

This week's Mass Times, Services and Intentions

	St. John the Baptist, Annitsford	St. Paul's, Cramlington
Sat 27 th		5:30 – 5:50pm Reconciliation and Exposition 6:00pm Mass People of St. Paul's Parish
Sun 28 th	9:00-9:25am Reconciliation and Exposition 9:30am Mass John Gray & Maud Maddison R.I.P.	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Tues 30 th	10:00am Ann Craigie R.I.P.	
Wed 31 st		10:00am 10:30 Coffee Morning For the intentions of Phil Raine
Thu 1 st	New Years Day	10:00am For the intentions of Alan Fryer and Family
Fri 2 nd	5:00 – 5:55pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Fr. Richard B Harriott R.I.P.	
Sat 3 rd		5:30 – 5:50pm Reconciliation and Exposition 6:00pm Mass People of St. Paul's Parish
Sun 4 th	9:00-9:25am Reconciliation and Exposition 9:30am Mass Arthur & deceased members of the Brannigan family.	2nd Sunday after Christmas

Mass Intentions - We offer the facility to have Mass celebrated for your own Intention. There are quite a few Masses in each parish without any scheduled Intentions. If you would like a Mass celebrated for your personal Intention, please use an envelope available at the back of church and hand it to Fr. Manoj.

Mass Intentions for those named on the purchased candles are now complete. The candles will continue to be lit during the Christmas period to remind us of our dear departed loved ones. Grateful thanks go to everyone who purchased a candle and supported this project.



Reconciliation

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

Bulletin: To try and reduce the number of copies printed and the cost of our weekly Bulletin, copies are now sent via email to parishioners of both parishes. Copies are also posted on both the Parish Websites, and in St. Paul's WhatsApp Group. If you would like to have a copy sent to you via email in future, please give your email address to Gerry or Peter Killen.

Weekly Reflection from CAFOD: "And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene."

This passage, of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt and their subsequent settling in Nazareth, touches deeply on themes of home and family. It shows how precarious the Holy Family's safety was.

In a recent homily, Pope Leo XIV said that "if we love one another... we will be a sign of peace for everyone". Many people find loving others challenging. I certainly have done. And I wonder what 'loving' means when there is a breakdown of relationship. It's so easy either to feel guilty or to judge.

In *Where the Hearth Is: Stories of home*, Kate Humble explores what the concept of home and belonging means. Her interviews with a Traveller and a Syrian refugee challenge my own idea of home because they encourage me to reflect on where I place my security.

To return to the Gospel passage, perhaps we can draw comfort from the fact that settling in Nazareth was part of the prophecy. I don't believe this means that difficult circumstances are pre-ordained, but rather that God can work in a situation and turn it to good.

Let's look for God at work in the challenging situations of our lives, and allow God to work through us.

PRAYER: Lord help us to give thanks for the inestimable gift of home and family, and to realise that YOU journey with us on the difficult road of peace. AMEN.

Weekly Homily and Bulletin

Fr. Manoj's Homilies are normally posted on both Parish Websites to assist those who have difficulty in hearing or are unable to attend Mass in person. If you would like a copy via email, along with the weekly Bulletin to save printing costs, please speak with Gerry or Peter Killen.

Requests: If you would like to have a Baptism, Marriage, Funeral etc. held in your own church please visit your own parish Website, [see the top of the Bulletin's Front Page](#), download the relevant Form from the "SACRAMENTS" Tab, complete it and return it to Fr. Manoj as per the form's listed instructions. This will ensure that the services are scheduled at the correct parish and alleviate any confusion as to where they need to be held.



St. John the Baptist RC Church & St. Paul's RC Church
Annitsford
Cramlington
NE23 7QR



Dewley
Cramlington
NE23 6EF



Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle – St. Benet Biscop Partnership, Northumberland

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Manoj Joseph Punchakunnel SAC

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/stpaulscramlington

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Website <https://stjohnbaptist-rc.uk> YouTube www.youtube.com/c/StJohntheBaptistChurchAnnitsford

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StJohntheBaptistAnnitsford

28th December 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph [A]

Sacred Silence, Please

As you enter, we invite you to keep a spirit of quiet prayer. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed, and your silence helps everyone to pray more deeply. Thank you for your reverence.



Pope Leo XIV's message for the 2026 World Day Of Peace emphasizes "Peace be with you all: Towards an unarmed and disarming peace," urging humanity to reject violence and embrace authentic peace rooted in love and justice.

