

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, 9th November, 2025.

Website: www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rcdhnbillingham

Email: StThomasofCanterbury.Billingham@diocesehn.org.uk



Day and date	Holy Mass and Services	Intentions Private Intention	
Sunday 9 th November The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica Remembrance Sunday	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM		
Monday 10 th November St. Leo the Great	Rosary will be recited at 9.40 AM Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM	Frankie Miller	
Tuesday 11 th November St Martin of Tours	Holy Mass in St Joseph's School at 10.00 AM	Sally Devine	
Wednesday 12 th November St Josaphat	Exposition & Evening Prayer at Holy Rosary at 6.15 PM		
	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 7.00 PM	Trevor Pennington	
Thursday 13 th November	No Mass Jubilee Visit to St. Joseph's Hartlepool		
Friday 14 th November	Holy Mass at St John's at 10.00 AM	Martin Quinn	
Saturday 15 th November Vigil Mass for 33rd Sunday of the Year	Confessions at St John's from 10.00 to 10.30 AM		
	Vigil Holy Mass at St John's at 5.30 рм	Parishioners	
Sunday 16 th November 33rd Sunday of the Year	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM No Confessions this Saturday	Ken & Monica Sharp	

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:

Thomas Peters, 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.

May they rest in Peace. Amen.

Jubilee Pilgrimage to St Joseph's Hartlepool Thursday 13th November. The coach will leave the Swan bus stop at 10:15. The Jubilee Stations and Mass will be from 11:00 until 12:30 followed by a Fish and Chip lunch in the Parish Hall. The coach will return at 13:45 dropping off at the Swan bus stop at 14:15. If you require any further information, please contact Jane Kelly - SVP - on 07584575541.

Bishop Stephen is due to visit our parish on the weekend of Christ the King (22nd /23rd November). He will preside at both Masses and he hopes to meet with as many parishioners as possible. After each Mass we are going to hold a reception to extend the opportunity for everyone to speak with him. To help us plan for numbers please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Candlelight Procession The Parish of Christ the King will be holding a Candlelight Marian Procession on Sunday 7th December at 5.30pm for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Please see posters at back of church and website for details

RCIA Group for those becoming members of the Catholic Church meets Wednesdays after 7.00 PM Mass

Donations to the Clergy Training Fund - these can continue to be made until 23rd November, 2025.

SVP fundraising 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 from 7.00 pm. Funds raised will help with Christmas hampers for those in need. Bottles and raffle prizes for our tombola would be very welcome: please leave them at the back of church. Tickets available after Masses this weekend at £5.00 each. Any queries - contact Jane Kelly on 07584 57551. Does anyone have a need for a single bed (in excellent condition), or know someone in need of a bed? If you do, please speak to a member of the SVP. SVP coffee morning photos: please see web notices

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Mrs Birrell, the Headteacher, writes: Do you know a child who is due to start Reception inSeptember 2026? Or have a child looking for a nursery place in the near future? We would like to invite prospective parents to come along and visit our fabulous new school building, on Thursday 13th November 2025 at 3:30pm. Please contact the school office on 01642 560056 or office@stjosephsbillingham.bhcet.org.uk for more details and to confirm your attendance. Come and see our wonderful learning environment and meet our dedicated staff. Also please see web notices regarding arrangements for closure of the old School.

Friendship Group Pensioner's Christmas Party The 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.

Our online Quiz Final top scorers for Fr Adrian's quiz: Alison Truck, Pat, Joan, Patrick Kenealy, Patty, Mary and Jane. Final top scorers for Joan Nicholas' quiz: Mason and Samuel Bulmer. Well done to all. Use the link on the website to add your ideas for a quiz.

Day of Reflection and Formation for Catechists
Day of Reflection and Formation for Catechists To
support volunteer catechists (sacramental prep,
RCIA/Alpha) and those considering the role, a day of
reflection and identifying formation needs is offered
twice. Dates are 15th November (10:30 AM - 3:00 PM)
at St Augustine's Parish Centre, Darlington (TBC), and
29th November (10:30 AM - 3:00 PM) at St Joseph's,
Hartlepool. The day is free, but booking is essential for
numbers. Please bring a packed lunch. For info or to
book, email formation.cleveland@diocesehn.org.uk
(see website for details).

Preparation Meeting for Baptism There will be a meeting for Parents/Carers of children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Baptism in the near future - Thursday, 13th Nov., 2025 at 6.15 PM in the Medway.

Administrator Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Salary Scale £30,000 to £31,855 FTE Supporting Father Shaun Purdy. Please see the website for details of the post and how to apply if interested.

A Special Mass for all those who have died during the last Year will be held on Wednesday, 19th November at 7.00pm. We shall remember all those whose funerals took place in Billingham since the Mass last November. If you would like to include anyone whose funeral took place elsewhere, please add their names to the list at the back of the church.

Apostleship of the Sea: Christmas Box Appeal. We are collecting items for seafarers who are away from home over the holidays. This year, we need items suitable for male seafarers. Please drop off contributions or cash donations (lists available) at the back of the church by November 16th. Please see web notices for more details.

All our yesterdays Do you have photos, videos or memories to add? Help us preserve our history for future generations by speaking with Fr Adrian.

No Scripture Group this week.

Live streaming: will be resumed as soon as possible (please see web notice for more detail)

September 400 Club Winners

£100 40 Mary Toth; £100 390 P Hewitt £50 141 K Wilson; £50 396 M Dineen

I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

Cf. Rev 21:3

Behold God's dwelling with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people, and God himself with them will be their God.

