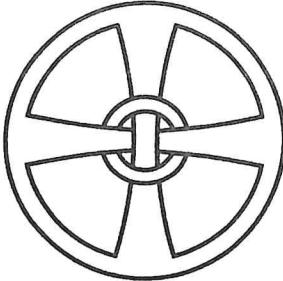


Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Hilda Partnership Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury				
Parish Priest: Father Adrian Dixon. Telephone: 01642 553 118 Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham. TS23 2EP				
Week beginning: 27th April, 2025				
Website	www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk		Facebook	www.facebook.com/rcdhnbillingham
Email	StThomasofCanterbury.Billingham@diocesehn.org.uk			
Day	Holy Mass and Services			Intention
Sunday 27th April Second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday.	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM - Live Streamed			Parishioners
Monday 28th April Saint George, Patron of England.	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM			Peter Fulton
Tuesday 29th April St Catherine of Siena.	Holy Mass at St Joseph's School - 10.00 AM			Angela Gilhen
Wednesday 30th April	Exposition and Evening Prayer of the Church - Holy Rosary - 6.15 PM			
	Requiem Mass for Pope Francis at Holy Rosary - 7.00 PM			Pope Francis
Thursday 1st May St Joseph the Worker.	Holy Mass in Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM			Nelson Family
Friday 2nd May St Athanasius.	Holy Mass in St John's - 10.00 AM			J. and P. Gabriele
Saturday 3rd May	Confessions in St John's - 10.00 to 10.30 AM			
	Vigil Mass in St John's - 5.30 PM			Brian Devine
Sunday 4th May Third Sunday of Easter.	Sunday Holy Mass in Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM - Live Streamed			Parishioners

Please pray for the sick:				
Sheila Allen	Robert Dalton	Judy Houchen	Grace Ollie	Judith Sowerby
Maureen Braithwaite	Bill Devine	Brian Kane	Christine Rooney	Lily Ward-Thurlbeck
Carol Brownlee	Pauline Hewitt	Sarah McAllister	Father John Skivington	Helen Webb
Ann Christeson	Sheila Homes	Rev. Dan Mckie	Peter Smith	Kate Williams

Please pray for those who have died recently:

Pope Francis, Chris Allison, Stephen Allison, Denis Murphy, Avril Wordsworth, Audrey Upton, Terry Grogan, Coleen Webster, Margaret Loy, and Kathleen Wright (Matthews).

May they rest in Peace. Amen.



**Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Pope Francis.**

Even though we knew that Pope Francis was not in good health, it still came as a shock when the Vatican authorities announced his death. We have all prayed for him informally and at Mass since Monday. As a parish, we shall celebrate a **Requiem Mass** for him on Wednesday, 30th April at 7.00 PM in Holy Rosary. There will be Exposition at 6.15 PM with Evening Prayer from the Office for the Dead.

Father Adrian

would like to thank everyone for their kindness, good wishes, cards and presents for Easter and in marking the 40th Anniversary of his Priestly Ordination.

The Holy Week liturgies

were truly uplifting and made possible only by the dedication and commitment of so many parishioners. Both St John's and Holy Rosary look absolutely beautiful, and it was wonderful to be with those who became members of the Church at this time. Once again, many thanks for all those who helped.

Confirmation Programme

Next weekend (3rd/4th May) there will be another special ceremony during both masses for those taking part in the programme.

RCIA

This will start up again on Wednesday, 7th May, 2025 after Evening Mass and run through to Pentecost when it will finish. This period of the journey has the curious title 'Mystagogia', meaning a deepening of understanding of the mystery/mysteries - 'the mystery is Chris in you' (Colossians: 1:27), as well as the Church and the Sacraments. Strictly speaking, all baptised members of the Church are constantly in this period as we are called to deepen our understanding and the call to be disciples of Jesus.

National Catholic Leadership Programme

Full details on our web notices.

Diocesan Youth Council Relaunch

The YMT and Diocese are restarting the Youth Council, giving young people a voice in the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese. The first meeting is Tuesday 18th May 2025, 2:30 - 4pm at Newcastle Cathedral. Year 9+ students are invited to join. Details & nominations are on our **website notices, quick links.**

Answer the Call: Teach in a Catholic School

Full details on our web notices.

The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD

A week of free residential work experience - *Full details on our web notices.*

National Mass for Altar Servers

On Saturday, 17th May, 2025 at St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster led by Bishop Paul Swarbrick. The Mass commences at 12.15 PM. The Mass is organised by the Archconfraternity of St Stephen, the Church's official organisation for Altar Servers. Servers and their families are invited to this Mass. If you would like to go, please sign the list at the back of the church so that we can decide what size coach we will need.

Please sign up as soon as possible.

Recent Special Collections

The amounts raised were as follows:

Survive-MIVA: £ 398
SPUC: £ 340
CAFOD: £ 688

Thank you for your great generosity.

