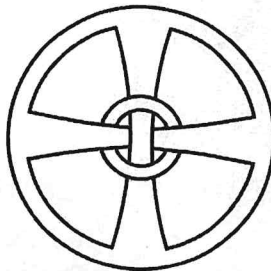


Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle   Hilda Partnership			
Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury			
Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham. TS23 2EP			
Parish Priest: Father Adrian Dixon. Telephone: 01642 553 118			
Week beginning: 12 <sup>th</sup> January, 2025			
Website	www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk	Facebook	www.facebook.com/rcdhnbillingham
Email	StThomasofCanterbury.Billingham@diocesehn.org.uk		
Day	Holy Mass and Services	Intention	
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> January The Baptism of the Lord.	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM	Sally Pacznski	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Funeral Mass for Maureen Maddren at Holy Rosary - 12.00 Noon		
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Funeral Mass for Monica (Monty) Sharp at Holy Rosary - 10.30 AM		
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 7.00 PM	Gerard Devine	
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM	Ian Donnelly	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January St. Antony, Abbot.	Holy Mass at Saint John's - 10.00 AM	O'Connor and Merifield Families	
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Confessions at Saint John's 10.00 AM to 10.30 AM		
	Vigil - Holy Mass at Saint John's - 5.30 PM		
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM		

**Please pray for those who have died recently:**  
Father Kevin Cummins, Doreen Doran, Joan Maria Tunney,

**Maureen Maddren** (Requiem Mass at 12 noon on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 at Holy Rosary), and

**Monica (Monty) Sharp** (Requiem Mass at 10.30 AM on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 at Holy Rosary).

<b>Please pray for the sick:</b>			
Sheila Allen	Canon Stephen Dye	Grace Ollie	Lily Ward-Thurlbeck
Stephen Allison	Sheila Holmes	Christine Rooney	Helen Webb
Maureen Braithwaite	Judy Houchen	Max Simpson	Kate Williams
Carol Brownlee	Brian Kane	Father John Skivington	Avril Wordsworth
Ann Christeson	Sarah McAllister	Peter Smith	
Bill Devine	Rev. Dan Mckie	Judith Sowerby	

### White Flower Collection

The White Flower Collection will be taken on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January

### First Holy Communion

The children have their next meeting after School on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January. Next weekend the children will be specially involved during Mass.

### Question Corner

There are two winners for the puzzle and an honourable mention written by Fr Adrian from last week. See the website for the results and full explanation from Fr Adrian. Have a go on this week's puzzle.

### Thoughts on Sunday's readings

Fr Adrian continues to write weekly reflections available on our website. Make it one of your weekly reflections. Spread the word.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. We will be holding a special service for the Churches together in Billingham on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> January at 3.00 PM in Holy Rosary Church. Do please make every effort to come along.

### Dementia Awareness training

The Dementia Awareness training, for those who have volunteered for it, will take place in the Medway on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 from 9.30 a.m.

### Newman Tyneside Circle

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear John Murray speak about Mgr Kevin Nichols: the poem. The meeting will be at Holy Name parish hall, Jesmond, Newcastle, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm.

### The RCIA Group

The RCIA Group for those looking at becoming members of the Church will next meet on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January after 7.00pm Mass in the Sacristy at Holy Rosary.

### Jubilee 2025

Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee, and the theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". More information available on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

### Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)

For any SVP enquiries, please speak to one of our members or contact Jane (07584 575541) or Janet (07840 967111). The Food Hub continues every Friday 12 noon to 3.00 PM (no need for a referral).

### SVP Food Hub

The food hub in the Medway opens every Friday from midday to 3:00 pm.

No referral is required to use the food hub, and you do not need to belong to our Catholic community – we are open to everyone. Please just attend during the times above.

The cost is £2.00 for **eight items from the tables and two frozen items**. If you need more, £2.50 will get you **ten items from the tables and three items from the freezer**. Items from the tables can include fresh, tinned, or bottled goods, etc.

