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 29th November 2026

Date	Feast	Saint Joseph's	Saint Patrick's	Saint John Vianney's	Saint Mary's
Saturday 28th November	(Vigil) 1st Sunday of Advent	**3.00pm Exposition and Confessions** **3.30pm Rosary** **4.00pm Mass** In Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered		**6.00pm Mass** November Mass for the Deceased	
Sunday 29th November	1st Sunday of Advent	**10.30am Mass** Tony Miller **4.00pm Adoration & Devotions**	**9.00am Mass** Jimmy Docherty Birthday Remembrance		
Monday 30th November		**6.00pm Exposition and Confessions** **6.30pm Mass** May & Jim Hardy			
Tuesday 1st December		**12.05pm Mass** Kevin & Sheila Glover			
Wednesday 2nd December				**9.30am Mass** Mary Stott	
Thursday 3rd December			**9.30am Mass** Regan, Roche & Dumville Families		
Friday 4th December		**12.05pm Mass** Tony Cawley			
Saturday 5th December	(Vigil) 2nd Sunday of Advent	**11.30am Baptisms** **3.00pm Exposition and Confessions** **3.30pm Rosary** **4.00pm Mass** Ian Nichol Birthday Remembrance	**12.30pm Baptism**	**6.00pm Mass** Muriel Cumming, George & Peggy Heal	
Sunday 6th December	2nd Sunday of Advent	**10.30am Mass** Swift & Moran Families **4.00pm Adoration & Devotions**	**9.00am Mass** Roly Thompson		

Parish Clergy

Parish Priest
Very Rev. Canon Paul Douthwaite
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Parochial Vicar
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Parish Deacon
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Parish Office

Secretary
Laura Dolan
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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

St Bega's
Tuesday 1st December – 9.30am Mass

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

THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS

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

Date	Time	Service	Church
Tues 15 Dec	6pm	Secondary School Carol Service	St Joseph's
Wed 16 Dec	4pm	Primary Schools Carol Service	St Joseph's
Thurs 17 Dec	6pm	Civic Choir Service	St Joseph's
Fri 18 Dec	6.30pm	Reconciliation Service	St Joseph's
Thurs 24 Dec	4pm	First Mass of Christmas	St J.V.'s
Thurs 24 Dec	4pm	First Mass of Christmas	St Joseph's
Thurs 24 Dec	6pm	First Mass of Christmas	St Patrick's
Fri 25 Dec	10am	Christmas Day Mass	St Joseph's
Sat 26 Dec	4pm	Vigil Mass	St Joseph's
Sat 26 Dec	6pm	Vigil Mass	St J.V.'s
Sun 27 Dec	9am	Sunday Mass	St Patrick's
Sun 27 Dec	10.30am	Sunday Mass	St Joseph's
Tues 29 Dec	12.05pm	Altar Servers' Mass	St Joseph's
Fri 1 Jan	11am	Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God	St Joseph's

WELCOME - As we begin a new liturgical year this Sunday, we give thanks for all those who have been welcomed into the family of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism during the past liturgical year. May God continue to guide and bless them and their families as they grow in faith, and may they always find a warm welcome within our parish community.

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

MASS REQUESTS - Please place any Mass request envelopes in the collection basket at the offertory of the Mass, ensuring that all details are filled in (especially the telephone number). 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.

ADVENT ADORATION AND DEVOTIONS - How are you going to make the most of this Advent? Keep Christ in Christmas by making Christ the centre of your Advent! Join us on each Sunday during Advent at 4pm in St Joseph's Church for a Holy Hour of Adoration and devotions before the Blessed Sacrament.

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 17th 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.

HARTLEPOOL LADIES CHOIR CONCERT - Join us on Friday 4th December at 6.30pm for an evening of singing with the children of Sacred Heart School Choir. Doors open at 6pm. Entry is £5 per adult and £1 per child, payable at the door. There will also be a raffle, with proceeds shared between the choir, the school and the church. We look forward to seeing you there!

CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB - Thank you to everyone who supported the Savings Club this year. The money that was raised for the parish this year exceeded all previous years. With new members, this trend will be able to continue. For every £1 you save, 5p goes to our parish. Please put your money in an envelope with your name and amount on. In each church, the following people will be available at these Masses to collect your savings or place them in the collection basket at the offertory:

St Joseph's – Sat 4pm: Ann Howe
Sun 10.30am: Mary Storer & Paul Johnstone.
St Patrick's – Sun 9am: Diane Gooding
St John Vianney's – Sat 6pm: Colin Gray

The club will restart on Sunday 3rd January 2026, all are welcome to join. Many thanks.

COFFEE EVENING - The next will be after the 6pm Mass, Saturday 19th December in St John Vianney's Church. All are welcome.

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

WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend saw World Youth Sunday, when the Church gives thanks for the life and faith of our young people. The retiring collection this weekend will support the work of the Youth Ministry Trust (YMT), our Diocesan Youth Service.

ALTAR SERVERS MASS - Our Altar Servers' annual parish Mass will take place on 29th December at 12.05pm in St Joseph's Church, followed by a party. Would all of our altar servers please put that in your diary.

CO-OP LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND - Our Tuesday Luncheon Club is sponsored by the Co-op. To support us with your Co-op membership, please choose us as your "local cause" on the Co-op app, or visit https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/104458.

BRENDA'S BUSES - For those joining our bus trip on Wednesday 2nd December, please meet at St Joseph's for 9am, the bus will be leaving promptly at 9.15am. The car park will be open. Many thanks.

Celtic Mass

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, 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,
grant us peace, 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. **Many thanks**

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS - Our next collection is on Sunday 13th December, for the work of the SVP in Hartlepool.

This Sunday's Readings

1st Sunday of Advent

First Reading: **Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1, 3b-8**

'O that you would rend the heavens and come down.'

You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name. O Lord, why do you make us wander from your ways and harden our heart, so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. O that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence. You came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.
You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Response: Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**
We are waiting for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: **Mark 13:33-37**

'Stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come.'

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning — lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.'

REFLECTION

Lord, You are our Saviour,
to You we turn in our need.
Only You can save us. Lift us out of peril.
Protect us from the snares of the world.
Again and again,
we come to You Hoping in Your mercy.
Teach us to be patient,
kind, compassionate and loving.
Help us find our way to You.
For it is You we long for,
for You we stay awake.
Listening for Your footsteps,
waiting on Your call.
Come Lord Jesus Come.

There is a great sense of pain in today's first reading, it is centred on the exile of the people of Israel into the hands of the Babylonians. They feel that they are abandoned by God, their redeemer, and many have turned away from their faith. Isaiah asks, "O That you would rend the heavens and come down". Advent is a waiting time; the Israelites have to learn to wait in their exile, we too need patience when we seek the Lord. Let the reading cause us to pause and reflect, in our busy lives; we are rushing towards Christmas but in our spiritual life we are on edge, waiting for something, someone to happen.

The reading from Isaiah has the feeling of a powerful prayer; it contains petition, "Return for the sake of your servants: contrition, "We have all become like one who is unclean", thanksgiving, "But now, O Lord, you are our Father" and we are given a promise of redemption for He tells us "We are the clay and you are the potter, we are all the work of your hand".

I can imagine Paul writing this letter to the church today. The words are so appropriate, so heart-warming, and so full of God's love for us. The image of Church in his letter to the people of Corinth is one that we must strive to achieve. It is not beyond our grasp we only need to work and pray for our people to use their gifts and there is no limit to what we can achieve.

David Frank

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.

