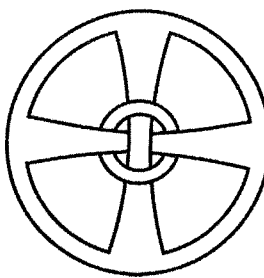


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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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: 18 th May, 2025 | | | | |
| Website | | www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk | Facebook | |
| Email | | StThomasofCanterbury.Billingham@diocesehn.org.uk | | |
| Day | Holy Mass and Services | | | Intention |
| Sunday 18 th May Fifth Sunday of Easter | Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM - Live Streamed | | | Parishioners |
| Monday 19 th May. | Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM | | | Peter McClure |
| Tuesday 20 th May. | No Mass | | | |
| Wednesday 21 st May. | No Mass | | | |
| Thursday 22 nd May. | Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.30 AM <i>With students from Saint Michael's Academy.</i> | | | Alan Pennington |
| Friday 23 rd May. | No Mass | | | |
| Saturday 24 th May. Vigil - Sixth Sunday of Easter | Confessions at Saint John's - 10.00-10.30 AM | | | |
| | Vigil Mass at Saint John's - 5.30 PM | | | Peter Fay |
| Sunday 25 th May. Sixth Sunday of Easter | Sunday Holy Mass at 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 | Fr. John Skivington | Helen Webb |
| Ann Christeson | Sheila Homes | Rev. Dan Mckie | Peter Smith | Kate Williams |

Please pray for those who have died recently:

Frankie Miller, 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.

Congratulations to all those who were confirmed on Thursday evening. It was a wonderful occasion, and it was a delight to welcome Bishop Stephen. He will be back to see us in the Autumn when he will be visiting the Parish. Many thanks to Miss Matthews and Mr Hope who helped the young people prepare for the Sacrament.

Frankie Miller - It was a shock to hear of the sudden death of Frankie Miller. He will be greatly missed by everyone. He was a friendly face always welcoming people to Church on a Sunday and we entrust him to the care of God who will welcome him home to heaven. Our sympathy and love go out to Patty and all the family at this sad time. Frankie's Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 17th June at 10.30am in Holy Rosary.

May Procession: the children preparing for First Holy Communion will take part in a short procession in honour of Our Blessed Lady at the end of the Masses in Saint John's and Holy Rosary next weekend.

New bursary funds available for 2025-26

The Janet Erskine Stuart Scholarship Fund, funded by the Society of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ), intended primarily to support teachers or chaplains. Applications are especially invited from: Teachers of RE wishing to pursue an MA to enhance the quality of their subject knowledge and Teachers of any discipline who wish to retrain to teach RE. Other bursary funds are also available. **See Quick Links** on our web notices for full information.

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.

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.

Old Postage Stamps, Jewellery, Medals- See online Web Notices.

Primary schools' artwork inspired by Sunday Mass Readings - Recently, Saint Paul's Catholic Primary school added artwork inspired by a Sunday reading. This week, Saint John The Evangelist Catholic Primary School added artwork for this weekend's reading. Please check these out on our website.

Please share your memories: Help us preserve our parish history by sharing your memories with Father Adrian. Your contributions will be featured on our website.

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 Annual Jarrow Lecture - This is given each year near to the Feast of Saint Bede and, this year, will be at 7.30 PM on Friday, 23rd May, 2025 in St Paul's Church, Jarrow and admission is free. The title of the talk is: 'What has Bede got to do with the Franks casket' and will be delivered by Professor Leslie Webster, former Senior Curator and Head of Department at the British Museum.

Durham Cathedral will be hosting this year's Bishop Dunn Memorial Lecture of the Centre for Catholic Studies. It will be given by His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe, OP as is entitled: 'Hope in a time of darkness'. It will take place in the Galilee Chapel of the Cathedral at 7.45 PM on Monday, 23rd June, 2025. **See Quick Links** on our web notices if you would like to go.

Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp: Volunteering is a Work of the Heart - Holy Island Children's Camp seeks young adult volunteers for Summer 2025 holiday weeks, supporting 9-12 year olds. Full training provided. Volunteers also needed for kitchen/caretaking roles and term-time meal support More information on **website notices, quick links** or email BarbaraT@svp.org.uk

RCIA Group - The next meeting will be on Wednesday 28th May after the evening Mass.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.
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 Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 14:21b-27

In those days: Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 145(144):8-9. 10-11. 12-13b. R. cf. 1

R. I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.

or:

Alleluia.

