

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: 1st June, 2025	

Website	www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk	Facebook	www.facebook.com/rcdhnbillingham
Email	StThomasofCanterbury.Billingham@diocesehn.org.uk		

Day	Holy Mass and Services	Intention
Sunday 1 st June. 7 th Sunday of Easter.	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM Live Streamed	Frankie Miller
Monday 2 nd June.	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM	Sally Devine
Tuesday 3 rd June.	Holy Mass at Saint Joseph's School - 10.00 AM St Charles Lwanga and Companions	Margaret Corcoran
Wednesday 4 th June.	Exposition and Evening Prayer at Holy Rosary - 6.15 PM	
	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 7.00 PM	Theresa and Charlie Higgins
Thursday 5 th June. St Boniface	NO MASS	
Friday 6 th June.	Holy Mass at Saint John's - 10.00 AM	Brian Clark
Saturday 7 th June. Vigil - Pentecost.	Confessions at Saint John's - 10.00 to 10.30 AM	
	Vigil Mass at Saint John's - 5.30 PM	Parishioners
Sunday 8 th June. Pentecost.	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM Live Streamed	Frankie Miller

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

Please pray for those who have died recently:

Trevor Pennington, 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.

Billingham Parish Council - During Lent, Bishop Stephen wrote a pastoral letter to all the parishes of our Diocese. He spoke about the role of a Parish Council in the life of the local Church family. Bishop Stephen wrote, *'For effective mission, I invite and encourage us all to breathe new life into parish and partnership councils'*.

Before the onset of Covid there was a parish council here in Billingham, but the effects of the pandemic have meant that it has not met for several years. It's time for us to start things up again. This will provide us with opportunities to look at the future of our parish. We need to discuss what we think is going to be needed in years to come so that we can thrive and reach out to the wider community.

In the near future we will have the opportunity to discuss this as a group of parishioners but before we do that it might be useful to do some praying and thinking as individuals and with those near us. Give the following questions some thought: What are the goals of our Parish as we face the future? How would our Parish Council help us achieve these goals? Who do we need to be members of the Parish Council?

It is important to have ideals and to mix these with a dose of practicality. To have goals that are impossible will only frustrate us; on the other hand, a sense of direction helps us to be effective and express our faith, hope and love. Pray, think, and have a chat with your family and friends.

Question Corner is BACK!! - This week Fr B (not sure who this is!!), Jane and Alison Truck won!!!

Corpus Christi Procession - Bishop Stephen will be leading a Procession in Honour of the Blessed Sacrament at Ushaw College on Sunday 22nd June at 3.00pm. A coach will be leaving from Holy Rosary (time to be confirmed) to take parishioners. If you would like to go please sign the list at the back of the church. It would be very helpful if some of the servers were able to come along.

All our yesterdays - Help us preserve our parish history by sharing your memories with Father Adrian. Your contributions will be featured on our website. We need some help to identify some people from the photos. Have a look!!

The bulletin is on line too - Did you know that the notices are on our website too? Well - I did not know that - I hear you say. Well you know now!

The May Procession Honouring Our Blessed Lady - On Saturday 24th May and Sunday 25th May 2025, the children preparing for First Holy Communion, along with other children, participated in a special procession Honouring Our Blessed Lady at the conclusion of Masses in both Saint John's and Holy Rosary churches. A video has been created featuring photos from these processions, set to the soundtrack of hymns and prayers by Father Adrian from both churches. You can find this on the homepage of our website and our Facebook Page.

Saint Paul's Catholic Primary School - A new piece of artwork has been released by St. Paul's, inspired by Sunday's readings. Please have a look at this on our website and previous inspired pieces of artwork.

CAFOD coffee morning - After Mass on Sunday 1st June in Medway. All very welcome. Coffee, tea, cakes, raffle and chat.

RCIA Group - The next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd June after the evening Mass.

Walsingham Pilgrimage - The balance of the cost of this year's Pilgrimage is £200.00 and was due on Sunday, 25th May, 2025. 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.

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 26:7-9

**O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;
of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face;
hide not your face from me, alleluia.**

COLLECT

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race
is with you in your glory,
may experience, as he promised,
until the end of the world,
his abiding presence among us.
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 7:55-60

In those days: Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven
and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand
of God. And he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the
Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' But they cried out
with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at
him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the
witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man
named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out,
'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' And falling to his knees he cried
out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' And
when he had said this, he fell asleep.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 97(96):1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9. R. 1a, 9b

**R. The Lord is king, most high above all the
earth.**

or:

Alleluia.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad.
Justice and right are the foundation of his throne.

