

# 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 7th December 2025

\*Live stream: [www.youtube.com/@HolyFamilyHartlepool](http://www.youtube.com/@HolyFamilyHartlepool)

Date	Feast	Saint Joseph's	Saint Patrick's	Saint John Vianney's	Saint Mary's
Saturday 6th December	(Vigil) 2nd Sunday of Advent	11.30am Baptisms 3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Living & Deceased Members of the Healey & Fernie Families	12.30pm Baptisms	6.00pm Mass Muriel Cummings 1st Anniversary	
Sunday 7th December	2nd Sunday of Advent	10.30am Mass Joseph Allen Hayes	9.00am Mass Wyn & John Joy		
Monday 8th December	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	11.00am Funeral Service Gwendoline Douglas 6.00pm Exposition & Confessions 6.30pm Mass Elizabeth & Charles Hewitt	1.00pm Funeral Service Jeffrey Baker		
Tuesday 9th December		12.05pm Mass George Hoey 19th Anniversary 1.00pm Requiem Mass Amanda Borrowdale	10.00 Funeral Service Alwyne Hobson		
Wednesday 10th December		12.00pm Funeral Service Anita Brown		10.00am Mass at Hartfields Retirement Village Gino Vokes	
Thursday 11th December			9.30am Mass Regan, Roche & Dumville Families	11.00am Funeral Service David Geen	
Friday 12th December		12.05pm Mass Special Intention (Grandsons)			
Saturday 13th December	(Vigil) 3rd Sunday of Advent	3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Jamie Lij Anniversary		6.00pm Mass Susan Hay	
Sunday 14th December	3rd Sunday of Advent	10.30am Mass Special Intention (80th Birthday)	9.00am Mass Kathleen Nicolson		

#### SCHOOL MASSES

No School Masses this week

#### 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](mailto:pp.holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk)

☎ 01429 272985

Deacon Jeff Parkes

✉ [jeff.parkes@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:jeff.parkes@diocesehn.org.uk)

### Parish Office

#### Secretary

Laura Dolan

✉ [holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto: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

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE** - Please save these dates for your diary over the Christmas period.

Date	Time	Service	Church
Tues 16 Dec	6pm	Secondary Schools Carol Service	St Joseph's
Wed 17 Dec	4pm	Primary Schools Carol Service	St Joseph's
Fri 19 Dec	6.30pm	Reconciliation Service	St Joseph's
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
Wed 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

**JUBILEE 2025** - The opening times of the Holy Door this week are as follows:

**Monday: 6pm – 7pm**  
**Tuesday: 11.30am – 12.30pm**  
**Wednesday & Thursday: By appointment only**  
**Friday: 11.30am – 12.30pm**  
**Saturday: 2.30pm – 5pm**  
**Sunday: 9.30am – 12pm**

**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.

**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.

**PIETY STALLS** - We have a lovely range of Christmas cards, calendars and gifts available at the back of church. We also have Catholic Diaries for 2026. Please visit the stalls, before or after Mass, to view and purchase any items.

**CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB** - Thank you to everyone who supported the Savings Club this year. We raised a massive total of £2327 for Holy Family Parish. The Club will restart on Sunday 4th January 2026. Many thanks.

**SVP COLLECTION** - Thank you to everyone who donated. Your generosity makes a difference. Another collection will be held on 14th December.

**DAILY READINGS FOR ADVENT 2025** - Advent is a time of preparation and to reflect, and hold onto, the messages of hope, peace, joy and love which God promised to us in the birth of Christ Jesus. Members of our Diocesan Writing Team offer this Advent resource to help guide a daily space for reading of the Scripture, reflection and prayer. In it you will find a reflection based on the theme of each week of Advent and an easy-to-follow reference to the readings for each day. The reflections will be available to view and download on the homepage of the Diocesan website [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk).

**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 from next weekend.

**200 CLUB** - The November Draw winners are: 1st prize - £150 No.104 Mary Storer; 2nd prize - £75 No.34 Sheila Atkinson; and 3rd prize - £25 No.150 Pat Wright. Congratulations!

