

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 21st September 2025

Website: [www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk](http://www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/rcdhnbillingham](https://www.facebook.com/rcdhnbillingham)  
Email: [StThomasofCanterbury.Billingham@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:StThomasofCanterbury.Billingham@diocesehn.org.uk)

Daily Readings



Day	Holy Mass and Services	Intention
<b>Sunday</b> 21st September The 25th Sunday of the Year	Sunday Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> at 10.00 AM <b>Live Streamed</b>	Parishioners
<b>Monday</b> 22nd September St Pio of Pietralcina	Recitation of the Rosary at <b>Holy Rosary</b> at 9.40 AM Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> at 10.00 AM	Rose Wall
<b>Tuesday</b> 23rd September	Funeral Mass for Georgina McQuilling at <b>St John's</b> at 10.00 AM	
<b>Wednesday</b> 24th September Our Lady of Walsingham	Exposition and Evening Prayer at 6.15 PM	
	Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> 7.00 PM (SVP Celebration)	Mike Simmons
<b>Thursday</b> 25th September	Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> at 10.00 AM	Mary Allison and Eddie Carlisle
<b>Friday</b> 26th September	Funeral Mass for Bridget McGoldrick at <b>Holy Rosary</b> at 10.00 AM	
<b>Saturday</b> 27th September Vigil of the 26th Sunday of the Year	Vigil Holy Mass at <b>Saint John's</b> at 5.30 PM	Joyce Davies
<b>Sunday</b> 28th September 26th Sunday of the Year	Sunday Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> at 10.00 AM <b>Live Streamed</b>	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	Lily Ward-Thirlbeck	Margaret Wilkie
Kate Williams	Mary Langsdale			

**Please pray for those who have died recently:**  
Bridget McGoldrick, 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.**

**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.

**Scripture Group** meets on Thursday at 6.30 PM  
**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.

**The Allison Family's Quiz** The Allison family have created a quiz using Emojis (small pictures) for you to identify a Saint. Four small pictures give you a clue to the Saint's name. Give it a go! Pass it on to as many people as you can. Do it on your own or with family and friends. Do you have ideas for a quiz? Click the link on our website.

**The CAFOD Group** has been able to send a cheque for £1,500 to CAFOD's general fund that helps with various projects in the Third World. This is from money raised at our various coffee mornings and a donation of over £300 from Churches Together. We are so very grateful for this support. Our Group's next meeting is on Wed. 1st October at 7.30 PM in the Medway. Our meetings only usually last about 30 minutes. We would appreciate any new members and if you are interested please just show up at this meeting. It is not a vast commitment; it only involves 2 or 3 meetings in a year plus helping when you can at fund raising events such as coffee mornings and music nights.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest**  
Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10. **More details are on our website.**

**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.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our MacMillan Coffee Morning fundraiser - those who attended and those who donated prizes or bakes. Thanks to your kindness and generosity, we raised over £800 for the charity! Well done everyone! (Photos can be found on the Parish web site).

**All Our Yesterdays** Fr Butters has been at it yet again. Recently, Caitlin supplied a picture of altar servers wearing their masks during COVID. Fr Butters has written about this time. Very recent history. 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.

**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 any member of the SVP. New contact numbers will be added shortly. **The Food Hub** continues every Friday from 12 noon to 3.00 p.m.

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

**The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA)** is undertaking a thematic inspection on survivor engagement and support. Bishop Stephen is asking every parish to share in the survey by inviting everyone engaged with the Catholic Church, including Clergy, Religious (Consecrated Life), Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Employees, Volunteers and Parishioners to contribute their experiences. The aim of this survey is to better understand how the Catholic Church engages with Survivors. The closing date for responses is 6th October 2025. The survey takes around 15-20 minutes to complete. A link to the survey can be found at: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SSQzRY2ft0OpJmB\\_Xy63KLBEXoG2tIVAm\\_9UYqKjMSFUM1hSR1VCOEpYMUc4SDVQWTg3VkNDTzg5OS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SSQzRY2ft0OpJmB_Xy63KLBEXoG2tIVAm_9UYqKjMSFUM1hSR1VCOEpYMUc4SDVQWTg3VkNDTzg5OS4u)

**The First Holy Communion Programme** is about to begin. There will be introductory Meetings in our four primary schools in the near future. If your child attends another school and would like to receive their First Communion, please contact Father Adrian.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any distress,  
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

## COLLECT

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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 Prophet Amos.

Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, 'When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and sell the chaff of the wheat?'

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: 'Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.'

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 113(112):1-2. 4-6. 7-8. R. cf. 1a, 7b

**R. Praise the LORD, who raises the poor.***or* Alleluia.

Praise, O servants of the LORD,  
praise the name of the LORD!  
May the name of the LORD be blest  
both now and for evermore!

High above all nations is the LORD,  
above the heavens his glory.  
Who is like the LORD, our God,  
who dwells on high,  
who lowers himself to look down  
upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,  
from the ash heap he raises the poor,  
to set them in the company of princes,  
yes, with the princes of his people.

## SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Beloved: First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

For this I was appointed a preacher and an Apostle — I am telling the truth, I am not lying — a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.

2 Corinthians 8:9

Jesus Christ, though he was rich,  
yet for your sake he became poor,  
so that you by his poverty might become rich.  
Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-13

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time: Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager." And the manager said to himself, "What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He said, "A hundred measures of oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty." Then he said to another, "And how much do you owe?" He said, "A hundred measures of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and write eighty." The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.' And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

**R.** 'One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful with the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray,  
the offerings of your people,  
that what they profess with devotion and faith  
may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 118: 4-5

**You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;  
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously raise up, O Lord,  
those you renew with this Sacrament,  
that we may come to possess your redemption  
both in mystery and in the manner of our life.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Our Faith on Sunday

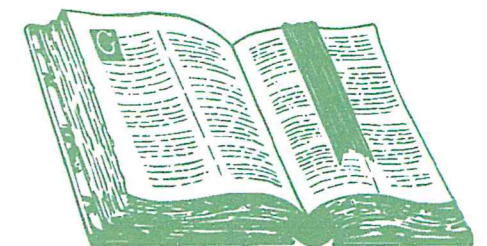
## GOSPEL REFLECTION



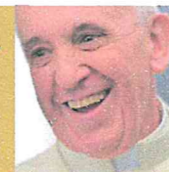
What Jesus emphasizes in many different ways in the Gospels is that if we wish to receive the rewards of

eternal life then we must first of all love God and then love our neighbour. The two things, love of God and love neighbour, are intricately linked. In today's Gospel Jesus warns us that "no servant can be a slave of two masters". The problem is that, often without realizing it, we are the "slaves" of many masters. Anything which takes hold of us and dominates our lives and our ways of thinking and behaving enslaves us. Once we are enslaved by something we are no longer free to love God and neighbour. The more enslaved I am, the more difficult it is to free myself. The extreme cases are addictions

to alcohol, drugs, gambling or sex. But I can also be enslaved by my possessions, my hobbies, even my job, if they prevent me from loving those in need around me. In our consumer society we are constantly being persuaded to buy the latest mobile phone, Smart TV, computer, car etc., and it becomes very difficult to separate real needs from mere desires. Today's Gospel should provoke us into examining ourselves so as to recognize the things to which we are enslaved.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
**FRATELLI TUTTI**  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



**FORGIVING BUT  
NOT FORGETTING**

251. Those who truly forgive do not forget. Instead, they choose not to yield to the same destructive force that caused them so much suffering. They break the vicious circle; they halt the advance of the forces of destruction. They choose not to spread in society the spirit of revenge that will sooner or later return to take its toll. Revenge never truly satisfies victims. Some crimes are so horrendous and cruel that the punishment of those who perpetrated them does not serve to repair the harm done. Even killing the criminal would not be enough, nor could any form of torture prove commensurate with the sufferings inflicted on the victim. Revenge resolves nothing.

Pope Francis'  
**Amoris Laetitia**  
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

*Love hopes all thing*

Panta elpízei. Love does not despair of the future. Following upon what has just been said, this phrase speaks of the hope of one who knows that others can change, mature and radiate unexpected beauty and untold potential. This does not mean that everything will change in this life. It does involve realizing that, though things may not always turn out as we wish, God may well make crooked lines straight and draw some good from the evil we endure in this world... Here hope comes most fully into its own, for it embraces the certainty of life after death. Each person, with all his or her failings, is called to the fullness of life in heaven. There, fully transformed by Christ's resurrection, every weakness, darkness and infirmity will pass away. There the person's true being will shine forth in all its goodness and beauty. This realization helps us, amid the aggravations of this present life, to see each person from a supernatural perspective, in the light of hope, and await the fullness that he or she will receive in the heavenly kingdom, even if it is not yet visible.

