

This week's Mass Times, Services and Intentions

	St. John the Baptist, Annitsford	St. Paul's, Cramlington
Sat 21 st		5:30 – 5:50pm Reconciliation and Exposition 6:00pm Mass Mary Fenwick RIP
Sun 22 nd	9:00-9:25am Reconciliation and Exposition 9:30am Mass Christopher Maddison R.I.P.	First Sunday of Lent
Tues 24 th	10:00am Mass Private Intention T.B.	
Wed 25 th		10:00am Mass Coffee Morning 10:30am Finance committee meeting
Thu 26 th		10.00 am Mass
Fri 27 th	5:30 – 6:00pm Stations of the Cross 6:00pm Mass Thomas and Alice Heal R.I.P.	10.00 am Stations of the Cross at the main church
Sat 28 th		5:30 – 5:50pm Reconciliation and Exposition 6:00pm Mass
Sun 1 st March	9:00-9:25am Reconciliation and Exposition 9:30am Mass Barry Hall R.I.P. David and Paul Seghini R.I.P.	Second Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions - We offer the facility to have Mass celebrated for your own Intention. There are quite a few dates available. Please use the envelopes at the back of the church to request a specific date; please give your telephone for confirmation of the date or to make an alternative arrangement if the date is already booked.

Learning to Pray this Lent

“Prayer in my opinion is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us.” St Teresa of Avila

The Diocese is offering free online sessions during this season of Lent to help look at how we might enter more deeply into prayer with sessions with lots of practical tips, wisdom from the bible, stories from the saints and advice about common difficulties we face when praying.

The online sessions will take place on Sundays during Lent from 22nd February – Sunday 29th March starting at 6pm till 7.15pm. You are all very welcome to attend as many sessions as you can, and why not invite a friend or two to join?

22nd February – Prayer for beginners – What is prayer? What does prayer mean to you?

1st March – Seven Rules of Prayer – How do you make time for prayer in your daily life?

8th March – Praying with the Bible – What is the Bible? How the bible can change your life.

15th March – How to pray the Mass – What parts of Mass do you find most meaningful? What do we believe about the Mass as Catholics?

22nd March – Prayer of Thanksgiving and Gratitude – Why do we offer prayers of thanksgiving?

29th March – Silent Prayer and the Presence of God – Was there a time when you felt very close to God?

Please register your interest by completing the online form at <https://diocesehn.org.uk/whats-on/event/lent-sycamore-course/> or by contacting the admin team on 0191 243 3316.



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 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.

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 the Baptist RC Church & St. Paul's RC Church
Annitsford Cramlington
Dewley Cramlington

NE23 7QR



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Manoj Joseph Punchakunnel SAC

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/stpaulscramlington

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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

22nd February 2026 First Sunday of Lent [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.

First Sunday of Lent

On the first Sunday of Lent, our readings take us from the garden to wilderness. In the beginning, God created a world of abundant goodness, in which the needs of all could be met. Today, the climate crisis threatens to destroy the garden God created and makes it hard for many of our neighbours to grow enough food to eat.

In the gospel, we join a newly baptised Jesus in the desert. Amidst temptation, Jesus rests secure in his identity as God's beloved child, setting the stage for the rest of his ministry.

Although Jesus will not turn stones into bread to satisfy his own hunger, he will soon reach out in love to feed thousands with a few loaves and fish. He refuses to throw himself from the pinnacle of the temple but will later overturn the tables there.

Instead of succumbing to the temptation to be an earthly ruler, Jesus chooses the path of service and love that ultimately leads to his crucifixion. As we begin this season of Lent, let's journey with Jesus into the wilderness, opening ourselves to the gifts and challenges of that place, so that we can join him on the costly path to the Cross.

Pope Leo XIV's message for February 2026 FOR CHILDREN WITH INCURABLE DISEASES

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support they need, never losing strength and hope.

PASTORAL STRATEGY

In Bishop Stephen's Pastoral Letter read at all this weekend's Masses, we heard about God's calling for our Diocese. The hopes and challenges we all face in the coming years. All parishes are asked to reflect and discern on their mission as we continue our journey to live as a flourishing Diocese alive in the Holy Spirit.

More information is available via www.diocesehn.org.uk including details for an online session taking place on Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm.

ST. JOHN'S PARISH NEWS

Important Notice: Scattering of Ashes over an existing grave in St. John's Graveyard is not permitted; they must be buried in a plot. The **CORRECT** procedure is to firstly, apply for permission to bury the Ashes; then provide a copy of the Cremation Certificate as the Death **MUST** be recorded in the Parish Death Register; then await written permission before arranging with St. John's Parish approved Gravedigger to prepare the plot.

Sick List - remember in your prayers: Anne Hall, Karen Mackie, Anna Shinwell, Arnie Masterson, Peter Laggan, Chris Garrett and Maureen Cowan's friend.

MASS: Facebook and YouTube recordings - If you feel that live streaming of St John's Mass, in addition to publishing later on a Sunday would be beneficial, please can you inform Fr. Manoj or Gerry Killen and it will be investigated.

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.