The theme for the 2026 World Day of Peace, celebrated annually on January 1st, will be "Peace be with you all: Towards an unarmed and disarming peace." This theme reflects the Pope's vision of peace that is not based on fear, threats, or weapons, but rather on mutual trust, empathy, and hope.

THE KEY MESSAGES:

- 1) Rejecting Violence:** The Pope's message calls for a rejection of the logic of violence and war, an invoking for a peace that is both unarmed and disarming. This means fostering a peace that resolves conflicts and opens hearts rather than relying on military might or coercion.
- 2) Universal Call to Action:** The invitation to peace extends to all people, regardless of their beliefs or societal roles. The Pope emphasizes that it is not enough to merely call for peace; individuals and communities must embody it in their daily lives, rejecting all forms of violence, whether visible or systemic.
- 3) Building a Humane Future:** The message encourages believers and non-believers alike to work together towards building a more humane and peaceful future, echoing the greeting of the Risen Christ, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19).

Alongside this announcement, the Vatican Publishing House is set to release a new book titled "And Let there be peace," which will compile Pope Leo XIV's early addresses, further emphasising his commitment to peace. www.vaticannews.va

This message is particularly significant in the context of ongoing global conflicts and the need for a collective effort towards peace and reconciliation in various regions around the world.

Question: How can we, as a parish, work to make THE KEY MESSAGES from Pope Leo XIV a reality in our own lives, and in those of all of humanity across this great and wonderful world that God has created for us all? Do we do enough to foster peace wherever we see that it does not exist around us and across the world?

Items for the Bulletin: If you wish to have items go into our weekly Bulletin can you please send them via email to bulletin@stpauls-rc.co.uk **by 7:00pm on a Wednesday evening** to give the compositors sufficient time to prepare Bulletin.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 31st July – 7th August 2026

Celebrating 100 years since the first Diocesan Pilgrimage

Bookings are now open for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. We travel on Friday 31st July and return on Friday 7th August. 2026 is the 100th anniversary since the first Diocesan Pilgrimage took place led by Bishop Joseph Thorman. If you would like to book or for further information please contact Tangey Tours, our Tour Operator, by calling 01732 886 666 or by going to their website <https://www.tangey-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-hexham-newcastle>

Little Sisters of the Poor: For almost 20 years Theresa & I have been raising funds for St Joseph's Home in Newcastle by collecting used postage stamps (any country or period), foreign currency (any country or period & either notes or coins), broken or unwanted pieces of gold & silver jewellery & military medals. Sadly not all diocesan parishes help us but with help from those which do & through other contacts we have been able to donate just under £30,000 to date. In addition to laity the Home presently houses several priests & religious in wonderfully comfortable surroundings with Holy Mass every day except Wednesday in their beautiful chapel. We don't ask for monetary support - although it will not be refused - but instead ask that parishioners check their homes as we also accept unwanted stamp albums. St Mary's Cathedral & the shop will happily accept your donations as priests from the Cathedral & the other city centre churches celebrate Masses for the Sisters & residents. There is a quid pro quo insofar as all benefactors are remembered in Masses & prayers at the Home. God bless you & your parishioners AMDG. David & Theresa O'Neill.

Diocesan Vacancies:

Safeguarding Administrator. Supporting the Safeguarding team, the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle are looking for a consummate administrative professional who handles sensitive information with the utmost discretion and confidentiality. Similarly, you'll be a person who has an eye for detail recognising the need for accuracy and precision. Salary scale - £26,000 to £27,768.

If you are interested in applying for this 12 month Fixed Term Contracted Safeguarding position, please get in touch to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Bernadette Aquino HR Business Partner at Bernadette.aquino@diocesehn.org.uk Please note the Diocese cannot accept CV's and as such to be considered for the position you must request our Applicant Pack and then complete and return our Application Form. The closing date for applications is 09:00am Friday 9th January 2026 although we reserve the right to close the position early.

Administrator – YMT: Supporting the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and our small, dedicated team; we are looking for an Administrator to cover a period of Maternity Leave. Responsibilities include – providing efficient administrative and operational support to the YMT Team, managing correspondence, records and calendars, co-ordinating bookings, logistics, projects and event administration, handling financial tasks including invoicing, payment tracking and reporting. Please note this role is subject to an Enhanced DBS Check and YMT cannot accept CVs. You must complete our Application Form, available as part of the Application Pack. If you are interested please get in touch to request a Pack by emailing Annie Leaver, Head of Human Resources at annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk Closing date for applications is Sunday 4th January 2026.

New to the Parish: If you are new to the Parish please complete a New to the Parish form available at the back of the church or via both parish Websites. You will then receive important updates of Parish Activities etc.

