

This week's Mass Times, Services and Intentions

| | St. John the Baptist, Annitsford | St. Paul's, Cramlington |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 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 First Holy Communion Family Mass Deceased members of the Love, Miley and Donoghue families | Third Sunday of Lent |
| Tues 10 th | 10:00am Mass Private Intention (Teresa Brannigan) | |
| Wed 11 th | | 10:00am Mass Coffee Morning 10:30am Requiem Mass for Mary Morrison Fenwick |
| Thu 12 th | | NO MASS |
| Fri 13 th | 5:30 – 6:00pm Stations of the Cross 6:00pm Mass | 10.00am Stations of the Cross in Church |
| Sat 14 th | | 5:30 – 5:50pm Reconciliation and Exposition 6:00pm Mass Agnes Miller R.I.P. (JE) |
| Sun 15 th | 9:00-9:25am Reconciliation and Exposition 9:30am Mass Deceased members of the Love, Miley and Donoghue families | Fourth 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.

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.



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.

Details are shown below for anyone who would need to contact Fr. Manoj, for both our parish Websites and Facebook Pages which contain a lot of useful information for all our parishioners. Please do take some time to view these and let Fr. Manoj have your comments and any suggestions you have as to how you think they could be improved by the addition of any useful information.

Contact details for both parishes are as follows

St. Paul's Parish, Cramlington

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



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

8th March 2026
Third 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.



Third Sunday of Lent: Gospel of St. John 4: 5 – 42.

As our Lenten journey continues, we have a wonderful incident this weekend of our Lord meeting and speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well. This extraordinary encounter and discussion that follows brings home to us that Christ came to bring about unity through the salvation of the entire people of Israel, not just the tribe of Judah, but the whole of Israel, including the Samaritan people, and in fact people of every tribe, nationality and tongue. Our Lord's sensitivity and care and concern for all people shines through brightly in this meeting. We are very familiar with this delightful meeting of Christ and the Samaritan woman at the well. There are so many wonderful elements to this scene. We know that even the disciples are described as surprised to see Jesus talking with this woman. It is often assumed that this is because he is speaking with a woman, but actually it is not so unusual that an exhausted and parched traveller might ask someone for water from anyone they come across. The biggest surprise was that he was speaking to a Samaritan and that he seemed to be asking for her to share her water container, as he had none. It was well known that Samaritans and Jews did not associate and certainly didn't share eating or drinking implements. Despite this, they believed many of the same things, and their practices weren't that different. The difference was massively about where the proper place for worship was, with Jews saying it's God's temple in Jerusalem, and the Samaritans said it was their local Mount Gerizim. They all had the same spiritual ancestors, they were all descended from the different tribes of the originally united Israel, combining Judah and Israel, the latter which included Samaria. He stays with the Samaritans two whole days. He eats with them. He stays in their shelter and talks with them. He adds something that astounds and amazes, that there will come a time, in fact that time is now, when we will worship, not on this or that mountain, but will worship God in spirit and truth. That time has already come, through Christ, who is the living temple, and from whom the waters of life flow to all people. Christ, again, finds a way of healing, reconnecting and unifying all people, not through compromise, but through a thoroughly liberating, wider perspective, and a way of truth and life where all sides can move forward as God's people. Jesus' example shows us, again, that the solution to division and disagreement is compassion, respect, listening, healing, and lovingly being open to the fullness of vision, and does not stand on a narrow refusal to have a meeting of mind and heart.

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?

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/len-sycamore-course/> or by contacting the admin team on 0191 243 3316.

Pastoral Strategy Discernment Meeting: Following the recent Pastoral Letter from Bishop Stephen Wright, all members of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and Finance Committee of St. John the Baptist Church Annitsford and St. Paul's Church Cramlington are invited to attend a joint meeting for prayerful reflection and discernment on the future pastoral strategy of our Diocese. We also warmly invite any members of the parish community who would like to take part in this important process of discernment along with the representatives from the school if they wish to join in.

The first meeting will be held at St. Paul's Church on: Wednesday 11th March at 7.00 PM

This gathering will offer us an opportunity to reflect together on the vitality, mission, and future sustainability of our parish, and to listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we consider how best to serve present and future generations. Please keep this process in your prayers.

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.

Lately dead: 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. Mass will be celebrated here in St. John's on Tuesday 17th March at 10:00am for the repose of his soul and to thank God for his work as a Gardener for our parish.

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, phone and email) to Fr Manoj or Gerry Killen.

