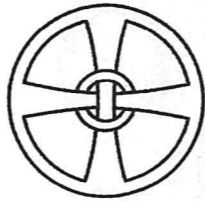


Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Fr Adrian Dixon Telephone: 01642 553 118

Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham TS23 2EP



Parish Website



Week Beginning: Sunday 5th October 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 5th October</b> The 27th Sunday of the Year	Sunday Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> at 10.00 AM <b>Live Streamed</b>	
<b>Monday 6th October</b>	Wedding Service of Kayleigh McMaster and Connor Maynard at <b>Saint John's</b> at 11.00 AM	
<b>Tuesday 7th October</b> Our Lady of the Holy Rosary	Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> 10.00 AM	Supple and Nardone Families
<b>Wednesday 8th October</b>	Exposition and Evening Prayer at 6.15 PM Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> 7.00 PM	Mary and Laurence Boynton
<b>Thursday 9th October</b> St John Henry Newman	Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> 10.00 AM	Allan Fellgate
<b>Friday 10th October</b> St Paulinus	Holy Mass at <b>Saint John's</b> 10.00 AM	Peter Hughes
	1.30PM at Stockton Crematorium	Funeral Service for George Hunter
<b>Saturday 11th October</b> Vigil of the 28th Sunday of the Year	Confessions at <b>Saint John's</b> at 10.00 -10.30 AM Vigil Holy Mass at <b>Saint John's</b> at 5.30 PM	Parishioners
<b>Sunday 12th October</b> The 28th Sunday of the Year	Sunday Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> at 10.00 AM <b>Live Streamed</b>	Brendan Weir

Please pray for the sick:

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

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.

**Jeremy McMurray & The Pocket Jazz Orchestra:** in aid of The Snowdrop Suite JCUH & The Trinity Holistic Centre JCUH. Local jazz legends, Jeremy and his musical colleagues bring their laid back tunes to the Cathedral. This night is not just jazz but promises fun and games along the way! Tickets £12 (Under 16s £6). Box Office: 0333 666 3366.

Cathedral Box Office: 01642 597750 | [cathedralevents@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:cathedralevents@rcdmidd.org.uk). More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/4vpcfcjsj>

**Medjugorje:** A residential retreat has been organised at Minsteracres from Friday, October 10th to Sunday, October 12th, for £195. Book by September 25th with Marian Fletcher at 0191 417 4413, 07757300248, or via email at [marianfletcher54@gmail.com](mailto:marianfletcher54@gmail.com).

**Scripture Group** meets on Thursday at 6.30 PM in the Sacristy at Holy Rosary.

**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 Allison Family's Quiz** The end of a great quiz. Top scorers include: Patrick Kenealy (from Ireland), Joseph, Rebekah, Louis, Patty, Maureen, Matthew Thomas Boon, Fr Adrian, Kathryn, Fred, Toby Hutchinson, Pauline, Alison Truck and Jane. Do you have ideas for a quiz? Click the link 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.

**Music Matters:** This is a free day of reflection for all church musicians on **Saturday, 18th October 2025**, from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm at St. Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring. It's an opportunity to connect with other musicians and share ideas. Tea and coffee are provided, but please bring a packed lunch. To reserve your free place, please speak to Father Adrian or contact [dcma@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:dcma@diocesehn.org.uk)

**English Martyrs School, Hartlepool** Lay Chaplain vacancy for a practising Catholic, closing date for 17 October. <https://tinyurl.com/mrmyz6fx>

**Support 'Significance':** See website notices.

**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.**

**All Our Yesterdays:** St. John the Evangelist RC Primary school first class 2010 photo. See if you can identify the children. We're unsure who provided the photo - please let Fr Adrian know. Help us preserve our parish history by sharing your memories with Father Adrian.

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

**SVP fundraiser:** The SVP is organizing a fundraiser in November and we'd love your support! We're planning a tombola and would be very grateful for any bottle donations you could make. Please leave your kind donations at the back of the church. Thank you.

**SVP Cheese and Wine evening:** Relive the delightful evening. A wonderful photo montage is now available on our website.

**Holy Jubilee Year** Our Diocese has nominated St Joseph's Hartlepool as a Jubilee Church. The SVP of Stockton and Billingham are planning a joint Pilgrimage on Thursday 13th November. Transport and lunch will be provided. Provisional timings are to depart at 10.30am returning around 14.30pm. If you are interested in going or would like to help, sign-up sheets will be available at the back of church for the next few weeks. Any questions, please contact a member of the SVP.

**Parish Meeting** An initial meeting on Monday 3rd Nov at 6:30pm is planned with a view to restarting the Parish Council. It is important that every grouping and activity is represented as well as being open to all parishioners. Each group is asked to make sure they have representation. If you can come, please sign the list at the back of the church. We will probably meet in the Medway Hall or a bigger venue depending on expected numbers.

**The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency**

Bishop Stephen invites everyone connected with the Catholic Church to complete a CSSA survey on survivor engagement and support. The deadline is 6th October 2025. Find the link here <https://tinyurl.com/sejnbzth>

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Cf. Est 4: 17  
Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,  
and there is none that can resist your will.  
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,  
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;  
you are the Lord of all.

