


SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS			
Saturday 4 th November	Sacred Heart Church	4.30pm	Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP
Sunday 5 th November	St Patrick's Church	9.00am	Mass: TOMMY & VERA RODDY Mass: STEPHEN KELLY
	St Joseph's Church	11.00am	
Monday 6 th November	Sacred Heart Church	7.00pm	Celebration of Word & Communion
Tuesday 7 th November	St Joseph' s Church	9.30am	Celebration of Word & Communion
Wednesday 8 th November			
Thursday 9 th November	St Joseph's Church	9.30am	Celebration of Word & Communion
Friday 10 th November	St Patrick's Church	7.00pm	Celebration of Word & Communion
Saturday 11 th November	Sacred Heart Church	4.30pm	Requiem Mass for the War Dead
Sunday 12 th November	St Patrick's Church	9.00am	Requiem Mass for the War Dead Requiem Mass for the War Dead
	St Joseph's Church	11.00am	

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION		
Monday	6.15pm – 6.45pm	Byermoor
Friday	6.15pm – 6.45pm	Dipton
Saturday	11.00am – 12noon	Stanley


ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT		
Monday	6.00pm – 6.55pm	Byermoor
Tuesday & Thursday	9.00am – 9.25am	Stanley
Friday	6.00pm – 6.55pm	Dipton
Saturday	11.00am – 12noon	Stanley

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Following discussion at the Bishops' Conference, it has been advised that, due to the sacred nature of the confessional, clergy be requested not to have active mobile phones with them in the confessional. They should not just be put to silent mode but should be turned off before entering the confessional. Penitents are requested to do the same. This is because, even if in silent mode, phones can still listen-in to conversations and artificial intelligence algorithms identify items of interest to potential advertisers. This technology does not affect every network but must be presumed to be operative because it cannot be proven otherwise.



Catholic Parishes of
ST. JOSEPH Stanley **SACRED HEART Byermoor** **ST. PATRICK Dipton**

Parish Priest - Rev. Fr. Shaun Purdy
 Deacon - Rev. Paul Nichol - 0790 6489152
 Administrator - Melissa Gillespie
 Office at St. Joseph's, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL
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 JPSHCatholic

LISTEN TO THE WORD – 5th NOVEMBER 2023 – 31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Malachi 1: 14 – 2:2, 8-10 | Psalm 130 | 1 Thessalonians 2: 7-9, 13 | Matthew 23: 1-12

“Today let us honour God in humility, sincerity and truth.”

The introduction to today's readings in the Missal speaks of how easy it is for human pride to falsify God's message. The sin of pride is one that we are all rather prone to; whether it is pride in ourselves or in others, it is so easy to move from the justifiable pride, when one accomplishes a difficult task, to that pride that comes from a false elevation of our own worth.

In the Old Testament the priesthood was granted to the descendants of the tribe of Levi. The priesthood was very powerful in the Jewish faith but with power comes responsibility and, in the reading from Malachi, we see that this power, through pride, has led to corruption. Instead of a priesthood lived out in humility the priests have turned away from God and become contemptible and vile in the eyes of the people. The passage is a warning from God to all those who have power over others; if you do not keep to God's ways the people will cry out to God and God will come to their aid.

In contrast Paul's Thessalonians are living in a community that recognises the worth of each individual and where pride in oneself cannot find a home. This way of life is a gift from God. Following the example of Paul and his companions the Thessalonians are living sincere, humble lives by recognising the basic goodness of everyone and this brings the whole community close through their shared love of God. A real lesson for today.

Matthew's Gospel focuses our thoughts on the dangers of false pride. He uses the faults of the scribes and the Pharisees to remind us that if we do not lead humble, sincere lives then we cannot see the truth of God's love for us. It is what we are on the inside that counts not the trappings we wear on the outside. When we allow the sin of pride to rule in our lives we, like the scribes and the Pharisees, turn away from God and turn towards the world. The world cannot save us; only faith in Jesus Christ can lead us to eternal life.

