft, Kathleen Royds, Hilda Ryan, Agnes Scully, Michael Christopher Sheeran, Corazon Simpson, Marie Spindloe, Matthew Steel, Brett Swain, Gail Symington, Melvin Thackeray, Carol Thomas, 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: Patricia Grey, Denis Pounder. *May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.*

Anniversaries that occur at this time: Linda Irene Lister, John Watt, Ettie O'Hickey, Annie Purdy, Hilda Hay, Francis Moore, Laurence Faulkner, John Tomlinson, Jean Newbury, Anne Emerson, Patricia Smith, Frederick Gofton, Stephen Anderson, Mary Mathews, John Thomas Hughes, Mary Ann Clark, Robert Turner, Joseph Curren, Eileen Agnes Johnson, Baby Elizabeth Robinson, Anthony Tumilty, Margaret (Peggy) Parker, Dorothy Hiney, Michael Judd, Maureen Ballem, Ronald Harrison, Eva Railton, Michael Macdonald, Jimmy Docherty, Rev. John Jo Donnelly, Margaret Lamb, Derek Hubbert, Linda Ainslie, Catherine Hadfield, May Mary Short, Erno Czeba, Jane Gofton, Harry Bentham, Margaret Eagle, John Joseph Graves, Celia O'Neil, 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:

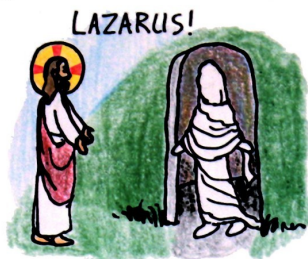
God Raises People from the Dead!



In today's Old Testament reading God promised His people that He would raise them from their graves. In the Gospel story Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from the dead. At the end of time God will raise everyone from the dead.

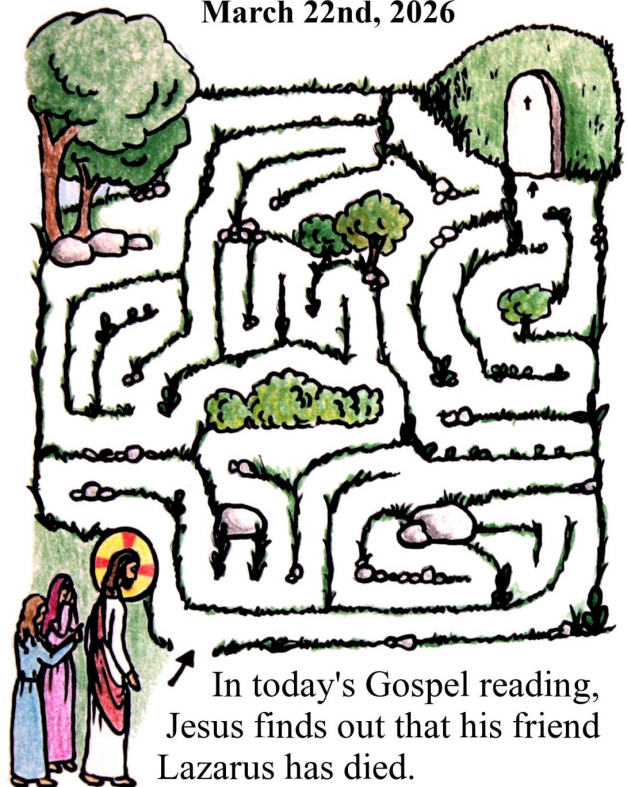
God does not like death. We all have to die because we are sinful, but God wants to raise us from the dead, like Lazarus.

Did you know that there is something worse than dying? Sinning is worse than dying, because when you commit a mortal sin you kill God's life in your soul. When you die you know that your body will rise again, but if you are not sorry for any serious sins then your soul will go to Hell because it doesn't have God's life in it. In Lent we should try to get rid of all the sin in our souls by going to Confession so that our souls will have God's life in them and be ready to celebrate Jesus' resurrection at Easter!



The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 22nd, 2026



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus finds out that his friend Lazarus has died. Can you find your way through the maze to the tomb where Jesus will raise him from the dead?

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