



# Catholic Parishes of

**ST. JOSEPH**  
Stanley

Parochial Administrator - Rev. Fr. Damian Cassidy O.Carm  
Deacon - Rev. Paul Nichol - 0790 6489152  
Secretary - Melissa Gillespie  
Office at St. Joseph's Church, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL  
Opening hours - 09:00am - 03:00pm, Tuesday - Friday  
Tel. 01207 299012 E:mail stjosephstanley@hotmail.com

**SACRED HEART**  
Byermoor

**ST. PATRICK**  
Dipton

 jpshecatholic  
 @jpshecatholic

Listen to the Word 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55: 10-11 | Psalm 64 | Romans 8: 18-23 | Matthew 13: 1-23

♥ Congratulations to Andrea and Stuart on the occasion of their wedding at St Joseph's Church ♥

For the next three weeks the Gospel readings introduce us to the idea of “parables”; these are the teaching stories of Jesus, and they are meant to explain difficult ideas through a simple story. The crowds came to hear Jesus, they were drawn by His words and the healing power he possessed. He used stories so that those listening could spread His word and so awaken in the people the hope of a better future for them and their children. The great majority of people could not read but they could listen and see, and Jesus placed great emphasis on his actions and on his words so that their eyes and ears would be opened to the Word of God.

Scripture is a very vital part of our lives as Christians. Through scripture the Word of God is revealed to us, through listening we come to understanding. Isaiah, in the first reading, compares the Word with the rain and snow that comes down from heaven. Without the precious water to irrigate the fields and sustain the crops there would be drought and famine. So it is with our lives; unless we read and hear the Word then our lives become barren and our spiritual and physical growth is stunted.

Paul, in his letter to the Romans, speaks to us about revelation and freedom. Through Paul's letters and the work of thousands of Christian thinkers and speakers, inspired by the Spirit of God, over the last two thousand years the revelation of God's purpose is gradually being revealed. In Paul's time, people lived in slavery in both a physical and intellectual sense. They yearned to be set free and saw the promise of freedom in the promises of Christ. People need to be set free today “To enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God.”

The parable of the Sower is as relevant today as it was when Jesus spoke His parable to the crowds. It is not easy to follow the way of Our Lord. Scripture can give us so much but if we do not listen then we cannot understand, and it is understanding that leads us to faith. The Word, like the seed, seeks fertile soil, so many times we hear the Word but fail to put it into practice. We must find a way to welcome the Word into our hearts then perhaps when we act or speak, our words may fall on rich soil and produce God's harvest among those we love.

*David Frank*

	<b>Offertory Tot. 9 Jul 23</b>	<b>Weekly Stand. Order</b>
<b>St Joseph's</b>	£334.20	£197.25
<b>St Patrick's</b>	£103.14	£134.15
<b>Sacred Heart</b>	£124.53	£78.46

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE THAT NEED HEALING IN OUR PARISHES:**  
Anne Kennedy, Margaret Convey, Maureen Dixon, Danny Fagan, Jackie Traynor

## SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Half an hour before Mass at weekends.

Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> July <b>St. Bonaventure</b>	St Joseph's Church Sacred Heart Church	12.00pm 4.30pm	Dromard & Tann Nuptial Mass Mass: JERRY & MARY MAQUIRE & PATRICIA LANNING
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	St Patrick's Church  St Joseph's Church	9.00am  11.00am	Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP Mass: MR & MRS HARRIS
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July			
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	St Joseph's Church Sacred Heart Church	9.30am 1.30pm	Mass: IMELDA & DICK CHRISTON School Leavers Mass
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>St Joseph's Church</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>St Joseph's School End of Year Mass</b>
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>St Patrick's Church</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>St Patrick's School Leavers Mass</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July <b>St. Lawrence of Brindisi</b>	St Joseph's Church	9.30am	NO MASS
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July <b>St. Mary Magdalene</b>	Sacred Heart Church	4.30pm	Mass: CHARLIE & RENEE BRADLEY
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	St Patrick's Church  St Joseph's Church St Patrick's Church	9.00am  11.00am 5.00pm	Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP Mass: DAVID JOHNSON Rosary and Benediction

**MASS INTENTIONS** for our parishes are most welcome. Please be aware that weekend Masses are booked at least 3 months in advance. At Sacred Heart Church, there are Masses in for the next 3 months. Please let us know if you are content for Mass to be said in St Joseph's or St Patrick's. We also have gaps in our weekday schedule.

**SICK AND HOUSEBOUND** Please contact the Parish Office if you know anyone sick/housebound who would like to receive Holy Communion.

**CHESTERTON PILGRIMAGE** The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July. Bishop David Oakley of Northampton will preach at the Mass at 2.30pm at The Bridgettine Convent, Fulmer Common Road, Iver, SL0 0NR. Please send prayer requests to: [CatholicGKCSociety@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:CatholicGKCSociety@yahoo.co.uk) or text them to 07795 205 114. Details of the many different ways you can be involved on the day, as well as printable GKC prayer cards can be found on our website [www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk](http://www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk).

**OUTREACH TEAS** The next outreach tea is on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July at St Joseph's Sacristy. The outreach teas were started a few years ago to provide tea for the elderly so that they can socialise & meet people they haven't seen for a while. Volunteers bring sandwiches, cakes, scones, pie etc and others pick up those who want to come and take them home. Volunteers normally arrive from 12pm to prepare; it is usually ended by 3pm. Please get in touch if you would like any further information.

**CONCERT AT LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR** The Newcastle Male Chorus will be performing a Sounds of Summer Concert in the Chapel at St Joseph's Home Newcastle, (Little Sisters of the Poor) on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 at 7.00pm. The concert is in aid of the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor in St Joseph's Home. Tickets are £8 (interval drink included) and are available from St Joseph's Home – 0191 2731279.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** All children who recently had their First Holy Communion are invited along with their families to celebrate Mass with us on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**PAULINE BOOKS AND MEDIA NEWCASTLE** Please note that from the Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July the Cathedral bookshop will have revised opening hours:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10:00am – 4:30pm
Thursday	10:00am – 4:30pm
Friday	10:00am – 4:30pm
Saturday	9:45am – 4:00pm
Sunday	9:30am – 1:15pm.

**Thought for the week:** "Do your little bits of good where you are; it is the little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." - Desmond Tutu