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.

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

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.

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 £366.50 CAFOF Fast Day £203.00

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.

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 many, many years, singing 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 Mass will take place on Wednesday 11th March at 10.00 am at St. Paul's Church Cramlington, followed by her Committal Service at West Road Crematorium, Newcastle upon Tyne at 11.45 am. Please do try to attend to support her family through this very difficult time.

Peter Don: The funeral of Kathy's husband, Peter, will take place this coming Friday, 13th March at 12 noon in Whitley Bay Crematorium then on to the Benedictine Social Club. Please keep Kathy and their family members in your prayers during this sad time. We pray that Peter will now be at peace.

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.

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.

Ministry Rota

| | 7 th March | 14 th March |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bidding Prayers | Malcolm G | Teresa C |
| Welcomers | Barbara B & | Meg C & Barbara W |
| Readers | Jacqui H & Peter K (Wed Patrick C) | Teresa K & Barbara B (Wed Teresa C) |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Joyce G & Christine E | Teresa C & Terry R |
| Coffee | Victoria L & Pamela McG | Joyce & Malcolm G |
| Counting | Team 1: Joe S, Averill R, Betty W | Team 2: Teresa K & Sheila H |
| Cleaning | Team 4: Julie and Bob M | Team 1: Stephanie N & Barbara W |
| Bulletin | Peter | Peter |

200 Club: Lots of spare numbers available at £1 per week.

Bonus Ball: 28th February No. 23 P Battersby.

Joint Parish News

Items for the Bulletin: If you wish to have items go into our weekly Bulletin, 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's Bulletin.



Stations of the Cross: During Lent we have Stations of the Cross each Friday at 10:00am in St Paul's and at 5:30pm in St. John's. We encourage as many parishioners as possible to attend these services as part of their Lenten observances.



Lenten Reconciliation Service:

During this holy season of Lent, we are given a special opportunity to turn back to the Lord with renewed hearts. This year, our parish will join together with the parishes of Blyth, Cowpen, and New Hartley for a Joint Lenten Reconciliation Service. The service will take place on Thursday, 26 March 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Church of Our Lady and St Wilfrid, Blyth. I warmly encourage everyone to make use of this grace-filled opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As we prepare our hearts for the great celebration of Easter, this service offers us a beautiful moment to experience God's mercy and renewal. Let us come together in prayer and repentance so that we may celebrate the Paschal mysteries with joy and peace.

Can people please let Peter or Gerry Killen know if they are available to Minister during our Holy Week services which will be as follows: **Palm Sunday 29th March** - normal Saturday and Sunday Mass times in both parishes. **Maundy Thursday 2nd April** - Mass of the Last Supper at 7:00pm in St. John's, (Volunteers for Washing of Feet please) **Good Friday 3rd April** - The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ 3:00pm in St. Paul's **Easter Sunday 5th April** - Vigil Mass at 6:00pm in St. Paul's and 8:30pm in St. John's. Normal Sunday Mass at 9:30am in St. John's.

Brendan Colohan: The family of Brendan offer a sincere thankyou to St Paul's parish for the love, support and prayers, which are so gratefully received. To Father Manoj, Deacon Rob, and altar servers for leading the vigil service, requiem mass, and committal on 26th and 27th February, with such prayerful dedication and compassion. Please know that we shall keep the parish in our thoughts and prayers.

Brendan had a deep faith and served the parish for over 50 years. We kindly ask that any donations, in memory of Brendan, are made towards the benefit and upkeep of St Paul's and St John's churches using the following link <https://share.google/vL7KZee6bKlwwnfi4>. Thankyou.

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

Cramlington Foodbank Donations: Dear friends, just a quick email to say thank you for the recent donation. It's very generous of you. We really appreciate the thought and time you put into supporting us. Kind regards, Angela

Diocesan Job Vacancy:

Role: Retreat Facilitator Location: Emmaus Youth Village, nr Consett
 Details: Planning events and activities, cross checking bookings and catering requirements, handling cash and dealing with invoices and payments. The successful candidate will be one of the main points of contact during residential weekends. The Youth Village welcomes thousands of young people each year through retreats, festivals, outreach, and diocesan initiatives. Our work continues to grow in both scale and depth, and it remains a vital expression of the Church's commitment to forming and accompanying the next generation.

Salary: £25,350 Closing date: 09:00 on Tuesday 17th March 2026

How to apply: Further information and Application Pack are available at <https://diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies/>