You will be warmly welcomed to our food hub. If you need us, we are here to help. Please pass this information on to others who may wish to use the food hub.

Happy New Year from the SVP Food Hub.

### The 400+ CLUB

The 400+ Club is a scheme that supports the Parish financially and, at the same time, pays four winning prizes each month of £100 or £50. Each number costs £2.50 which can be paid monthly or £30 in January, 2025 to cover the full year. A reminder for current members to please update any changes in name or address. Anyone wishing to join the scheme can find details at the back of each church or please contact Caroline Kelly on 07899 788760.

The winners of December's draw are as follows:

Number:	Prize:	Member's Name:
465	£ 100	P. Smith
229	£ 100	A. Woods
147	£ 50	P. McCartie
198	£ 50	C. Swainston

### Want to add a notice

Send your notice to the parish's email by Thursday noon.



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, Cf. Mt 3:16-17  
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,  
and the voice of the Father thundered:  
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

## THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,  
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan  
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,  
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,  
grant that your children by adoption,  
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,  
may also be well pleasing to you.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. 'I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.'

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

Psalms 29(28):1-2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10. R.11b

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly powers,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
bow down before the Lord, majestic in holiness.

The voice of the Lord upon the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord full of power;  
the voice of the Lord full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders;  
in his temple they all cry, 'Glory!'  
The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;  
the Lord sits as king for ever.

## SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 10:34-38

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all — you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.'

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.  
The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:  
'This is my beloved Son; listen to him'.  
Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.  
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Or:

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the  
Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the offerings  
we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son,  
so that the oblation of your faithful  
may be transformed into the sacrifice of him  
who willed in his compassion  
to wash away the sins of the world.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said:  
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts,  
we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord,  
that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son,  
we may be your children in name and in truth.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



The Jewish people had been  
living for centuries in  
expectation of the Messiah, and

when John the Baptist appeared  
on the scene many of them  
thought that John was he.  
However, John makes it very  
clear that he is not the Messiah  
and that someone "much more  
powerful than him" would come  
and baptise them with the Holy  
Spirit and with fire. All of us who  
are baptised Christian have been  
baptised with the Holy Spirit  
and fire, but how many of us ever  
think of this? Today would be a  
very good day to reflect on this  
and to see how much, if at all, we  
feel the Holy Spirit present in  
our lives. Jesus tells us that all we  
have to do to have the Holy  
Spirit is to ask for him. Only

then will be able to release the  
graces we received at our  
baptism. But the Holy Spirit is a  
gentle spirit, who inspires us, but  
who doesn't force himself on us.  
In order to hear his voice, we  
need to put out of our heads all  
the 'noise' which surrounds us  
and create an inner silence so  
that we can discover what he is  
prompting us to do.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
FRATELLI TUTTI  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

CONSENSUS  
AND TRUTH

214. To agnostics, this foundation could prove sufficient to confer a solid and stable universal validity on basic and non-negotiable ethical principles that could serve to prevent further catastrophes. As believers, we are convinced that human nature, as the source of ethical principles, was created by God, and that ultimately it is he who gives those principles their solid foundation.<sup>203</sup> This does not result in an ethical rigidity nor does it lead to the imposition of any one moral system, since fundamental and universally valid moral principles can be embodied in different practical rules. Thus, room for dialogue will always exist.

<sup>203</sup>. As Christians, we also believe that God grants us his grace to enable us to act as brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia*  
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

As Christians, we can hardly stop advocating marriage simply to avoid countering contemporary sensibilities, or out of a desire to be fashionable or a sense of helplessness in the face of human and moral failings. We would be depriving the world of values that we can and must offer. It is true that there is no sense in simply decrying present-day evils, as if this could change things. Nor it is helpful to try to impose rules by sheer authority. What we need is a more responsible and generous effort to present the reasons and motivations for choosing marriage and the family, and in this way to help men and women better to respond to the grace that God offers them.