Friday Mass Times: During the dark winter nights, the Friday evening Mass time has been changed to 6pm. During Lent Stations of the Cross will be held on Friday evening at 5:30 pm before the evening mass

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

Church Cleaning Rota - The church will be cleaned on the first Saturday of the month.
Group B 2026 - Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec **Group A 2026 Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov**
We are looking for parishioners to join the cleaning groups. If you can help, please give your name to Barbara Wareing.

Collection: Sunday 15th February Offertory Collection £265.40 Racial Justice £54.70 (Cumulative)

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.

ST. PAUL'S PARISH NEWS

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

Spirituality and Formation Group

The group will begin meeting again on Tuesday 24th of February at 7pm. All are welcome. We would love to see some new faces. The theme will be 'Faith.' Due to commitments we cannot meet every week so these are the following dates leading up to Holy Week: March 10th, March 24th and 31st. We will begin again on April 21st to finish off our theme.

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 any of your roles and wish to come off the list, please let Peter know. Can **Eucharistic Ministers and Readers** please try to arrive in church at least 10 minutes prior to Mass starting so we can be sure you are attending.

200 Club: Result for the 7th February - First Prize of £60 Number 85 M Cocks, Second Prize of £30 – Number 74 J Espie, Third Prize of £30 – Number 33 S Fletcher. **We have lots of spare numbers available at £1 per week.** Bonus ball 14th February no14 M Fittes

Mary Fenwick RIP: It is with great sadness we announce the sad passing of Mary Fenwick earlier this week. Mary was a loyal member of our church choir for Very many years who sang weekly, including last Saturday. She was a lovely, gentle lady who will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Please pray for the repose of her soul and keep her family in your prayers.

Gratitude: Christine E would like to express her word of appreciation and love to the parishioners for the lovely celebration of her 70th Birthday. We continue to pray for the good health of Christine

Ministry Rota

Bidding Prayers

Welcomers

Readers

Eucharistic Ministers

Coffee

Counting

Cleaning

Bulletin

21st February

David S

Margaret H & Linda T

Malcolm G & Gladys H (Wed Eddie L)

Barbara B & Teresa K

Victoria L & Pamela McG

Team 4: Maureen B, Meg C & Kathy O'R

Team 2: Teresa C

Mariela

21st February

Teresa K

Stella S & Marylyn T

Peter K & Jacqui H [Wed . Sue W]

Meg C & Jouce G

Joyce & Malcolm G

Team 5: Stephanie N, Maxine T & Sheila H

Team 3: Stella & Barbara B

Mariela

JOINT PARISH NEWS



Brendan Colohan: It is with sadness we announce the passing of Brendan who died on Saturday February 7th 2026. Brendan had just celebrated his 89th birthday on 4th February 2026. His body will be received into St Paul's Church at 6.00 pm on Thursday 26th February with the Requiem Mass at 11:15am on Friday 27th followed by committal at Cowpen Crematorium. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for the family he leaves behind.

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** otherwise **it may not be included** the following weekend.

PPC Meeting: Minutes of the latest meetings of both parishes are posted on their respective Notice Boards.

Diocesan Vacancy

Role: Parish Finance Officer **Salary Scale:** £43,000 to £45,000 **Location:** St Vincent's Diocesan Offices, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY **Applicant Pack:** From Annie Leaver, Head of HR annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk **Closing Date:** Wednesday 4th March 2026 (we reserve the right to close the post early) **Shortlisting:** Wednesday 11th March 2026 **Interviews scheduled:** Tuesday 17th March 2026 The full advert can be viewed at <https://diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies/>

Lent

"Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful" - Joel 2: 13.



During Lent Stations of the Cross will be held in St. Paul's each Friday @ 10am & Friday 5.30 pm in St. John's.

We are also encouraged to **support the CAFOD Family Fast Day** scheduled for **Friday 27th February** with parish communities responding through prayer, fasting and almsgiving to the needs of families facing floods and drought in places such as South Sudan, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Through support for CAFOD's Lent Appeal, parishes and schools can help families grow food and care for their communities in the face of the devastating impacts of climate change. We encourage our parish and school communities to support CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal. **Envelops will be available for your contributions this w'end 14th / 15th** to be returned for the **Collection to be taken on w'end 28th Feb / 1st March.**

Further information about CAFOD's Lent Appeal, Big Lent Walk and parish collection resources are available at cafod.org.uk/parish. As many of you will be aware our Bishop Stephen Wright had the privilege of visiting some of CAFOD's projects in Zimbabwe last October. From personal experience, he can assure you of the impact our charitable donations have to the poorest of the poor. Lives are transformed for the better by simple acts of ensuring access to water, the provision of nutritious food for children and the provision of solar panels for electricity. CAFOD, working with its Caritas agencies, around the world enable people to help themselves to a better future.

CAFOD'S DAILY LENT PRAYER: God of growth, in the beginning you planted a garden and walked with us, your beloved creation. Teach us to tread lightly as we care for all you made. God the Sower, you plant seeds in your Kingdom in the soil of our hearts. Water them with your Word and weed out fear and selfishness. Cultivate in us your compassion so we may truly love our neighbours. God of Gethsemane you chose the tree of suffering which would bring us new life. May its roots grow deep within us, inspiring us to seek justice so all people may flourish in the garden of your grace. AMEN.