**COLLECT**  
Almighty ever-living God,  
who in the abundance of your kindness  
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,  
pour out your mercy upon us  
to pardon what conscience dreads  
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.  
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 Habakkuk. Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4  
O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?  
Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity,  
and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.  
And the LORD answered me: 'Write the vision; make it plain on tablets,  
so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time;  
it hastens to the end — it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it;  
it will surely come; it will not delay.  
'Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.'  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R.7c, 8a  
**R. O that today you would listen to his voice!**  
**'Harden not your hearts.'**  
Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;  
let us hail him with a song of praise.  
O come; let us bow and bend low.  
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,  
for he is our God, and we the people,  
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.  
O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your forebears put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

**SECOND READING**  
A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy. 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14  
Beloved: I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,  
for God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self-control  
Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner,  
but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,  
Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me,  
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us,  
guard the good deposit entrusted to you.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL**  
Alleluia, alleluia. 1 Peter 1:25  
**The word of the Lord remains for ever and this word is the good news that was preached to you.**  
Alleluia.  
**GOSPEL** Luke 17:5-10  
The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

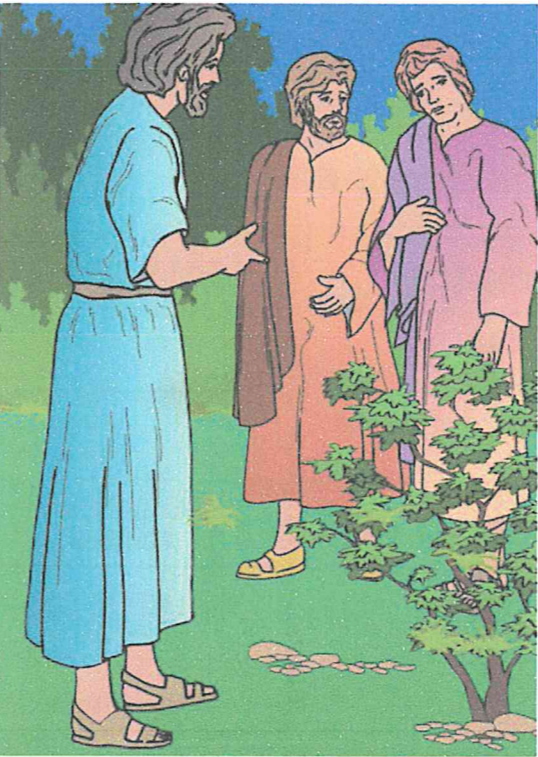
At that time: The Apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' And the Lord said, 'If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.'  
'Will any one of you who has a servant ploughing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, "Come at once and recline at table"? Will he not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterwards you will eat and drink"? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty."  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**  
Accept, O Lord, we pray,  
the sacrifices instituted by your commands  
and, through the sacred mysteries,  
which we celebrate with dutiful service,  
graciously complete the sanctifying work by which you are pleased to redeem us.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

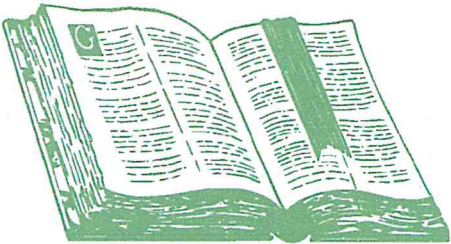
**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** Lam 3: 25  
**The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**  
Grant us, almighty God,  
that we may be refreshed and nourished  
by the Sacrament which we have received,  
so as to be transformed into what we consume.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

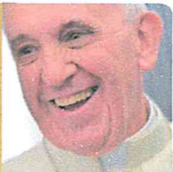
GOSPEL REFLECTION



John tells Jesus about someone who has been casting out devils in his name. He tells Jesus that they tried to stop him. Probably they were looking for approval of their actions from Jesus. However, Jesus says that what the man was doing was not against him. This may come as a surprise to us. As Christians we often feel we have to decry anyone who is doing things in the name of God but who is not Christian. Jesus has a very different view. He sees as positive any action which is done out of love, regardless of their creed or background. Why? Because they are, without knowing it, loving Jesus. He then turns his attention to anyone who is an 'obstacle', anyone who gives scandal to others. While he promises heaven to anyone who offers a cup of water, he warns those who are an obstacle that they will be thrown into hell.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
FRATELLI TUTTI  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



FORGIVING BUT NOT FORGETTING

253. When injustices have occurred on both sides, it is important to take into clear account whether they were equally grave or in any way comparable. Violence perpetrated by the state, using its structures and power, is not on the same level as that perpetrated by particular groups. In any event, one cannot claim that the unjust sufferings of one side alone should be commemorated. The Bishops of Croatia have stated that, "we owe equal respect to every innocent victim. There can be no racial, national, confessional or partisan differences".<sup>235</sup>

235. CROATIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, Letter on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the End of the Second World War (1 May 1995).

Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation  
EVANGELII GAUDIUM

7. Sometimes we are tempted to find excuses and complain, acting as if we could only be happy if a thousand conditions were met. To some extent this is because our "technological society has succeeded in multiplying occasions of pleasure, yet has found it very difficult to engender joy".<sup>[2]</sup> I can say that the most beautiful and natural expressions of joy which I have seen in my life were in poor people who had little to hold on to. I also think of the real joy shown by others who, even amid pressing professional obligations, were able to preserve, in detachment and simplicity, a heart full of faith. In their own way, all these instances of joy flow from the infinite love of God, who has revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ. I never tire of repeating those words of Benedict XVI which take us to the very heart of the Gospel: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction".<sup>[3]</sup>

2 Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete in Domino (9 May 1975), 8: AAS 67 (1975), 292.  
3 Encyclical Letter Deus Caritas Est (25 December 2005), 1: AAS 98 (2006), 217.