



**St. John the Baptist RC Church & St. Paul's RC Church**  
**Annitsford & Dewley**  
**Cramlington**  
**NE23 7QR & NE23 6EF**  
**Parishes of the St. Benet Biscop Partnership, Northumberland**



**Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Manoj Joseph Punchakunnel SAC**

**Residence - St Paul's Parish House, 28 Dewley, Cramlington, NE23 6EF: Tele 01670 712476**

**Parish Priest email: [pp.stpaul.cramlington@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:pp.stpaul.cramlington@diocesehn.org.uk) Bulletin email: [bulletin@stpauls-rc.co.uk](mailto:bulletin@stpauls-rc.co.uk)**

**YouTube [www.youtube.com/c/StPaulsRCChurchCramlington](http://www.youtube.com/c/StPaulsRCChurchCramlington)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/stpaulscramlington](http://www.facebook.com/groups/stpaulscramlington)**

**Website [www.stpauls-rc.co.uk](http://www.stpauls-rc.co.uk)**

**St. John the Baptist Parish House, Annitsford, Cramlington, NE23 7QR: Tele 01670 712476**

**Parish Priest email: [pp.stjohn.annitsford@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:pp.stjohn.annitsford@diocesehn.org.uk) Bulletin email: [vol0040@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:vol0040@diocesehn.org.uk)**

**YouTube [www.youtube.com/c/StJohntheBaptistChurchAnnitsford](http://www.youtube.com/c/StJohntheBaptistChurchAnnitsford)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StJohntheBaptistAnnitsford](http://www.facebook.com/StJohntheBaptistAnnitsford)**

**Website <https://stjohnbaptist-rc.uk>**



**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025**

**Eighth Sunday of the Year - Cycle C**

**Exposition/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Saturday: 5:30pm - 5.50pm before Mass at St. Paul's**

**Sunday Morning: 9:00am - 9.20am before Mass at St. John's**

**Church is a place of prayer and reverence for the Blessed Sacrament reserved.**

**Please keep due silence and atmosphere of the 'Presence of God'**

**This week's Mass Times, Services and Intentions.**

St. John the Baptist	St. Paul's
	Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> March 6:00pm <b>Pamela &amp; James Siddle R.I.P.</b>
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9:30am <b>In Thanksgiving</b>	<b>Eighth Sunday of the Year (C)</b>
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> 10:00am <b>Rosary 9:30am Sarah McGettigan R.I.P.</b>	
<b>Ash Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 7:00pm</b> <b>Start of Lent, a time of Fasting &amp; Abstinence</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 10:00am Rosary 9:30am</b> <b>Start of Lent, a time of Fasting &amp; Abstinence</b>
	Thu 6 <sup>th</sup> 10:00am <b>Mass in the Winter Chapel</b>
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> 6:00pm Adoration & Mass at 7:00pm <b>Fr Kevin Bolger R.I.P.</b>	
	Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> 6:00pm <b>In Thanksgiving</b>
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> 9:30am	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>

**There are a number of Masses in both parishes without any scheduled Intentions. If you would like a Mass celebrated for your personal Intention please use an available envelope and hand it to Fr. Manoj.**

### Ash Wednesday



Is the doorway into our Lenten season of renewal – a day rich in associations and symbolism. It marks the beginning of Lent – a time for turning again to the practice of our faith, in prayer, self-denial (fasting) and practical generosity (almsgiving). Although it is not a Holy Day of Obligation, for many of us Catholics it is important to receive ashes on this day. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a period of 40 days (Sundays excluded) in which Catholics prepare for Eastertide. This period also represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert as well as the 40 years that the Israelites spent in exile. The ashes themselves come from the burned palms from previous year's Palm Sunday celebration: thus bringing us full circle to our last celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that we are called to turn away from sin, to repent and to believe the Good News of our salvation through Jesus Christ. Receiving Ashes An outward sign of an inner step "As we cross this threshold, we customarily receive ashes on our foreheads, in the sign of the cross. This is a public mark of our turning again to God, seeking his mercy, forgiveness and help. We use these words: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'. We cannot pretend otherwise; or: 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel'. We seek one thing that is absolutely necessary: the grace of God."

### Our Holy Father



We ask you all to pray for the swift and complete recovery of our Holy Father. May God's healing grace surround him during this time and may he soon return to his sacred and important duties with renewed strength and good health.



### Reconciliation

Facilities to attend Reconciliation will be available prior to every daily Mass. You can also request Reconciliation at your convenience with a prior agreed time.

