

Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle | Hilda Partnership

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Fr Adrian Dixon Telephone: 01642 553 118
Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham TS23 2EP



Parish Website


Week Beginning: Sunday 14th September 2025

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

Daily Readings


Day	Holy Mass and Services	Intention
Sunday 14th September The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM Live Streamed	Well-being of Kevin Cooling
Monday 15th September Our Lady of Sorrows	Recitation of the Rosary at Holy Rosary at 9.40 AM Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM	Eddie Wilson
Tuesday 16th September Saints Cornelius & Cyprian	Holy Mass in St Joseph's School at 10.00 AM	Deceased Members of the Supple Family
Wednesday 17th September	Exposition and Evening Prayer at 6.15 PM	
	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary 7.00 PM	Christopher Madden
Thursday 18th September	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM	Frankie Miller
Friday 19th September	Holy Mass at St John's at 10.00 AM	Peter Maiden
Saturday 20th September Vigil of the 25th Sunday of the Year	Vigil Holy Mass at Saint John's at 5.30 PM	100th Birthday of Mary Bewley
Sunday 21st September 25th Sunday of the Year	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM Live Streamed	Parishioners

Please pray for the sick:				
Sheila Allen	Maureen Braithwaite	Carol Brownlee	Ann Christeson	Robert Dalton
Bill Devine	Judy Houchen	Sheila Hunt	Brian Kane	Sarah McAllister
Rev. Dan Mckie	Marcin Odziomek	Grace Ollie	Christine Rooney	Bill Simpson
Fr. John Skivington	Peter Smith	Judith Sowerby	Lil Ward-Thirlbeck	Margaret Wilkie
Kate Williams	Mary Langsdale			

Please pray for those who have died recently:
Bridget McGoldrick (whose Requiem Mass will be on Friday, 26th September at 10.00 AM in Holy Rosary Church), Georgina McQuilling, Vivian Suttill, Helen Webb, Christopher Madden, Edmund (Eddie) Wilson, Frankie Miller, Neil Davis, Trevor Pennington, Chris Allison, Stephen Allison, Denis Murphy, Audrey Upton, Terry Grogan.
May they rest in Peace. Amen.

RCIA - Journey in Faith This programme is for those who would like to explore what it is to be a Catholic and will begin with an Information Evening in the Sacristy of **Holy Rosary Church on Wednesday 17th September 2025 after the 7.00pm Mass.** Further details from Father Adrian.

SVP Cheese and wine In September, we celebrate the feast of St. Vincent de Paul. On Wednesday, 24th September, the 7 p.m. Mass will be in honour of St. Vincent. The SVP at St. Thomas of Canterbury would like to invite you all to cheese and wine in the Medway following Mass. We hope to see you there. The SVP are so grateful to the parish for their ongoing support in so many ways.

The Bereavement Group will meet on Thursday 6th November at 6.00 PM in the Holy Rosary Sacristy. If you would like to join the group, please contact Fr Adrian.

The children of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School would like to invite parishioners to our Macmillan Coffee Morning, on Thursday 25th September, between 9:00 – 10:30 AM in the school hall. Come along for a coffee, a slice of something sweet, and a friendly chat — all in support of a wonderful cause.

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2025 pictures
Pictures of the Walsingham pilgrimage 2025 are available on our website and our Facebook page.

New quizzes soon - It's your turn to be the quizmaster to help people learn more about their faith! We'd love for you to help shape our next set of quizzes. If you have an idea for a theme, some fun questions, or even a full quiz ready to go, we're all ears. Let us know by visiting the link on our website or our Facebook page.

Life in the Spirit Seminars are being run once again by the Diocesan CHARIS group. The seminars are being held at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Village Lane, Washington, NE38 7HS from 7.00-8.30pm, 25th September: God's Love Andy Drozdziak, 2nd October: Salvation Fr Anthony Ohaekwusi, 9th October: The New Life Christine Dixon, 16th October: Receiving God's Gifts John Wheeler, 23rd October Baptised in the Holy Spirit, Fr Shaun O'Neill, 30th October: Growth Deacon Alison Rebello, 6th November: Transformation Fr Shaun O'Neill.

More notices are on our website.

SVP Coffee Morning The next one will be after Mass on Sunday, 5th October.

The Scripture Group This will meet this Thursday (11th September) at 6.30 PM in the Sacristy of Holy Rosary.

Children's Liturgy of the Word Some time ago parishioners were invited to volunteer to help with providing Children's Liturgy for the weekend Masses at St. John's and Holy Rosary. **We'll have a preliminary meeting after the Masses on the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 13th/14th September.** This will give an opportunity to take contact details, sort out Safeguarding requirements and to prepare a Rota.

Friendship Group We meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the Medway Building at 6.30 pm. We are looking for new members. All are welcome.

Friendship Group - MacMillan Coffee Morning
A Coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support is to be held in the Medway from **10.00 am - 4.00 pm on Tuesday 16th September. We will be grateful for any gifts for the Tombola Stall. Please could you leave any gifts at the back of the church or contact Ann on 07811 615031.** We will collect if that is helpful. Thank you all very much for your support.

All Our Yesterdays - Fr Butters has been at it again. He has written some very interesting history about Walsingham. You can find it on his page on our website in the All Our Yesterdays section. Help us preserve our parish history by sharing your memories with Father Adrian.

Jubilee Day - Saturday 27th September from 10.00am - 3.00pm at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead. Please see the website for more details and for booking.

Billingham Parish Council More information is available in the website notices.