**PIE & PEA SUPPER** - Grateful thanks to all who came and to those whose hard work made the evening so successful. Over £600 was raised for parish funds. The winner of the Bonus Ball on Saturday 29th November was Number 46: Pauline Lynch. Congratulations and thanks to everyone.

**CAROLS AT ELWICK GRANGE** - Due to unforeseen circumstances, this event on 9th December has unfortunately been cancelled.

**ST JOHN VIANNEY COFFEE EVENING** - This month, our coffee evening will not be on the 2nd Sunday of the month, instead it will be on Saturday 20th December, following the Vigil Mass. Apologies for the late notice.

## 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 for the work of the SVP will be on 14th December.

**First reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10

**‘With righteousness he shall judge the poor.’**

On that day: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

**Response:** In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

**Second Reading:** Romans 15:4-9

**Christ saves humanity.**

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, ‘Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.’

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;  
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 3:1-12

**‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.”’

Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our father”, for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

‘I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

## REFLECTION

Advent is a time of wonder. We are preparing for the birth of the Son of God. Is there anything more wondrous than this event; Love is born again for us on Christmas morning as the promise of our Creator God is fulfilled in the shape of a small innocent babe.

One figure dominates chapter three of the Gospel of Matthew; he is the last of the prophets, John the Baptist. In the passage from the Old Testament Isaiah describes a heroic figure; one with all the qualities we see in an outstanding human being; someone to measure ourselves against. A man on who rests a spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, Knowledge and fear of the Lord. This man will “stand as a signal for the peoples”. Is this John the Baptist?

When Matthew tells the story of John he paints a very vivid picture of a very independent man; someone who does not compromise, who speaks his truth forcefully and is not frightened of authority. John calls to us across the centuries to repentance. He reminds us that we need to be cleansed of our sins as we prepare to receive into our world the Christ child. He speaks of someone who is coming, someone who is far greater than he is, one who will bringing justice to the world.

Paul writes to us from a world which has seen John and experienced Christ. He speaks to us about hope, how we should never give up and how that hope will lead to tolerance of each other. We are approaching the gift of Christmas; during these days we should be preparing to receive the Christ child into our hearts. Let us pray that our hearts are ready and open to receive Him.

Come Lord Jesus  
Come and be born in our hearts.

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 Spindlow, 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:** David Geen, Gwendoline Douglas, Amanda Borrowdale, Anita Brown, Jeffrey Baker, Alwyne Hobson, Pat Waterland, Mary Stott, Norma Twydale, Anthony Frain. *May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.*

**Anniversaries that occur at this time:** Gladys Bird, Margaret Cumming, Sheila Dowson, John Joy, Sheila Breward, Frederick Magee, Pauline Beha, Ian Jackson, Delia Margaret Ingledew, Anne Hansen, Gordon Thomas Larkin, Fr Peter Smith, John Simpson, Francis Pattison, Mike Griffin, Helen Doherty, George H Young, Margaret Huntley, Terence Bone, Simon Taylor, Mary Gretton, John (Jack) Christie, James Patrick Cushlow, Bernadette Guy, 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:

### *The Immaculate Conception*

Tomorrow we will be celebrating the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother. The words "Immaculate Conception" mean that she had no sin on her soul, not even original sin, from the first moment her life began!

Why do you think God saved Mary from all sin? He wanted her to be the perfect mother for His Son Jesus. If you could make your own mother wouldn't you make her perfect too?



Mary is also a model to all people of how to live a good Christian life and to serve God as best we can. We should thank God for giving us such a beautiful example in His holy Mother. We should pray to Mary every day and ask her to help us love her Son Jesus more. Can you say an extra 'Hail Mary' on Our Lady's feast day?

Answer to puzzle on front: He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)

## The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7th, 2025

*The one who is coming after me is mightier than I.*

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*What did Saint John the Baptist say about the one who was coming after him? Use the code to find out!*

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