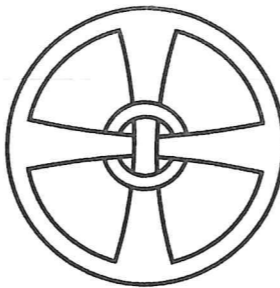


Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle   Hilda Partnership				
Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury				
Parish Priest: Father Adrian Dixon. Telephone: 01642 553 118				
Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham. TS23 2EP				
Week beginning: 4th May, 2025				
Website	www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk		Facebook	www.facebook.com/rcdhnbillingham
Email	StThomasofCanterbury.Billingham@diocesehn.org.uk			
Day	Holy Mass and Services			Intention
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> May Third Sunday of Easter.	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM - Live Streamed			Parishioners
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May.	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM			George and Betty Maddrell
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May. The English Martyrs.	Holy Mass at St Joseph's School - 10.00 AM			Holy Souls
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May.	Exposition and Evening Prayer of the Church - at Holy Rosary - 6.15 PM			
	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 7.00 PM			Stephen Allison
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May.	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM			McCash Family Special Intention
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Mass at St John's - 10.00 AM			Private Intention
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Vigil Mass at St John's - 5.30 PM			Betty and Dick Wright and Family
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> May Fourth Sunday of Easter.	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM - Live Streamed			Parishioners

<b>Please pray for the sick:</b>				
Sheila Allen	Robert Dalton	Judy Houchen	Grace Ollie	Judith Sowerby
Maureen Braithwaite	<b>Bill Devine</b>	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, Audrey Upton, Terry Grogan,  
 Coleen Webster, Margaret Loy, and Kathleen Wright (Matthews).  
**May they rest in Peace. Amen.**



## THE APOSTOLIC SEE IS VACANT APOSTOLICA SEDES VACANS

Please pray for the Cardinal Electors who will enter the Sistine Chapel on Wednesday, 7th May, 2025 at 4.30 p.m. (3.30 p.m. UK time) to take part in the Conclave to elect our new Pope.

**The First Holy Communion Children** will be meeting this week after School. They will have a special ceremony during Masses next weekend

**Bishop Stephen** will be celebrating Confirmation here in Billingham on Thursday, 25th May at 7.00 PM in Holy Rosary Church. Everyone is welcome to come along and support those who are to be confirmed and to have a chance to meet Bishop Stephen.

**RCIA** This will start again on **Wednesday, 7th May** 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.

**Congratulations to Holy Rosary Primary School** who were inspected by OFSTED just before the Easter holidays. Thanks to the hard work of the staff and pupils, the school has been upgraded to GOOD and we congratulate them on their success. Our thanks go to Mrs Lucy Flaherty for being such an effective leader for the School and we look forward to our young people growing and learning in such a happy and rewarding environment in Holy Rosary School - as do the pupils in our other Parish Schools here in Billingham. Below are some lines from the OFSTED report (which can be found, in full, on the School's website).

*The School prioritises its engagement with families. The School has a consistent approach to promoting effective learning. Pupils have a positive attitude to their learning*

*and demonstrate a clear understanding of lesson structures and routines. This consistent approach has been instrumental in what pupils know and remember. Pupils speak positively about equality. The School promotes issues such as recycling, climate change, and caring for God's world, to shape pupils into active responsible citizens. The trust, the local governing committee, and the diocese have a comprehensive oversight of the strengths and areas for development in the School.*

**Walsingham Pilgrimage** The balance of the cost of this year's Pilgrimage is £ 200.00 and this needs to be paid by Sunday, 25th May, 2025, please. Payment may be made by bank transfer, by cheque, or in cash. Please give any cheques or cash to Callum Walker (please ring him on 07828 973 860 if you need any further information) or to Caroline Kelly. Cheques to be made payable to "St Thomas of Canterbury Parish" please. If you wish to pay by bank transfer, please contact Callum Walker or Caroline Kelly in the first instance.

### The Friendship Group

is holding an Afternoon Tea on Tuesday, 20th May, 2025 from 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. in the Catholic Club. All are most welcome.

### 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**.

### 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.

### National Catholic Leadership Programme

*Full details on our web notices.*

### Answer the Call: Teach in a Catholic School

*Full details on our web notices.*

### The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD

*Full details on our web notices.*

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

## Entrance Antiphon

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

## Gloria

## Collect

May your people exult for ever, O God,  
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,  
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption,  
we may look forward in confident hope  
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.  
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 5:27b-32, 40b-41

In those days: The high priest questioned the Apostles, saying, 'We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.' But Peter and the Apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Having called in the Apostles, the council beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonour for the name.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

Psalm 30 (29):2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12a, 13b. R.2a

R. I will extol you, LORD, for you have raised me up.

I will extol you, LORD, for you have raised me up,  
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.  
O LORD, you have lifted up my soul from Sheol,  
restored me to life from those who sink into the pit.

