

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 23rd August 2026

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

Date	Feast	Saint Joseph's*	Saint Patrick's	Saint John Vianney's	Saint Mary's
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		
Monday 24th August	St Bartholomew	6.00pm Exposition & Confessions 6.30pm Mass Joan McKenna			
Tuesday 25th August		12.05pm Mass Recovery of illness of Allen			
Wednesday 26th August				9.30am Mass People of Kaluga & Tula Oblast	
Thursday 27th August	St Monica		9.30am Mass Mary Harris		
Friday 28th August	St Augustine	12.05pm Mass Janice Graham Birthday Remembrance 1.00pm Requiem Mass Tony Armstrong			
Saturday 29th August	(Vigil) 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Sheila Mary Hornby 9th Anniversary		6.00pm Mass Thanksgiving to Our Blessed Lady for Prayers Answered	
Sunday 30th August	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.30am Mass Raymond Alfred Roca 5th Anniversary	9.00am Mass Thomas Hammond		

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

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

T Restarts 8th m
Lunch Club
September

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.

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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.

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.

DAY TRIP - Our Over 60's Club are planning a day trip to Bury Market on Friday 25th September, and the trip is open to anyone who would like to join us. The cost is £15 per person. The coach will leave St Patrick's Church at 9.30am and will depart Bury at 4.30pm for the journey home. For more information or to book your place, please contact Roisheen on 07914946316.

ETHNIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION - We are hoping to meet with members of our ethnically diverse parish community to listen to your experiences and ideas, and to explore how we can become a more welcoming and inclusive parish for everyone. A group meeting will take place on Sunday 6th September, after Mass, in the Parish Centre Hall during the coffee morning. Everyone is welcome to come along and share their thoughts and suggestions.

NEWSLETTER EMAIL DELIVERY - Some parishioners have reported not receiving the newsletter by email as expected. We are experiencing regular delivery failures caused by receiving email providers rejecting our emails, which are outside our control. If you have previously received the newsletter by email but suddenly stopped receiving it, please add our email address to your contacts and Safe/Allowed Senders list, and check your Spam/Junk folder.

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

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.

POLISH ALPHA COURSE - St Mary's Church in Newton Aycliffe has an active Polish language speaking group. The group are running its second Alpha course, using the Polish language in their church starting on Thursday 17th September from 7pm to 9pm. The course lasts for 13 weeks. The evenings begin with a meal together, watching a short film and then discussion in small groups. For anyone interested, enquiries can be directed to alphanewtonaycliffe@gmail.com

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: Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

‘I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David.’

Thus says the Lord God of hosts, ‘Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: “I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father’s house.”’

Response: O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36

‘From him and through him and to him are all things.’

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?’ ‘Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?’ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.
You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

‘You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.’

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.’ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

REFLECTION

Most people are not born leaders; they tend to look for someone else to lead and make decisions; they are content to follow. This is part of human nature, after all, if you did not decide, then you cannot be blamed, and you can always criticise those who made the decision. In most situations people come forward to lead, sometimes reluctantly, sometimes hastily, but always with, hopefully, good intentions. However leadership can change people, some become roaring lions, others meek lambs, we should never take on leadership without considering the nature of the role required.

Peter was a fisherman; the impression given in the Gospels was that he was good at his job and he had the respect of his companions; when Andrew met Jesus and spent the day with Him, he went afterwards to Peter to tell him about Jesus so that he could meet him and make his own mind up. This indicates the respect that was given to Peter. On that first meeting Jesus singled out Peter; he calls him Cephas, which means rock, from which we take the word Petrus or Peter.

In today’s first reading Isaiah speaks of the appointment of a leader, the master of the palace. He calls this new leader a servant, for leaders should serve, he gives him authority, entrusts him with the keys and the power to include or exclude others. A father figure, he should treat all as his sons and daughters, keeping them to the right path. He is there so that the Glory of God can be made manifest. There is an echo here of the future role of Peter in the early church.

Paul reminds us that God’s choice is not our choice; we cannot know the mind of God, never penetrate His motives or understand his methods. “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things”.

The question “Who do people say I am?” is one that each of us must answer. Peter, taking on the mantle of leadership, is clear in his reply “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God”. What inspired Peter to this outburst? Was it something that had been growing in his heart and understanding over the months spent with Jesus? We cannot know, but from this moment Peter is set firmly on the throne of leadership and for him there is no turning back.

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 Mghiee, 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 Roorcroft, 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.*

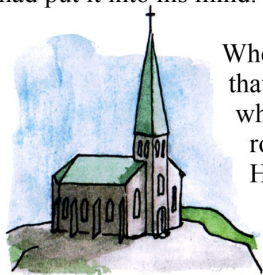
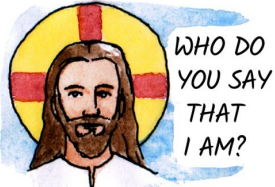
Recently Deceased: Tony Armstrong. *May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.*

Anniversaries that occur at this time: Patricia Tierney, John Thomas Shave, James Goss, John Briggs, Michael Kavanagh, Brian Allan, Beatrice Stevens, Norah Garthwaite, James Cooper, Philip Brian Fraser, Kathleen Daglesh, Mark Stainsby, William Swift, Laurence Coulton, Anthony Cawley, Frances Dryden, Eva Mulrooney, Graham Oliver, Michael Gallagher, James Marshall, Margaret Dolman, Irene Bone, George Pickering, Catherine Deighton, Pauline Patterson, Robert Wilson, Henry Linighan, Patrick Sanderson, Jean Byrne, Paul Lennard, Marie Cannon, Sheila Hornby, Terence James, John McGarry Snr, Peggy Forster, Ralph Ward, 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:

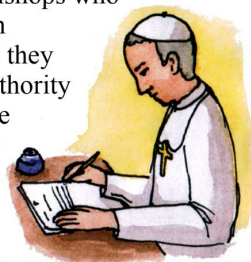
"You Are Peter."

Today in the Gospel reading, Jesus asked His disciples who people thought that He was. Everybody seemed to think He was someone special, but none of them knew who He really was. When Jesus asked the disciples themselves who they thought He was, Simon said that He was "the Christ, the Son of the living God!" Simon only knew this because God had put it into his mind.



When Simon had said this, Jesus said that his name would now be Peter, which means rock, and that on this rock He would build His Church. He made Simon Peter the first pope. He also said that the gates of Hell would not prevail against the Church. Jesus was assuring us that He would always protect the Church from error.

Now whenever the pope, or the bishops who are agreeing with the pope, proclaim something about God, we know that they are right. Jesus gave the teaching authority to Peter, and he passed it down to the bishops through all the centuries until now. Isn't that amazing?



The Kids' Bulletin

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 23rd, 2026



Who do you say that I am?

You are
the Christ,
the Son of
the living
God.

Blessed are you,
Simon son of Jonah,
For flesh and blood
have not revealed
this to you, but my
heavenly Father.

What were Peter and
Jesus saying in today's
Gospel reading?

Look in the mirror
to find out!

