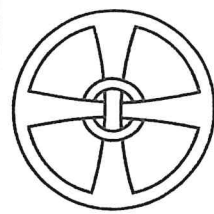


Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Hilda Partnership			
Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury			
Parish Priest: Fr Adrian Dixon Telephone: 01642 553 118 Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham. TS23 2EP			

Parish Website 	Week beginning: Sunday 19 th October, 2025	
	Website: www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk	
	Facebook: www.facebook.com/rcdhnbillingham	
	Email: StThomasofCanterbury.Billingham@diocesehn.org.uk	
	Daily Readings 	

Day and date	Holy Mass and Services	Intentions
Sunday 19 th October The 29 th Sunday of the Year	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM	Parishioners
Monday 20 th October	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary 10.00 AM	Cath, Colin, and Nick Welch
Tuesday 21 st October	Holy Mass at Saint Joseph's School 10.00 AM	Dan Kitson
Wednesday 22 nd October	Exposition and Evening Prayer at 6.15 PM	
	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 7.00 PM	Chris Allison
Thursday 23 rd October	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM	Frankie Miller
Friday 24 th October	Holy Mass at Saint John's at 10.00 AM	Helen Webb
Saturday 25 th October Vigil of the 30 th Sunday of the Year	Confessions at Saint John's at 10.00 -10.30 AM Vigil Holy Mass at Saint John's at 5.30 PM	Private Intention
Sunday 26 th October The 30 th Sunday of the Year	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM	Parishioners

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	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:

Brian Nichols, 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.**

Parish Meeting An initial meeting will take place on Monday, 3rd November at 6:30pm - 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 some 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.

Introductory Meeting for those adults considering being baptised or becoming members of the Church on Wednesday, 22nd October in the Sacristy (after the 7.00 PM evening Mass).

Scripture Group There is no meeting this week.

SVP fund raising night at Billingham Catholic club. Please come and join **Jeremy McMurray and friends** for a fund raising night of live entertainment on Tuesday 2nd December 7.00 pm. The money raised will help to fund Christmas hampers or those in need. We are 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. Tickets will be available from next weekend.

Jeremy McMurray and 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 Middlesbrough Cathedral on Saturday, 25th October from 7.30 PM. This night is not just jazz, but promises fun and games along the way! Tickets are £12 (Under 16s: £6). Box Office: 0333 666 3366. Cathedral Box Office: 01642 597750 | cathedralevents@rcdmidd.org.uk. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/4vpcfcjsj>

Safeguarding Renewals Please complete and return the renewal form sent by the Safeguarding Office, promptly. Your ID documents are already on file and do not need to be re-verified. Those on the Update Service will receive a genuine online link to confirm their active ministry; please follow it and contact Pat McTimoney with any issues.

Lucy Drummond Have you seen the montage for Lucy Drummond on our website or Facebook page? Lucy is one of our newest altar servers. We are very happy to welcome Lucy to the team.

Live streaming This has been suspended; there is

an issue with sound. Live streaming will be restored as soon as possible. We are very sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause.

Our online Quiz Please remember to take part in the online quiz - from Joan Nicholas and Fr Adrian.

All our yesterdays Do you have any photographs, videos, or memories to add? Please help us to preserve our history for future generations by speaking to Fr Adrian.

Friendship Group Pensioner's Christmas Party This Party will take place on Saturday, 29th November from 1.00 – 4.00 PM in St Joseph's School Hall. Tickets on sale at the back of the Church - they are £3.00 each.

Holy Year Our Diocese has nominated St Joseph's, Hartlepool as a Jubilee Church for the Holy Year of 2025. The SVP of Stockton and Billingham are planning a joint Pilgrimage on Thursday 13th November. Transport and lunch will be provided. Provisional timings: depart at 10.30 AM returning around 2.30 PM. If you are interested in going or would like to help, there are sign-up sheets at the back of church for the next few weeks. Any questions, please contact a member of the SVP.

Day of Reflection and Formation for Catechists Across the parishes of our deanery of South Durham and Cleveland, scores of volunteer catechists take on the vital role of handing on our Catholic Faith to children and adults. Much of this is done through sacramental preparation for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation, and through RCIA/Alpha programmes. As a deanery, we want to support and encourage the vital work of our catechists. An initial day, offered twice (in two different locations) will give space for us to reflect together on the task of catechesis and to identify where further support and formation can be given for future days:

15th November - 10:30 - 3.00 PM - St Augustine's Parish Centre, Darlington (to be confirmed); and

29th November - 10:30 - 3.00 PM - St Joseph's, Hartlepool.

If you are a catechist already, or are considering taking on this role, then please come along. The day is free but, to help us anticipate numbers, please write to formation.cleveland@diocesehn.org.uk to book a place. Participants should bring a packed lunch.

