

This week's Mass Times, Services and Intentions

	St. John the Baptist, Annitsford	St. Paul's, Cramlington
Sat 3 rd		5:30 – 5:50pm Reconciliation and Exposition 6:00pm Mass Jim Gray & John Reid R.I.P.
Sun 4 th	9:00-9:25am Reconciliation and Exposition 9:30am Mass Arthur & deceased members of the Brannigan family.	2nd Sunday after Christmas
Tues 6 th	10:00am Feast of The Epiphany Holyday Of Obligation	6:00pm Feast of The Epiphany Holyday Of Obligation
Wed 7 th		10:00am 10:30 Coffee Morning Special Intention (SW)
Thu 8 th		10:00am Members of Turner Family R.I.P.
Fri 9 th	5:00 – 5:55pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm	
Sat 10 th		5:30 – 5:50pm Reconciliation and Exposition 6:00pm Mass People of St. Paul's Parish
Sun 11 th	9:00-9:25am Reconciliation and Exposition 9:30am Mass People of St. John's Parish	Baptism Of The Lord

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:

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

As the Jubilee Year draws to a close, today's gospel reminds us of the heart of Christmas: the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Before creation, the Word existed and in him is life, a light that darkness cannot overcome. The Jubilee calls us to freedom, restoration, and new beginnings. Jesus is our ultimate Jubilee: he frees us from the burdens of sin, restores our identity as God's children, and walks with us through every struggle. To all who receive him, he gives power to become children of God. Living this Jubilee means responding to Christ's light in concrete ways. As he shows mercy to us, we are called to bring his mercy to others through forgiveness, acts of compassion, service to those in need and seeking justice for the oppressed. By doing so, we make the grace of Jubilee tangible in our world. Even as the Jubilee ends, the grace of the incarnation continues. God is not distant; he is Emmanuel, God with us. May we enter the new year walking in his light, renewed in hope, and eager to share his mercy with all.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, shine your light in our hearts. Restore what is broken, release what burdens us, and help us share your mercy and love with those around us. 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
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

4th January 2026

The Second Sunday of Christmas [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.



The Epiphany of the Lord

The Greek word Epiphany (epiphanos), which means appearance or manifestation or showing forth, is used to describe Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles. Originally the word Epiphany referred to the visit of a king to the people of his provinces. "Epiphany" refers to God's Self-revelation as well as to the revelation of Jesus as His Son to all mankind. Epiphany is an older celebration than the feast of Christmas, having originated in the East in the late second century. In Italy and Spain, the gifts traditionally associated with the Christmas season are exchanged today, on the feast of the Epiphany. Among Italians, it is believed that the gifts are brought by the old woman, Befana (from Epiphany), whereas Spanish custom attributes the gifts to the Kings or Magi. In the Western Church, the feast commemorates the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. In the Eastern Church, the feast also commemorates the Baptism of Christ. The angels revealed Jesus to the shepherds, and the star revealed him to the Magi, who had already received hints of Him from the Jewish Scriptures. Later, God the Father revealed Jesus' identity to Israel at his Baptism in the Jordan. In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus revealed himself as the promised Messiah. Finally, Jesus revealed himself as a miracle worker at the wedding of Cana, thus revealing his Divinity. These multiple revelations are all suggested by the Feast of the Epiphany.



Pope Leo XIV's message for the 2026 World Day Of Peace emphasises "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, was "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.

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.

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

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.

Obituaries:

Joan Oliver: Joan passed away peacefully on December 14, 2025, at the age of 79. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 10.00 am** at **St John the Baptist Church, Annitsford**, followed by cremation at **Blyth Crematorium**. We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Joan's family and friends at this sad time. May she rest in peace.

Joan Wilson: Joan passed away on December 23, 2025, at **Cramlington Care Home**, aged 90. Her Requiem Mass will take place on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 9.00 am** at **St John the Baptist Church, Annitsford**, followed by committal at **Whitley Bay**. We remember Joan with gratitude and offer our sincere condolences to her family and friends. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

Ronnie Chalmers (more details to follow when received)

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 with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass now at 5pm.

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

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.

Collections: Christmas Collections £629.65 Sunday 28th December Offertory Collection £306.50

St. Paul's Parish News



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 Peter Killen (07948 403341) or Fr. Manoj if you can help in any way.

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.

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.

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

Feast of The Epiphany: Next **Tuesday 6th January** is the Feast Day and is a **Holy Day Of Obligation**. There will be Mass at St. John's at 10:00am with an additional evening Mass here at St. Paul's at 6:00pm to enable people to attend Mass at either parish.

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.

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 27th Dec No 21 R Marshall

Finance: Collections and Standing Orders for December will be published later this month.

Ministry Rota

	3 rd January 2026	10 th January 2026
Bidding Prayers	Teresa C	Jacqui H
Welcomers	Russell & Stephanie N	Margaret H & Linda T
Readers	Julie & Teresa K (Wed Eddie L)	Teresa C & Margaret F (Wed Sue W)
Eucharistic Ministers	Barbara B & Jacqui H	Teresa K & Peter K
Coffee	Joyce & Malcolm G	Victoria L & Pamela McG
Counting	Team 2: Maria H & Kathy D	Team 3: Sheila H, Bob & Julie M
Cleaning	Team 3: Stella S & Barbara	Team 4: Julie & Bob M
Bulletin	Mariela	Peter

Diocesan News

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 Applicant 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.