Society of the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)

Saturday, 31st May, 2025: Rosary Rally for Life Meeting at St John the Evangelist church, Middlesbrough. TS1 2DU at 12 noon and then a procession to Middlesbrough Town Centre to say the Holy Rosary.

The 400+ Club - results for February, 2025

£100 prize: M. Armstrong Number 362
£100 prize: R. Brownless Number 423
£50 prize: T Lakin Number 6
£50 prize: A. Gilhen Number 349

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

Like newborn infants, you must long for
the pure, spiritual milk,
that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

1 Pt 2: 2

Gloria

Collect

God of everlasting mercy,
who, in the very recurrence of the paschal feast
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,
that all may grasp and rightly understand
in what font they have been washed,
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.
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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 5:12-16

Many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by
the hands of the Apostles. And they were all together in the Solomon's
Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in
high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord,
multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the
sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter
came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people
also gathered from the towns round Jerusalem, bringing the sick and
those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 118(117):2-4. 22-24. 25-27a. R. 1

R. Give praise to the Lord for he is good,
his mercy endures for ever.

or: Alleluia.

Let the house of Israel say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'
Let the house of Aaron say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'
Let those who fear the Lord say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been done,
a marvel in our eyes.
This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.

We beseech you, O Lord, grant salvation;
we beseech you, O Lord, grant success.
Blest is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the Lord is God, and has given us light.

Second Reading

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom
and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called
Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud
voice like a trumpet saying, 'Write what you see in a book and send it
to the seven churches.'

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on
turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the
lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with
a golden sash round his chest. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as
though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, 'Fear not, I
am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am
alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write

therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that
are to take place after this.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

John 20:29

You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord.
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.
Alleluia.

Gospel

John 20:19-31

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being
locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and
stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had
said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples
were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace
be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven
them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them
when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen
the Lord'. But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of
the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my
hand into his side, I will never believe.'

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with
them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among
them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your
finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my
side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord
and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have
seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples,
which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you
may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by
believing you may have life in his name.

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

Homily

R. The Nicene Creed Or The Apostles' Creed

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, we pray,
the oblations of your people
(and of those you have brought to new birth),
that, renewed by confession of your name
and by Baptism,
they may attain unending happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing,
alleluia.

Cf. Jn 20:27

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that our reception of this paschal Sacrament
may have a continuing effect
in our minds and hearts.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



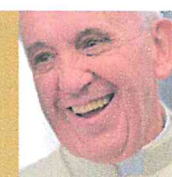
After the death and Resurrection
of Jesus, the disciples were lost
and frightened. They had shut
themselves in a room and didn't
know what to do next. However,
as promised, Jesus appears to

them and gives them
the gift of the Holy
Spirit and with it the
power to forgive (or
not) sins. In times
like ours, when
confession is ignored
by many Catholics,
this Gospel is a very
powerful reminder
that God himself
gives the power of
forgiving sins to the ordained
members of our community. The
incident with 'doubting' Thomas
finds an echo in most of us.
When any remarkable event is
reported to us, we want physical

evidence before we believe. It is
true that we have not 'seen' in
a literal sense, but we have the
Word of God, present in the
Gospels which help believe that
Jesus is with us. And if we are
able to really love one another,
then Jesus promises his spiritual
presence among us. When this
happens, we can't see him, but we
can feel his strong presence and
our faith is strengthened.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF PEACE

230. Working to overcome our divisions without losing our identity as
individuals presumes that a basic sense of belonging is present in everyone.
Indeed, "society benefits when each person and social group feels truly at
home. In a family, parents, grandparents and children all feel at home; no one
is excluded. If someone has a problem, even a serious one, even if he brought it
upon himself, the rest of the family comes to his assistance; they support him.
His problems are theirs... In families, everyone contributes to the common
purpose; everyone works for the common good, not denying each person's
individuality but encouraging and supporting it. They may quarrel, but there
is something that does not change: the family bond. Family disputes are always
resolved afterwards. The joys and sorrows of each of its members are felt by
all. That is what it means to be a family! If only we could view our political
opponents or neighbours in the same way that we view our children or our
spouse, mother or father! How good would this be! Do we love our society or
is it still something remote, something anonymous that does not involve us,
something to which we are not committed?" 215

215. Meeting with Political, Economic and Civic Leaders, Quito, Ecuador (7 July 2015): L'Osservatore Romano, 9
July 2015, p. 9.

Pope Francis'
Amoris Laetitia
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

Our teaching on marriage and the
family cannot fail to be inspired
and transformed by this message
of love and tenderness; otherwise,
it becomes nothing more than the
defence of a dry and lifeless doctrine.
The mystery of the Christian family
can be fully understood only in the
light of the Father's infinite love
revealed in Christ, who gave himself
up for our sake and who continues
to dwell in our midst. I now wish
to turn my gaze to the living Christ,
who is at the heart of so many love
stories, and to invoke the fire of the
Spirit upon all the world's families.