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 McGhee, 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, Edith Wilson, Jeff Wright, Margaret Wright. *Through our prayers may the healing presence of Christ be with them at this time.*

Recently Deceased: Jimmy Lydon, Kevin Glover, Alan Melville. *May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.*

Anniversaries that occur at this time: Simon Trory, Joseph Varvill, Colin Henderson, Albert Howe, Enid Robinson, Catherine Collingwood, Derek Connolly, Walter Newson, Patricia Reynolds, Audrey Kester, Dorothy Mincher, Merlin Allen, Jean McGregor, Mary Waller, Kevin Hennessy, Jean Smith, Kenneth Dowson, Leo Bianco, Nora Ridden, Stanley Butterfield, Jean Smith, Jim O'Connor, Elizabeth Parker, John Charles Reid, Greta Healey, Rosella Thompson, Peter Keegans, Joan Hall, Philip Stokle, Denise Breward, John Mahony, Olwyn Tracey, Madeleine Dawkins, Ronald Dring, Eileen Caden, The Garraghan Family, The Davison Family, The Henegan & Hay Families, The Mitchell Family, Patrick Walsh, Mary Gooding, Mary Cornforth, Patrick Walsh, Irene Aistrup, Jane Wilkinson, Rachel Blair Judge, Harold Coates, Patricia Lawson, Kenneth Day, Catherine Pennick, Rita Elsdon, Ann Foster, Andrew Daley, Alan Ferguson, Maureen Paterson, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.*

		St Joseph 4pm	St John Vianney 6pm	St Patrick 9am	St Joseph 10.30am
This Week 1st Sunday Advent 28th/29th November	**1st Reader**	Veronica Dye	David Dring	Lynda Littlefair	Althea Melendrez
	2nd Reader	Brenda Bland	Colin Gray	Ann Carberry	Anita Chipchase
	Euch Min(s)	Jane M Barker, Pat Carroll	John Gobbi	Margaret Leck	Geraldine Martine, Kath Wilkinson
Next Week 2nd Sunday Advent 5th/6th December	**1st Reader**	Pam Cummings	Edward Okumagba	Brendan Magennis	Brenda Harrison
	2nd Reader	Maria Richardson	Jennie Roberts	Elaine McGarry	Callistus Ebene
	Euch Min(s)	Jane Barker, Majorie Barton	Rose Hubbert	Pat Walker	Debra Race, Charlotte Boagey

KID'S CORNER

Advent is Here! Jesus is coming!



Advent is here! It's time to begin preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Jesus came the first time long ago in Bethlehem. Now He comes to us every time we go to Mass, in Holy Communion. But we celebrate Jesus' coming in a special way at Christmas time.



Advent is the time to get ready for Christmas. We get our houses ready by cleaning and decorating. We get our souls ready by cleaning out our sins when we go to confession, and by learning and thinking about Jesus.

Here are some things that will help you get ready for Christmas:

~ Light a candle on an advent wreath when you say your prayers every day.

~ Read a book about Advent or Christmas.

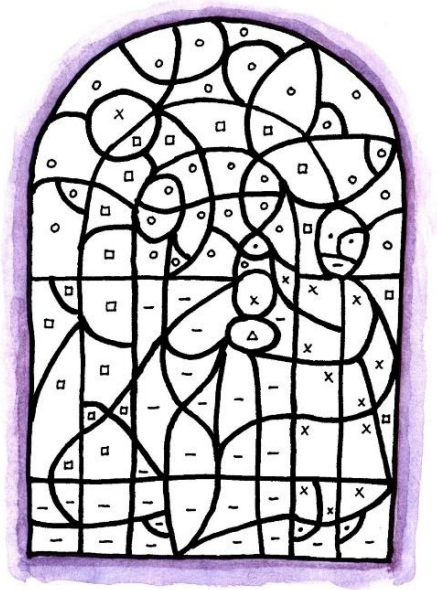
~ Go to Confession before Christmas.



~ Do nice things for people. Remember that anything you do for someone else you do for Jesus!

The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent
November 29th, 2026



In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to always be ready. Here's someone waiting for his master to return... Use this code to colour the picture in:

- ○ DARK BLUE
- • SKIN COLOUR
- □ GREY
- × WHITE
- – BROWN
- △ RED