Tyneside Circle of the Newman Association
Next meeting: Tuesday, 30th Sept., in the Church Hall of Holy Name, Towers Avenue, Jesmond. NE2 3JX at 7.30 PM. Nicholas Sagovsky will give a talk entitled: 'Heart speaks to heart': what has Newman got to do with synodality?

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) - Do you know of anyone who would benefit from a visit from members of the SVP. If so, please speak to Fr Adrian or contact one of the numbers below. For any SVP enquiries, please contact Jane (07584 575541) or Janet (07840 967111). **The Food Hub** continues every Friday from 12 noon to 3.00 p.m.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Gal 6:14

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

COLLECT

O God, who willed that your Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race, grant, we pray, that we, who have known his mystery on earth, may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven. 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 Book of Numbers. Numbers 21:4b-9

In those days: The people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.' Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 78(77):1-2. 34-35. 36-37. 38. R. cf. 7b

R. Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

Give ear, my people, to my teaching;
incline your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable
and utter hidden lessons of the past.

When he slew them, then they sought him,
repented and earnestly sought God.
They would remember that God was their rock,
God the Most High their redeemer.

Yet they deceived him with their mouths;
they lied to him with their tongues.
For their hearts were not steadfast towards him;
they were not faithful to his covenant.

Yet he who is full of compassion
forgave them their sin and spared them.
So often he held back his anger,
and did not stir up all his rage.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.
Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 3:13-17

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 said to Nicodemus, 'No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, O Lord,
which on the altar of the Cross
cancelled the offence of the whole world,
cleanse us, we pray, of all our sins.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 12:32

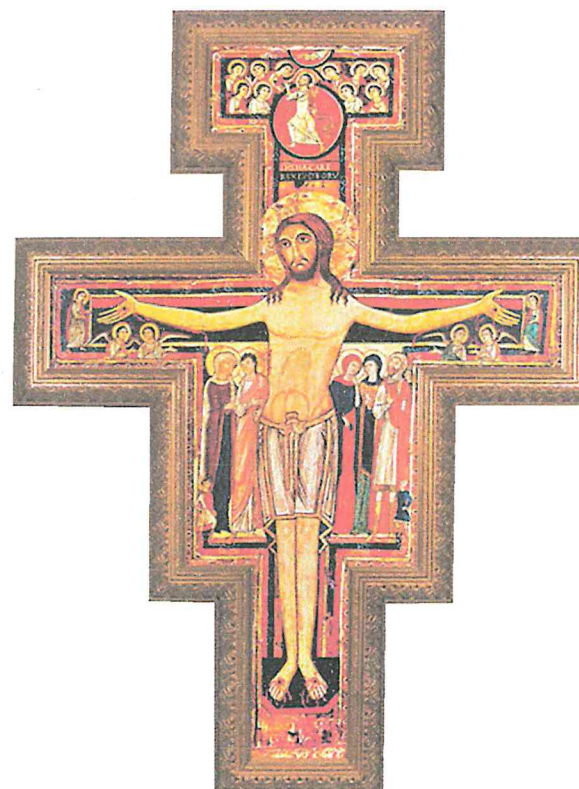
When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished by your holy banquet,
we beseech you, Lord Jesus Christ,
to bring those you have redeemed
by the wood of your life-giving Cross
to the glory of the resurrection.
R. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION

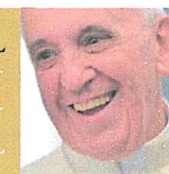


The cross is the great scandal at the heart of Christianity. How could the almighty, omnipotent and all-loving God be condemned to die as a criminal, and in such a barbaric fashion? In his letter to the Philippians St. Paul tells us that this was only possible because Jesus emptied himself, allowing himself to become one of us. When Jesus says that anyone who wants to be his disciple must take up their cross, he is asking us to follow his example: I must be ready to empty myself. Empty myself of what? Of everything that could prevent me from giving my full attention to my neighbour who is next to me in any given moment. This does not only mean emptying myself of all those

vices such as greed, selfishness, arrogance, envy, etc. which makes it difficult or even impossible to love my neighbour. To love my neighbour, I must be empty of everything, even my good intentions, so as to possess nothing but pure love for the person in front of me. It is the type of love that we see in Jesus when he encounters the Samaritan woman at the well, the blind Bartimeus who begs that he may see, the woman caught in adultery. It was this sort of love which Jesus demonstrated when faced with his executioners when he asked his Father in heaven to forgive them. Whenever we love in this way, we are truly taking up our cross.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

FORGIVING BUT
NOT FORGETTING

250. Forgiving does not mean forgetting. Or better, in the face of a reality that can in no way be denied, relativized or concealed, forgiveness is still possible. In the face of an action that can never be tolerated, justified or excused, we can still forgive. In the face of something that cannot be forgotten for any reason, we can still forgive. Free and heartfelt forgiveness is something noble, a reflection of God's own infinite ability to forgive. If forgiveness is gratuitous, then it can be shown even to someone who resists repentance and is unable to beg pardon.

Pope Francis'
Amoris Laetitia
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

Love believes all things

Panta pisteúci. Love believes all things. Here "belief" is not to be taken in its strict theological meaning, but more in the sense of what we mean by "trust". This goes beyond simply presuming that the other is not lying or cheating. Such basic trust recognizes God's light shining beyond the darkness, like an ember glowing beneath the ash... This trust enables a relationship to be free. It means we do not have to control the other person, to follow their every step lest they escape our grip. Love trusts, it sets free, it does not try to control, possess and dominate everything. This freedom, which fosters independence, an openness to the world around us and to new experiences, can only enrich and expand relationships. The spouses then share with one another the joy of all they have received and learned outside the family circle. At the same time, this freedom makes for sincerity and transparency, for those who know that they are trusted and appreciated can be open and hide nothing.

