

ESE OF HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE | HILDA PARTNERSHIP

ISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Week Beginning: 10th December 2023

Prayer Week: 2

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Monday 10 th December	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary
Monday 11 th December	10:00am	In thanksgiving (CB)	Holy Rosary
Tuesday 12 th December		NO MASS	
Wednesday 13 th December	7.00pm	John & Kit McMurray	Holy Rosary
<i>Lucy</i>			
Thursday 14 th December	10:00am	William Johnson	Holy Rosary
<i>John of the Cross</i>			
Friday 15 th December	10:00am	Charlotte Peiris/ Luca Appuhami	St John's
Saturday 16 th December	5.00pm	Aborted Babies	St John's
<i>1st Sunday of Advent (Vigil)</i>			
Sunday 17 th December	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary
<i>Sunday of Advent</i>			

Please pray for the sick and everyone who is ill:

Rev. Dan Mckie, Sarah McAllister, Max Simpson, Carol Brownlee, Grace Ollie, Judy Houchen, Peter Smith, Cai Rive, Avril Wordsworth, Lily Ward-Thurlbeck, Rose Wall, Peter Chapman, Christine Rooney, Brian Kane, Margaret Hitchinson, Helen Webb, Jim Hodgson, Fr Stephen Dye, Judith Sowerby, Kate Williams, Fausina Morgan, Maureen Maddren, Daisy Elliott, Andre Zaluski, Maureen Braithwaite, Baby Cassian

Please remember those lately dead or with anniversaries:

Churches Together in Billingham

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Monday 11th December, 7pm

The Green opposite St Cuthbert's church. Followed by refreshments in church hall

Advance notice: Christmas eve Mass Sunday 24th: Holy Rosary 5pm

St John's 7pm

Christmas Day Monday 25th: Holy Rosary 10am

Ushaw Christmas Carols: December 11, 12, 14 & 20. 7.30-9.45pm 0191 373 8500

Our parish SVP is sponsoring a buffalo project.

This will provide the animals for the Joseph Peta parish in India.

Cf poster

The Northern Cross- DECEMBER issue available; £1.50p

Statue of Our Lady

For many years the statue was available to parishioners to have in their homes for a week. DECEMBER list now on noticeboard. Please sign up.

WORLD GIFTS (Cafod) Catalogue of possible gifts available at back of church.

St Michael's invites parishioners to:

Afternoon tea on 18th December 2-3pm. There are 20 places. Please ring 01642 870003 to book a place, and

The Advent Liturgy & Carol Service on 19th December 5.45-7pm adults £2/children £1. Refreshments available. Please ring 01642 870003

Parishioners invited to following carol services :

- St Paul's school. Tuesday, 12th December 6pm in Holy Rosary church
- Holy Rosary school, Wednesday, 13th December 1.30pm in Holy Rosary church
- St John's school, Thursday, 14th December, 6pm in St John's church

Confessions St John's, Saturday, 10.30-11.00am

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 30:19,30

**O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.**

THE COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

40:1-5.9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them,'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger of Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
Joyful messenger of Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 84:9-14. R. v8

**R) Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R)**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R)**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow in carrying out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but is he being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! Lk 3:4.6
**Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,
come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bar 5:5;4:36

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

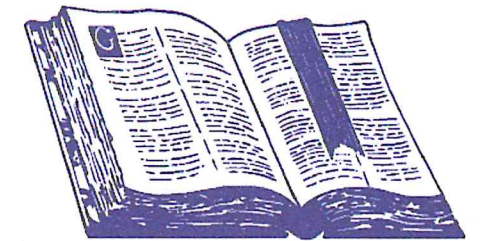
GOSPEL REFLECTION



John the Baptist became a very popular figure, baptising people in the Jordan while they confessed their sins. However, despite his popularity, he was at pains to point out to those who 'followed' him, that there was 'someone' following him, some who would

baptise, not just with water, but with the Holy Spirit. Still today, there is a danger that we 'follow' people who cannot give us real nourishment for the soul. In our highly secularised society, film stars, singers and sports personalities are often held in the highest esteem, especially by the young. We erect pedestal for these people, only to knock them off when their behaviour turns out to be less than exemplary. But even in the 'religious' world, certain writers or thinkers, are held in high esteem by believers. Many of

them have good and interesting ideas, write inspiring books which help on our journey towards God. What we must remember is that they are not God and, are not, to use John the Baptist's words, fit to undo the strap of his sandals. The acid test is if they bring us closer to Jesus or not.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



POPULAR VS. POPULIST

159. "Popular" leaders, those capable of interpreting the feelings and cultural dynamics of a people, and significant trends in society, do exist. The service they provide by their efforts to unite and lead can become the basis of an enduring vision of transformation and growth that would also include making room for others in the pursuit of the common good. But this can degenerate into an unhealthy "populism" when individuals are able to exploit politically a people's culture, under whatever ideological banner, for their own personal advantage or continuing grip on power. Or when, at other times, they seek popularity by appealing to the basest and most selfish inclinations of certain sectors of the population. This becomes all the more serious when, whether in cruder or more subtle forms, it leads to the usurpation of institutions and laws.

The Fire of Love* LIVING AS A TRUE CONTEMPLATIVE

Those who are true contemplatives, on fire with love, hardly ever engage in fruitless outside activity or seek high office in the Church. They like to be always free to be raised up to Christ in joyful song. The most important angels are not sent out on errands but remain close to God at all times. In the same way, contemplatives give themselves over to the things of God and are not willing to lord it over other people.

God chooses whomsoever God chooses. One is chosen for activity, another for solitude. Such people are often ignored and rated pretty low by others. They do no flashy miracles, but rather prefer to remain in interior solitude.

Others are properly chosen to serve God in other people and they serve those under them with sensitivity. Others may live lives of discipline that people know nothing about. God may make this known by 'signs' before they die, but not necessarily so. Signs can also come from those who are sinners and who are actually doing what they do for human acknowledgement and praise.

*The Fire of Love by Richard Rolle Published by Aeterna Press