

This week's Mass Times, Services and Intentions

	St. John the Baptist, Annitsford	St. Paul's, Cramlington
Sat 28th		5:30 – 5:50pm Reconciliation and Exposition 6:00 pm 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
Tues 3rd	10:00am Mass Brian Fairless R.I.P	
Wed 4 th		10:00am Mass Coffee Morning 10:30am
Thu 5 th		10.00 am Mass Class Mass
Fri 6 th	5:30 – 6:00pm Stations of the Cross 6:00pm Mass	10.00 am Stations of the Cross at the main church
Sat 7 th		5:30 – 5:50pm Reconciliation and Exposition 6:00pm Mass
Sun 8 th	9:00-9:25am Reconciliation and Exposition 9:30am Mass Dec'd members of the Love, Miley and Donoghue families	Third 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.



Lenten Reconciliation Service

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 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
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

1st March 2026 Second 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.



Second Sunday of Lent The Transfiguration of the Lord

There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun, wrote the monk and mystic, Thomas Merton, who on an ordinary day in an unremarkable shopping district in Louisville, had a profound experience of the glory and solidarity of the human family. "It was if I

could suddenly see the secret beauty of their hearts," he wrote.

In this Sunday's gospel the disciples witness Jesus transfigured. Has he changed or have their eyes been opened to see him as he truly is? Here is an invitation for us to see the world in a new light. What if we could, like Thomas Merton, suddenly

recognise the belovedness of every person? Or if we could see the signs of God's power to bring new life, just as the digging, weeding and pruning of a patient gardener is rewarded by glimpses of beauty as shoots sprout and buds open?

In this season of Lent, as we seek to listen more deeply to Jesus, may we strive to see each person through God's eyes, recognising the beauty in our sisters and brothers.

Pope Leo XIV's message for March 2026

For disarmament and peace that nations move forward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

PASTORAL STRATEGY

In Bishop Stephen's Pastoral Letter read at all last 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. We will have a few joint meetings for both parishes in the coming days which will be open for all the faithful along with the members of the parish council and finance committee. In the meantime, I earnestly request you to participate the **online session taking place on Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm. More information is available via www.diocesehn.org.uk including details for an**

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, 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 22nd February Offertory Collection £327.31 Racial Justice £55.70 (Cumulative)

Arnie Masterson R.I.P. who died on Friday 20th February. Arnie's Funeral will be held in the West Chapel of the West Road, Crematorium, Newcastle at 12.30pm on Wednesday 18th March 2026. Please keep Arnie and all the members of his family in your prayers.

APPEAL for HELPERS - We are currently two Gardeners missing from our dedicated team. Anyone who is able and could spare a couple of hours (not necessarily every week), please give your contact details to Frank Swindle 07779 425610 (or Gerry Killen). A good way to keep fit while caring for the church grounds.

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, Aidan, Chris Garrett and Glynis Mayes along with any parishioner who are unwell.

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 21st February No19 T Robson

Mary Fenwick RIP: It is with great sadness we announce the sad passing of Mary Fenwick. Mary was a loyal member of our church choir for Very many years who sang weekly. 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. Her Requiem will take place on Wednesday 11th March at 10.00 am at St. Paul's Cramlington followed by service at West Road Crem at 11.45 am

Irish Night The Little Sisters of the Poor (St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, NE4 7QA) are hosting an Irish Night on Saturday 21st March. There will be a Ceilidh band, dancing, food and a raffle. Tickets, priced £10 each, are available from The Little Sisters by contacting them on 0191 2731279

Spirituality and Formation Group

The group kindly invites parishioners to their meetings taking place at 7pm, see dates below. 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.

Ministry Rota

	28th February	8th March
Bidding Prayers	Teresa K	Malcolm G
Welcomers	Stella S & Marylyn T	Meg C & Barbara W
Readers	Julie M & Eddie L [Wed . Julie M]	Barbara B & Margaret F (Wed Eddie L)
Eucharistic Ministers	Meg C & Joyce G	Gladys H & Jimmy L
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 3: Stella & Barbara B	Team 4: Julie and Bob M
Bulletin	Mariela	Peter

JOINT PARISH NEWS

CAFOD Family Fast Day

CAFOD Family fast day was held on Friday 27th February. The collection will be taken after Mass this weekend (Saturday 28th February and Sunday 1st March 2026). Please support this worthy cause.

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.

Diocesan Vacancy: 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. Details at <https://diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies/>

Deacon Stephen Boulter - This year, Deacon Stephen, based at St Bede's Bedlington, celebrates 25 years of Ordination to the Diaconate. You may know Deacon Stephen as one of our Hospital Chaplains who serves our community with much love and care. There is a celebration Mass being held on Friday 6th March at 7pm at St Bede's. Everyone is welcome.

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 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.