The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory.
All you angels, worship him.

For you indeed are the Lord,
most high above all the earth,
exalted far above all gods.

Second Reading

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20

I, John, heard a voice saying to me, 'Behold, I am coming soon,
bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he
has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,
the beginning and the end.' Blessed are those who wash their
robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that
they may enter the city by the gates.

'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things
for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the
bright morning star.'

The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears
say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who
desires take the water of life without price.

He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.'
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.

Cf. John 14:18

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.**I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will
rejoice.****Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 17:20-26

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 lifted up his eyes to heaven, and praying said,
'Holy Father, I do not ask for these only, but also for those who
will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one,
just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be
in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The
glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may
be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they
may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you
sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire
that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where
I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved
me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even
though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know
that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I
will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have
loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

R. PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful
with the sacrificial offerings,

R. that through these acts of devotedness
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 17:22

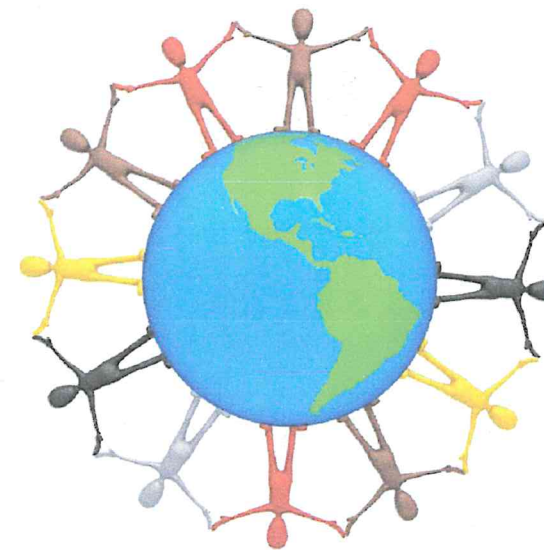
**Father, I pray that they may be one
as we also are one, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear us, O God our Saviour,
and grant us confidence,
that through these sacred mysteries
there will be accomplished in the body of the whole Church
what has already come to pass in Christ her Head.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



This Gospel passage brings us back
to the event of the Last Supper.
Jesus has given his disciples his New
Commandment of mutual love. He

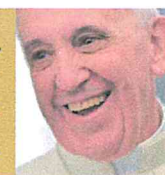
him. That is why any breakdown of
unity in the Christian community is
a scandal that needs to be addressed.
At this point in history the Church

has washed their feet.
He has instituted the
celebration of the
eucharist. Now he prays
to his Father with the
request that all may
be one. He prays for
unity. Not just any
sort of unity, but the
same unity that exists
between him and his
Father. Our unity is
to be modelled on the
unity that exists in the
Blessed Trinity. It is only
when as Christians we
are "one" that the world
will believe in Jesus and
the Father who sent

that Jesus founded is no longer "one".
For all sorts of religious, cultural, and
political reasons we find ourselves
divided. This makes it all the more
urgent to remind ourselves of Jesus'
prayer for unity. Ecumenism is not an
option for Christians, it is mandatory.
One of the ways that we can come
together as Christians is to point to
what we have in common and not
what divides us. More than anything
else we are united by our common
baptism which gives us the gift of new
life and makes us sons and daughters
of the one Father in heaven.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



BEGINNING WITH
THE LEAST

235. Those who work for tranquil social coexistence
should never forget that inequality and lack of
integral human development make peace impossible.
Indeed, "without equal opportunities, different forms
of aggression and conflict will find a fertile terrain
for growth and eventually explode. When a society –
whether local, national or global – is willing to leave a
part of itself on the fringes, no political programmes
or resources spent on law enforcement or surveillance
systems can indefinitely guarantee tranquility".²²² If
we have to begin anew, it must always be from the
least of our brothers and sisters.

222. Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (24 November 2013), 59;
AAS 105 (2013), 1044.

Pope Francis'
Amoris Laetitia
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

"When faced with difficult situations and
wounded families, it is always necessary to recall
this general principle: 'Pastors must know that,
for the sake of truth, they are obliged to exercise
careful discernment of situations' (*Familiaris
Consortio*, 84). The degree of responsibility
is not equal in all cases and factors may exist
which limit the ability to make a decision.
Therefore, while clearly stating the Church's
teaching, pastors are to avoid judgements that
do not take into account the complexity of
various situations, and they are to be attentive,
by necessity, to how people experience and
endure distress because of their condition".