David Frank

◆ **Upcoming Special Collections** ◆

29th October – 26th November: Clergy Training Fund

	Off. Tot. 29 Oct 23	Weekly Stand. Order	Clergy Training Fund
St Joseph's	£318.60	£197.25	£177.90
St Patrick's	£65.05	£164.07	£101.40
Sacred Heart	£105.15	£65.77	£39.00

♥ St Joseph's October coffee morning raised £185.90 for the CAFOD Libya & Morocco Appeal ♥

Please pray for those that need healing in our parishes:

Anne Kennedy, Margaret Convey, Maureen Dixon, Danny Fagan

Getting your child baptised

If you or a family member is looking to have your child baptised, please collect the leaflet 'Getting your child baptised' from the back of church. This new policy of how we access the Sacraments of Initiation is now applicable across the Pontop Partnership. Please read the leaflet carefully before returning the attached application *in person* to your parish priest at the end of Mass.

Proud Catholics - Reading with Care: Queer Perspectives on the Bible

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 21st November, at 7.30pm. We will examine some of the Biblical texts which are used against LGBTQ+ people, considering whether alternative interpretations are possible. Zoom link available, get in touch if interested. This will be followed by our usual social time and bring-and-share refreshments. For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email proud.catholics@yahoo.com, or visit our website <https://www.proud Catholics.co.uk/>

PARTNERSHIP CHRISTMAS LUNCH On Tuesday 12th December (12.30pm) a Christmas Lunch has been organised for the Partnership at the Jolly Drivers, Leadgate. A £5 deposit is needed per person upon booking. Menus along with envelopes are available at the back of each Church. Places are limited, so please book early by returning your envelope to the parish office ASAP.

PARTNERSHIP PANTOMIME On Friday 29th December at Consett Empire (3.00pm) tickets have been arranged for the Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk featuring Tommy Cannon and Chrissy Rock. To book your place, please pick up an envelope from the back of Each Church and return to the parish office. The cost of a ticket is £13.00 per person.

GENERAL NOTICES

THIS WEEK Between Monday and Friday, Father Shaun will be in Rome with Father John Bagnall for the Annual Vocations Conference. This means that there won't be Masses during this coming week. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place as usual between 11.00am and 12noon on Saturday morning in Stanley. There will be the Celebration of the Word and Sacrament on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

LIFE LINES BOOK Lorraine Weightman (from St Patrick's Consett) has produced a book with humorous poems about everyday things. The book has been illustrated by Father John Bagnall. There are some copies available from the piety stalls in St Joseph's and St Patrick's at the back of Sacred Heart Church. The cost of the book is £5.00 and all proceeds go to Brain Tumour Research.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS During the month of November, we remember all those who have died. In each Church, there is a book or remembrance to write down the names of those you would like to remember in prayer.

November is also a good time to remember our own mortality. Often we don't want to talk about our own funerals and then this causes problems when we die as our relatives don't know what we would like. At the back of each Church, there are sheets titled "instructions for my Funeral". If you fill one in and then give a copy to the office, a copy to your next of kin and one to your funeral director (if you have a pre-paid funeral) this will help when the time comes to give you the funeral you would like.

HELP NEEDED Each week we have a band of volunteers who meet to count the Sunday collections for the three parishes. Due to varying reasons, some of the volunteers have had to step down. We thank them for their valuable service. This means we now need some willing volunteers to join the rota for counters. If you can help, please contact the parish office.

MASS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN THE LAST YEAR On Saturday 18th November, there will be a Mass at 10.00am in St. Joseph's to remember all those who have died between November 2022 and October 2023. All the families of those who have died have been invited to this Mass. During the Mass the deceased names will be read out and prayed for. Please come along and support our bereaved families.

PARISH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Christmas Tree Festival will take place on the weekend of 16th/17th December. More information to follow.

Our **GRAND RAFFLE** will also be taking place this year, to be drawn at our Christmas Tree Festival. Proceeds will be shared between our three parishes. Any donations for this can be brought to any of our churches from next week. **ST PATRICK'S COFFEE MORNING** will be held on Sunday 5th November after 9am Mass at St Patrick's Dipton. Please stay and have a cuppa and some cake. Any baked goods or raffle prizes would be gratefully accepted.

THE NEXT LADIES' GROUP MEETING will be held on Thursday 9th of November at St Patrick's Dipton at 7pm.