Next weekend (25th/26th October) There will be a Special Collection for the Clergy Training Fund - this will be open until the 23rd of November, 2025.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you I call for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Cf. Ps 16: 6, 8

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who
is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and
his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of
season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience
and teaching.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia. Hebrews 4:12
The word of God is living and active,
discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you. Luke 18:1-8
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable to the effect
that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said,
'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God
nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who
kept coming to him and saying, "Give me justice against my
adversary." For a while he refused, but afterwards he said to
himself, "Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because
this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she
will not beat me down by her continual coming."

And the Lord said, 'Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And
will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and
night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice
to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will
he find faith on earth?'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, Lord, we pray,
a sincere respect for your gifts,
that, through the purifying action of your grace,
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, the eyes of the Lord Cf. Ps 32: 18-19
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,
we may be helped by what you give in this present age
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Exodus. Exodus 17:8-13
In those days: Amalek came and fought with Israel at
Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose for us men, and
go out and fight with Amalek...Tomorrow I will stand on the top
of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.' So Joshua did as
Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron,
and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held
up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his
hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary, so
they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while
Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the
other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the
going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and
his people with the sword.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 121(120):1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8. R. cf. 2
R. Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains;
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

He will keep your foot from stumbling.
Your guard will never slumber.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.

The Lord your guard, the Lord your shade
at your right hand.
By day the sun shall not smite you,
nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil;
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming,
both now and for ever.

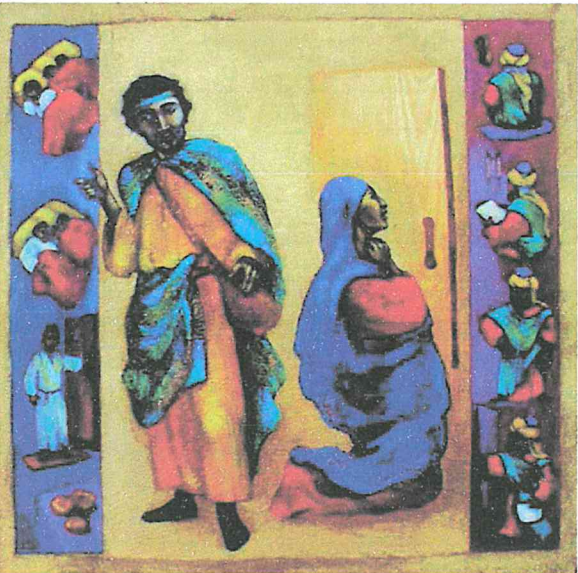
SECOND READING

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.
2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Beloved: Continue in what you have learned and have firmly
believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from
childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings,
which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in
Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable
for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in
righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped
for every good work.

Our Faith on Sunday

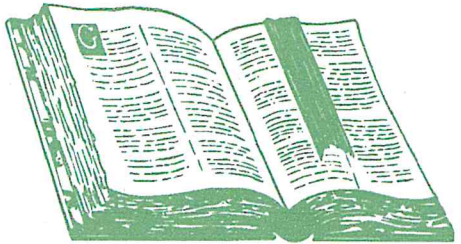
GOSPEL REFLECTION



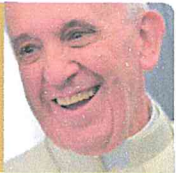
In this Sunday's gospel we are asked to pray always and not lose heart. At times we all find ourselves in situations where we are tempted to

lose heart, even to feel that God has abandoned us. A cancer which seemed to have been cured comes back again. Constant worry about paying our bills has worn us down. There is unending fighting and bickering in the home. In the final sentence of the Gospel Jesus asks whether he will find faith on earth when he comes again. Faith is not faith unless it is tested. As in many other aspects of our living here too Jesus acted as a model to be imitated. On the cross he felt abandoned by God and yet he cried out, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Lk 23:46). We would like our problems

to be solved immediately and Jesus does promise swift justice for those who cry to God night and day. But that doesn't eliminate our need to have faith. In the Letter to the Hebrews, we read that "Faith is the substance of things hoped for" (Heb 11:1). While we are on this earth hope is a necessary Christian virtue. It finds its meaning in the great vision of redemption where there will be a "new heaven and a new earth" (Rev. 21:1) and "every tear shall be wiped away" (Rev. 21:4).



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



WAR AND DEATH PENALTY

255. There are two extreme situations that may come to be seen as solutions in especially dramatic circumstances, without realizing that they are false answers that do not resolve the problems they are meant to solve and ultimately do no more than introduce new elements of destruction in the fabric of national and global society. These are war and the death penalty.

Pope Francis'
Apostolic Exhortation
GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE

We should not grow discouraged before examples of holiness that appear unattainable. There are some testimonies that may prove helpful and inspiring, but that we are not meant to copy, for that could even lead us astray from the one specific path that the Lord has in mind for us. The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts (cf. 1 Cor 12:7), rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them. We are all called to be witnesses, but there are many actual ways of bearing witness. Indeed, when the great mystic, Saint John of the Cross, wrote his Spiritual Canticle, he preferred to avoid hard and fast rules for all. He explained that his verses were composed so that everyone could benefit from them "in his or her own way". For God's life is communicated "to some in one way and to others in another" (N. 11)

