

This Week's Mass Times, Services and Intentions

	St. John the Baptist, Annitsford	St. Paul's, Cramlington
Sat 20 th		5:30 – 5:50pm Reconciliation and Exposition 6:00pm Mass People of St. Paul's Parish
Sun 21 st	9:00-9:25am Reconciliation and Exposition 9:30am Mass Robert & Elizabeth Sheridan R.I.P.	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Tues 23 rd	10:00am Jim Davidson & Frank Ward R.I.P.	
Wed 24 th	11:30pm Carols 12:00 Midnight Christmas Day Vigil Mass People of St. John's Parish	6:00pm Carols 6:30pm. Christmas Day Vigil Mass People of St. Paul's Parish
Thu 25 th	10:00am Christmas Day Mass People of St. John's Parish	Christmas Day
Fri 26 th	5:00 – 5:55pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Intentions of Austin Todd	
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

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.

Advent Wreath and Candles



Advent is a time of expectation and hope filled with rich traditions. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas. The advent wreath and candles provide beautiful symbolism for each week of advent as we wait for Christmas to arrive. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-coloured. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth. **The Fourth Candle to be lit this weekend is called the "Candle of Love" representing Love in the Christian Faith.**

What Love is Jesus inviting you to rediscover during this week of Advent?

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>

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

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

Parish Priest email: pp.stpaul.cramlington@diocesehn.org.uk

Bulletin email: bulletin@stpauls-rc.co.uk

Website www.stpauls-rc.co.uk YouTube www.youtube.com/c/StPaulsRCChurchCramlington

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/stpaulscramlington

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

Parish Priest email: pp.stjohn.annitsford@diocesehn.org.uk Bulletin email: vol0040@diocesehn.org.uk

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StJohntheBaptistAnnitsford

21st December 2025 – 4th Sunday of Advent [A] "Maranatha come Lord Jesus"

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.

Christmas message from Fr. Manoj:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we gather once again to celebrate the joy of Christmas, our hearts are filled with many emotions. For some, this season brings happiness, family, and cherished traditions. For others, it may be marked by quiet sorrow, uncertainty, or weariness. Wherever you find yourself this Christmas, please know that you are not alone, and you are held in the prayers of your parish family.

We are mindful of those among us who grieve the loss of dear loved ones. Christmas can deepen the ache of absence, reminding us of voices we no longer hear, and places now left empty. We entrust those who have died to God's loving mercy, and we pray that all who mourn may feel the gentle comfort of Christ, the Light who shines even in the darkest nights.

We remember too those who are suffering through illness, whether in hospital, at home, or caring for someone who is unwell. May the Christ Child bring strength to weary bodies, peace to anxious minds, and hope to all who feel burdened by pain or uncertainty.

Loneliness is another quiet struggle many faces, especially at this time of year. To anyone who feels forgotten, isolated, or unseen: you matter deeply. You are an essential part of our parish and of God's family. May this Christmas bring you moments of connection, kindness, and the assurance that God's love reaches you exactly where you are.

Our prayers also extend beyond our parish to the wider world. We cannot ignore the pain caused by ongoing wars and conflicts, where innocent lives are lost, and families are torn apart. We pray earnestly for peace, for wisdom among world leaders, and for the protection of all who live in fear and uncertainty. Closer to home, we are aware of the many challenges faced across the UK economic pressures, rising costs of living, worries about the future, and strains on families and communities. May God grant resilience, compassion, and solidarity, helping us to care for one another with generosity and understanding.

At the heart of Christmas is a powerful message of hope: that God chose to dwell among us in humility and love. The birth of Jesus reminds us that light is never extinguished, that love is stronger than fear, and that new beginnings are always possible. Even in fragile circumstances, God is at work, bringing peace where there are turmoil and joy where there is despair.

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, may your homes be filled with peace, your hearts with hope, and your lives with the quiet joy that comes from knowing God is with us. Let us continue to pray for one another and strive to be signs of Christ's love in our parish and beyond.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and peaceful Christmas, and a New Year filled with hope, health, and happiness.

With prayers and blessings, Fr. Manoj Joseph Punchakunnel SAC

Christmas Mass Schedule for 2025

Christmas Vigil: Wednesday 24th December

St. Paul's Church, Cramlington: Carol Service: 6.00 PM Christmas Vigil Mass: 6.30 PM

St. John the Baptist Church, Annitsford: Carol Service: 11.30 PM Christmas Vigil Mass: 12.00 Midnight

Christmas Day: Thursday 25th December

St. John the Baptist Church, Annitsford: Christmas Day Mass: 10.00 AM

School Carol Service: Ss Peter and Paul Academy held their Annual Christmas Carol Service in St. Paul's Church last Tuesday 16th December. They put on another great performance to a church full of their family members. Congratulations must go to all the children, their teachers and all the school staff who contributed in any way to a very successful concert.

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.

Christmas Gifts: If you are struggling to think of a Present for someone, why not consider a CAFOD World Gift. Catalogues are available at the back of Church which contain a good variety of gifts for you to choose from.

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 Contract 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

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. **Deaths** - It is with sadness we report the death of Joan Oliver who died the 14th December 2025. Requiescat in Pace. Please keep her, her husband Jeff and all their family in your prayers.

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

"CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER 2025

You are invited to join us for Christmas bacon and sausage sandwiches, teas and coffees after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 21st December in the church hall. Please come along for our pre-Christmas social get-together. We wish you a happy, healthy and holy Christmas. "

Cramlington Foodbank: Last date for the Christmas collection of food from St John's, Sunday 21st December.

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

Collection - Sunday 7th December - Offertory Collection £293.00

St. Paul's Parish News



Help needed please: we are looking for parishioners to help decorate St Paul's church to celebrate the birth of Christ. We would also like **donations of Poinsettias** to help with this please. Tuesday 23rd December is the proposed day to do most of the work, but it is flexible if you can help at other times. Please contact Father Manoj, Averill Robson or Parish Council

members for more information. Thank you

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 is a refuge for any vulnerable people, irrespective of sex or age. During Advent we would invite you once again to please, donate, no matter how small, to help make Christmas a little more cheerful for those less fortunate than ourselves. We began our collection on the first weekend of Advent, Saturday 29th November, and your donations will be delivered to Lamb House next Monday 22nd of December so they will arrive before Christmas. Please place all donations on the table at the back of church. Our normal collection of items for the Food Bank will resume on the first Sunday after Christmas. Once again thank you for your kindness and generosity.

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

Peter & Anne K wish all at St. Paul's a blessed and peaceful Christmas. A donation to CAFOD will be made in lieu of cards.

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 6th Dec No 40 D Hawkins



Finance: Collections and Standing Orders for December will be published in January. Future Expenditure due very soon, - £9000 to replace the two faulty church radiators, and £1400 towards the Presbytery roof repairs. Future Fund Raising Events will be published when arranged

	20 th December	Christmas Eve	27 th December
Bidding Prayers	David S	Teresa K	Malcolm G
Welcomers	Meg C & Barbara W	Julie & Bob M	Julie & Bob M
Readers	Peter K & Jacqui H	Teresa K & Eddie L	Barbara B & Eddie L (Wed Julie)
Eucharistic Ministers	Gladys H & Jimmy L	Rob M & Peter K	Rob M & Stephanie N
Coffee	Joyce & Malcolm G		Victoria L & Pamela McG
Counting	Team 5: Stephanie N, Maxine T & Sheila H		Team 1: Joe S, Averill R & Betty W
Cleaning	Team 1: Stephanie N & Barbara		Team 2: Teresa C
Bulletin	Peter		Mariela