**Lourdes Pilgrimage:** Would you like to register as a helper for the Hexham and Newcastle 2025 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes? The pilgrimage will take place between Friday 25 July to Friday 1 August 2025. Adult and Youth section volunteer registration forms are now open and live until 31st March 2025. Please register via one of the following links. If you are an existing, appointed registered helper and volunteered on the Diocesan Pilgrimage in 2023 or 2024 please use this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/bdNSkV8HvK>. To register as an Adult volunteer for 2025, please use this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/PbtE9Jd6aS>. The Youth Section of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is for those aged 16-21 (on the date of travel) or in full-time education. Please use the following link to register: <https://forms.office.com/e/mIMQfReuZD>. The Tangney Tours website will give prices of travel and accommodation on <https://www.tangney-tours.com/.../diocese-hexham-newcastle/>

**Irish Night Fundraiser:** Will be held by the Little Sisters of the Poor, St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, NE4 7QA on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025 commencing at 7:00pm. EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY. Dance the night away to the Ceilidh Band, enjoy the Irish Dancers whilst feasting on Irish Stew, Soda Bread and a Desert. Tickets are £10 each, with a Licensed bar. Further information can be obtained via 0191 273 1279 / see Leaflet on our Notice Board.

**Webinar - Seeds Of Hope:** You are cordially invited to join Bishop Stephen and members of the Diocesan Environmental Group (DEG) in a webinar to find out more about the DEG and what we can all do to reduce our impact on the environment. Date: Saturday 8 March 2025. Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm  
Details, instructions and Zoom link available on the Diocesan website: <https://tinyurl.com/mr4cmj99>

**St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD:** The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 22<sup>nd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> June in London. Candidates must be aged have completed their first or second year at university and have a passion for social justice. Applications close on the 20<sup>th</sup> April. For any queries, please contact [KeziaH@svp.org.uk](mailto:KeziaH@svp.org.uk)

**Relaunch of the Diocesan Youth Council:** YMT and the Diocese are thrilled to announce the upcoming relaunch of the Diocesan Youth Council, a vital platform for the voices of young people in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. This initiative, paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, offers a space for young leaders to develop skills and engage in meaningful dialogue about the future of our Church.  
The first meeting is scheduled for Sunday 18 May 2025, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle, from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. We are actively seeking motivated students from Year 9 and above to join this transformative council. For more details on the council, how to nominate candidates, and to view the full announcement, visit: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/announcing-the-relaunch-of-the-diocesan-youth-council/>

**Mass on Wednesday 7th March** is for Fr Kevin Bolger who recorded all the music which is played on the Church organ. The Parish of St John's are grateful for all his input. May He Rest in Peace.

**Information Links:** To receive information and Newsletters published by the Diocese of H & N, and the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales, please visit the following websites and request to be added to their distribution lists <https://diocesehn.org.uk> & <https://www.cbcew.org.uk>

**Cleaning Rota:** Group A - May, July, Sept, Nov. Group B – April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec. Cleaning on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month.

**New to the Parish:** If you are new to the Parish and have not completed a new to the Parish form, please complete a form available at the back of the church. You will then receive import updates of Parish Activities etc. Thanks.

**Parish Emails:** To be included in the Parish email system, likewise, if you no longer wish to receive St. John's parish email communication, please contact Gerry Killen at [vol0040@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:vol0040@diocesehn.org.uk);

**St. John's Graveyard:** A reminder that all NEW PLOT burials will almost certainly be a single depth coffin burial. A double burial will only be possible with one coffin and one ashes casket. It is important therefore that couples and families are aware of this restriction. Burials to an EXISTING PLOT may well be double depth, however, a test will be carried out to confirm this prior to the second burial. Please also note the following - **IMPORTANT** – It is a requirement of the church that **NO CURBS** be fitted to the grave with the Memorial Headstone, or at any time after the burial. There is a 300mm. maximum area from the Headstone (grave width) for flower holders etc. There may also be a requirement to have soil spoil temporarily over the plot when a burial is arranged to an adjacent plot.

**Diocesan Job Vacancies** - Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies) for full details or contact them on 0191 243 3301.

**Cramlington Food Bank:** We received a letter this week - Re: Donation to Cramlington Foodbank. Thank you so much for the £80 cash donation; this is extra to the donations of food items given.

**Remember in your prayers:** Barry Hall, Pat(ricia) Ryder, Anne Hall and Karen Mackie, Anna Shinwell, Chris Garrett & Maureen Cowan's friend.

**Planned Giving & Gift Aid:** We have received the planned Giving Boxes for the 2025/26 financial year and will be preparing them for distribution in March. If you do not have a Planned Giving Box Set but wish a set, please speak to Gerry Killen 07963 515190. Likewise, if you are a Taxpayer and wish to Gift Aid your donation we can claim an additional sum of 25% at no cost to yourself on tax you have already paid.

**Finances:** St. John's Collection, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - £392.71