Sing psalms to the LORD, you faithful ones;  
give thanks to his holy name.  
His anger lasts a moment; his favour all through life.  
At night come tears, but dawn brings joy.

Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me;  
be my helper, O LORD.  
You have changed my mourning into dancing.  
O LORD my God, I will thank you for ever.

## Second Reading

A reading from the Book of Revelation. Revelation 5:11-14

I, John looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!' And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' and the elders fell down and worshipped.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Cf. Ps 65:1-2

## Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ is risen, who created all things  
and has shown compassion on the human race.  
Alleluia.

## Gospel (Shorter form)

John 21:1-14

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, do you have any fish?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred metres off.

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## R. Homily

The Nicene Creed Or The Apostles' Creed

## Prayer over the Offerings

R. Receive, O Lord, we pray,  
these offerings of your exultant Church,  
and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness,  
grant also that the gifts we bring  
may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.  
R. Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Communion Antiphon

Cf. Jn 21: 12-13

Jesus said to his disciples: Come and eat.  
And he took bread and gave it to them, alleluia.

## Prayer after Communion

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord,  
and grant, we pray,  
that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries  
may attain in their flesh  
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Jesus appears to the disciples for the third time since his Resurrection. Today's Gospel has two fairly 'distinct' sections. In the first one Jesus is standing on the shore, but the disciples do not recognize him. However, when they then had a

'miraculous' catch of fish, having failed to catch anything all night, John tells Peter "It is the Lord." The symbolism in this Gospel is very interesting. The disciples are working at night, that is, in the dark, and catch nothing. Jesus arrives 'in the light' and they have a mammoth catch. This story is a confirmation of Jesus says in another part of John's Gospel: "Without me you can do nothing". Without Jesus we are working 'in the dark' and therefore can do nothing.

In the second 'section' of this Gospel, Jesus addresses Peter. He asks him if he loves him more than the others. Peter says he does. Peter is emerging as the one to be take on the role of Jesus. As we know, Peter was impulsive and actually denied Jesus almost immediately after having promised he would never do so. And yet Jesus chose him to be the rock on which the Church would be built. We, who also often deny Jesus, should feel consoled by this.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
FRATELLI TUTTI  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



## THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF PEACE

231. Negotiation often becomes necessary for shaping concrete paths to peace. Yet the processes of change that lead to lasting peace are crafted above all by peoples; each individual can act as an effective leaven by the way he or she lives each day. Great changes are not produced behind desks or in offices. This means that "everyone has a fundamental role to play in a single great creative project: to write a new page of history, a page full of hope, peace and reconciliation".<sup>216</sup> There is an "architecture" of peace, to which different institutions of society contribute, each according to its own area of expertise, but there is also an "art" of peace that involves us all. From the various peace processes that have taken place in different parts of the world, "we have learned that these ways of making peace, of placing reason above revenge, of the delicate harmony between politics and law, cannot ignore the involvement of ordinary people. Peace is not achieved by normative frameworks and institutional arrangements between well-meaning political or economic groups... It is always helpful to incorporate into our peace processes the experience of those sectors that have often been overlooked, so that communities themselves can influence the development of a collective memory".<sup>217</sup>

216. Interreligious Meeting with Youth, Maputo, Mozambique (5 September 2019): L'Osservatore Romano, 6 September 2019, p. 7.

217. Homily, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia (10 September 2017): AAS 109 (2017), 1086.

Pope Francis'  
Amoris Laetitia  
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

The Synod Fathers noted that Jesus, "in speaking of God's original plan for man and woman, reaffirmed the indissoluble union between them, even stating that 'it was for your hardness of heart that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so' (Mt 19:8). The indissolubility of marriage – 'what God has joined together, let no man put asunder' (Mt 19:6) – should not be viewed as a 'yoke' imposed on humanity, but as a 'gift' granted to those who are joined in marriage... God's indulgent love always accompanies our human journey; through grace, it heals and transforms hardened hearts, leading them back to the beginning through the way of the cross. The Gospels clearly present the example of Jesus who... proclaimed the meaning of marriage as the fullness of revelation that restores God's original plan (cf. Mt 19:3)".