O God, who from living and chosen stones prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty, increase in your Church the spirit of grace you have bestowed, so that by new growth your faithful people may build up the heavenly Jerusalem. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

O God, who were pleased to call your Church the Bride, grant that the people that serves your name may revere you, love you and follow you. and may be led by you to attain your promises 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.

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel. Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

In those days: The angel brought me back to the door of the Temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the Temple towards the east (for the Temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the Temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me round on the outside to the outer gate that faces towards the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side. And he said to me. 'This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh. And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46(45):2-3. 5-6. 8-9. R.5

R. The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place, the abode of the Most High.

God is for us a refuge and strength, an ever-present help in time of distress: so we shall not fear though the earth should rock, though the mountains quake to the heart of the sea.

The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place, the abode of the Most High. God is in her midst, she cannot be shaken; God will help her at the dawning of the day.

The LORD of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Come and behold the works of the LORD, the awesome deeds he has done on the earth.

Cf. Rev 21:2

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17

Brothers and sisters: You are God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia. 2 Chronicles 7:16 I have chosen and consecrated this house, says the Lord, that my name may be there for ever. Alleluia.

John 2:13-22

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, 'Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

So the Jews said to him, 'What sign do you show us for doing these things?' Jesus answered them. 'Destroy this temple. and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, the offering made here and grant that by it those who seek your favour may receive in this place the power of the Sacraments and the answer to their prayers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. 1 Pet 2:5

Be built up like living stones, into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.

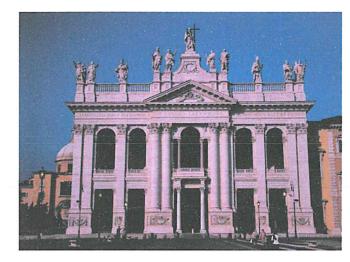
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who chose to foreshadow for us the heavenly Jerusalem through the sign of your Church on earth, grant, we pray, that, by our partaking of this Sacrament, we may be made the temple of your grace and may enter the dwelling place of your glory. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Faith on Sunda

GOSPEL REFLECTION

9TH NOVEMBER 2025



In this Sunday's gospel reading Jesus 4,24). The physical church is built refers to his body as a "temple". We with stone but it only serves its can extend the meaning of this reality purpose if it is the place where Jesus of his "body" to the Church which is is present among those who are united his Mystical Body. In many ancient in his name (Mt. 18,20). St. Paul religions the temple was the place writes to the followers of Christ saying,

"temple" blood but "in spirit (Decree, 29 May 1977). and in truth" (In.

where ritual sacrifice was carried "Brethren, you are God's building" and

out, even, at times, "You are the temple of the Holy Spirit" human sacrifice. By (1 Corinthians 3:9; 6:19). The Sacred his death on the cross Congregation for the Sacraments as an innocent victim and Divine Worship reminds us: "A Jesus put an end to church is the place where the Christian all practices of ritual community is gathered to hear the word sacrifice as a way of of God, to offer intercession and praise pleasing God. The to Him, and above all to celebrate the becomes holy mysteries, and it is the place where the "church", the the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist is gathering place of kept. Thus, it stands as a special kind those who worship of image of the Church itself, which is God not by spilling God's temple built from living stones."



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL

THE INJUSTICE OF WAR

258. War can easily be chosen by invoking all sorts of allegedly humanitarian, defensive or precautionary excuses, and even resorting to the manipulation of information. In recent decades, every single war has been ostensibly "justified". The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of the possibility of legitimate defence by means of military force, which involves demonstrating that certain "rigorous conditions of moral legitimacy" 239 have been met. Yet it is easy to fall into an overly broad interpretation of this potential right. In this way, some would also wrongly justify even "preventive" attacks or acts of war that can hardly avoid entailing "evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated". 240 At issue is whether the development of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and the enormous and growing possibilities offered by new technologies, have granted war an uncontrollable destructive power over great numbers of innocent civilians. The truth is that "never has humanity had such power over itself, yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely". 24. We can no longer think of war as a solution, because its risks will probably always be greater than its supposed benefits. In view of this, it is very difficult nowadays to invoke the rational criteria elaborated in earlier centuries to speak of the possibility of a "just war". Never again war! 242

239. No. 2309. 240. Ibid. 241. Encyclical Letter Laudato Si* (24 May 2015), 104: AAS 107 (2015), 888. 242. Saint Augustine, who forged a concept of "just war" that we no longer uphold in our own day, also said that "it is a higher glory still to stay war itself with a word, than to slay men with the sword, and to procure or maintain peace by peace, not by war" (Epistola 229, 2: PL 33, 1020).



Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation



We may think that we give glory to God only by our worship and prayer, or simply by following certain ethical norms. It is true that the primacy belongs to our relationship with God, but we cannot forget that the ultimate criterion on which our lives will be judged is what we have done for others. Prayer is most precious, for it nourishes a daily commitment to love. Our worship becomes pleasing to God when we devote ourselves to living generously, and allow God's gift, granted in prayer, to be shown in our concern for our brothers and sisters.

Similarly, the best way to discern if our prayer is authentic is to judge to what extent our life is being transformed in the light of mercy. For "mercy is not only an action of the Father; it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are". Mercy "is the very foundation of the Church's life". In this regard, I would like to reiterate that mercy does not exclude justice and truth; indeed, "we have to say that mercy is the fullness of justice and the most radiant manifestation of God's truth". It is "the key to heaven".

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