The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

All your works shall thank you, O LORD,
and all your faithful ones bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign,
and declare your mighty deeds.

To make known your might to the whole human race,
and the glorious splendour of your reign.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule endures for all generations.

Cf. Ps 97:1-2

SECOND READING

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 21:1-5a

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.'

And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,
that you love one another, just as I have loved you.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 13:31-33a, 34-35

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Judas had gone out from the upper room, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you.

'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

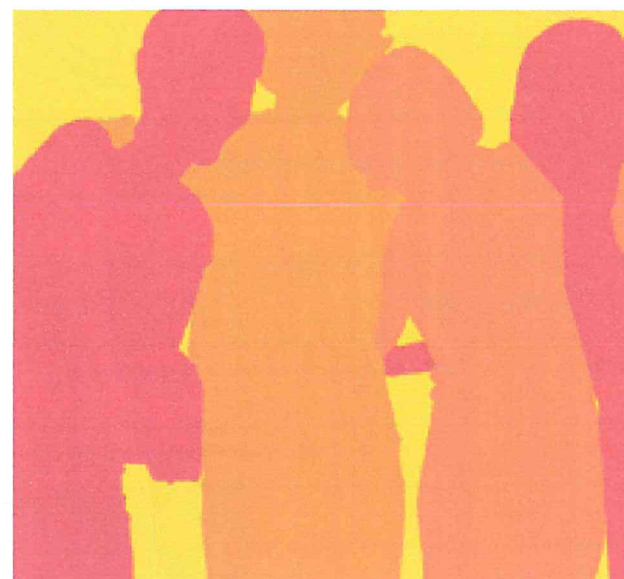
O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead,
grant, we pray,
that, as we have come to know your truth,
we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

R. COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Jn 15:1,5
I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty,
alleluia.

R. PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Graciously be present to your people, we pray,
O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
R. Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION

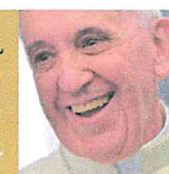


The new commandment of Jesus is at the heart of the teaching that Jesus imparted to his disciples while he was on earth. They are to love one another

if we are united and unity is a fruit of mutual love. Jesus promised his disciples that he would be present among them when they were

as he has loved them. He demonstrated this love by giving his life for them on the cross. This is the measure of his love for us and it is with the same measure that as Christians we are called to love one another. I must be willing to lay down my life for my neighbour. In order for this love to fully manifest itself it must be reciprocal. Only in this way will we be recognised as true disciples of Jesus. We are only credible

gathered in his name which means gathered in his love (Mt. 18,20). It is only when he is present among us that others will recognise that we are authentic Christians. Although this love is reciprocal it is not based on a contract where I agree to love you only if you agree to love me. Divine love always takes the initiative. It gives without seeking anything in return. It receives because it has already given. This is how Jesus loves us and he asks us to do the same.

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALLBEGINNING WITH
THE LEAST

233. Building social friendship does not only call for rapprochement between groups who took different sides at some troubled period of history, but also for a renewed encounter with the most impoverished and vulnerable sectors of society. For peace "is not merely absence of war but a tireless commitment – especially on the part of those of us charged with greater responsibility – to recognize, protect and concretely restore the dignity, so often overlooked or ignored, of our brothers and sisters, so that they can see themselves as the principal protagonists of the destiny of their nation".²²⁰

²²⁰ Meeting with the Authorities, Civil Society and the Diplomatic Corps, Maputo, Mozambique (5 September 2019): L'Osservatore Romano, 6 September 2019, p. 6.

Pope Francis'
Amoris Laetitia
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

The sacrament of marriage is not a social convention, an empty ritual or merely the outward sign of a commitment. The sacrament is a gift given for the sanctification and salvation of the spouses, since "their mutual belonging is a real representation, through the sacramental sign, of the same relationship between Christ and the Church. The married couple are therefore a permanent reminder for the Church of what took place on the cross; they are for one another and for their children witnesses of the salvation in which they share through the sacrament". Marriage is a vocation, inasmuch as it is a response to a specific call to experience conjugal love as an imperfect sign of the love between Christ and the Church. Consequently, the decision to marry and to have a family ought to be the fruit of a process of vocational discernment.