St. John's Parish News

Readers at Sunday Mass - We require parishioners to volunteer to read at Mass on Sundays. If you are not already on the Rota and would be kind enough to volunteer, please give your name (and contact details, phone and email) to Fr Manoj or Gerry Killen.

Church Cleaning Rota - The church will be cleaned on the first Saturday of the month.
Group B 2026 - Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec Group A 2026 Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov

Friday Mass Times: During the dark winter nights, the Friday evening Mass time has been changed to 6pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass now at 5pm.

Remember in your prayers: Anne Hall, Karen Mackie, Anna Shinwell, Arnie Masterson, Peter Laggan, Margaret Caroline, Michael Brannan, Chris Garrett and Maureen Cowan's friend. **Latently Dead** - Joan Oliver R.I.P. Joan's Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at St John's Church, following on to Blyth Crematorium at 11.30am.

Mobility Scooter - Gerry Killen has received an almost new Mobility Scooter (approx. value £1700) available for a donation of £100+ Please see noticeboard for picture and speak to Gerry for further information

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

St John's Graveyard burials - Due to the ever-reducing availability, burials at St John's will be restricted to existing Parishioners unless space is available in an existing family plot. Unless ascertained at the time of the first burial into a new plot, burials will be single depth, however two burials will be possible with one coffin burial and one Cremation casket. Specification in a will may not guarantee burial at St Johns

Important - The Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales have issued an instruction that music at a Funeral Service MUST be either Hymns or appropriate Classical music. Secular music should not be played at the church service; however it can be played at either the Crematorium or at the Wake. Please do not be surprised or upset if your choice of music is not acceptable.

IMPORTANT - During the winter months, St John's Gardeners will be carrying out works to level the graveyard in front of the church. Initially it will involve spreading bark then soil and grass seed on top next year.

Collection - Sunday 21st December - Offertory Collection **£277.98**

St. Paul's Parish News

Eucharistic Ministers and Readers: If you are scheduled to read or be a Eucharistic Minister can you please ensure you arrive in church 10 minutes prior to Mass commencing to ensure we know you are attending.

IMPORTANT: If you are scheduled for any volunteer role and are unable to attend, can you please let Peter Killen know asap so alternative arrangements can be made. If you are unable to continue with your role and wish to be removed from the list please let Peter know.



Will you consider making a New Year's Resolution to help with the running of YOUR PARISH? We are desperately short of volunteers to help in a variety of roles to keep the parish running efficiently. We need Welcomers, Church Cleaners, Flower Arrangers, Tea / Coffee makers, Church Collections counters, Typists to do the Weekly Bulletin, people to look after the Live Streaming of Mass and to play the Music at Mass. None of these jobs are too time consuming and all the relevant training will be made available to you should it be required. Please speak with Fr. Manoj or Peter Killen if you can help in any way.

Lamb House East Cramlington - a refuge for any vulnerable people, irrespective of sex or age send their grateful thanks to all the parishioners who kindly donated food etc towards making their Christmas celebrations a more joyful occasion.

Sr. Agnes: Steph Hartas has kindly made Memorial Cards for Agnes which are available for collection from the Piety Stall.

Remember in your prayers: Please pray for Christine Elliott who is going through a very difficult and traumatic time at present, for Sheila Hedley, involved in a car accident, for Aidan, Chris Garrett and Glynis Mayes along with any parishioner who is unwell.

Mama Mia: Sheila Hedley has 2 tickets in the Stalls for the performance at the Theatre Royal on Wednesday 11th February priced at £60 each. Please contact her on 07541 104055 if interested.

200 Club: This is drawn every 4 weeks with a First Prize of £60, a Second and Third Prizes of £30 each. We have lots of spare numbers available at £1 per week.

Bonus Ball We have One spare number 2 available @ £1 / week. Result for 20th Dec No 47 P Dixon

Finance: Collections and Standing Orders for December will be published in January.

Ministry Rota

	27 th December	3 rd January 2026
Bidding Prayers	Malcolm G	Teresa C
Welcomers	Julie & Bob M	Russell & Stephanie N
Readers	Barbara B & Eddie L (Wed Julie)	Julie & Teresa K (Wed Eddie L)
Eucharistic Ministers	Rob M & Stephanie N	Barbara B & Jacqui H
Coffee	Victoria L & Pamela McG	Joyce & Malcolm G
Counting	Team 1: Joe S, Averill R & Betty W	Team 2: Maria H & Kathy D
Cleaning	Team 2: Teresa C	Team 3: Stella S & Barbara B
Bulletin	Mariela	Mariela