


PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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

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EI  **3rd SUNDAY OF LENT**
 www.facebook.com /rcdhnbillingham **Week Beginning: 3rd March 2024**
Prayer Week: 3

www.diocesehn.org.uk

Sunday 3rd March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary
Monday 4th March	10:00am	Magaret Smith	Holy Rosary
Tuesday 5th March	10.00am	NBF	St Joseph's school
Wednesday 6th March	7.00pm	In thanksgiving (MC)	Holy Rosary
Thursday 7th March	10.00am	Terence Lavery	Holy Rosary
Friday 8th March	10.00am	Holy Souls	St John's
Saturday 9th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent (Vigil)</i>	5.00pm	Ken & Eileen Springett/ Margaret Whelan	St John's
Sunday 10th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary

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, Faustina Morgan, Maureen Maddren, Maureen Braithwaite, Baby Cassian, Sheila Allen, May Hutchinson, Sheila Holmes

Please remember those lately dead or with anniversaries: Fr John McElhone

Children's Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

Any child who would like to take part please give name to Mary after Mass today.

Pope's prayer intention for March-

"For martyrs of our own day- witnesses to Christ"

In over 40 countries there are reports of Christians being assassinated or abducted, churches being attacked or burned, and people forced to leave their homes because of their faith.

Cafod coffee morning in The Medway 7th April after Mass

English Martyrs School, Hartlepool, is looking to appoint- Lay Chaplain- further info' 01429 or recruitment@ems.bhcet.org.uk (cf. poster) and a Head of RE " " " " " (cf. poster)
 Closing date for applications- 4th March.

GIFT AID

A reminder to all currently signed up to the Gift Aid scheme- Please check you are paying sufficient income tax to cover the amount we claim from HMRC. Please advise us of any change of name or address. Anyone wishing to join the scheme can contact the number below. Forms for anyone wishing to start donating to the Parish by bank standing order are available at the back of church. New planned giving envelopes will be available in March, however if you wish to change over to standing order please make contact ASAP. All contributions made by each method are gratefully received and details are treated with utmost confidentiality. For more information, please contact Caroline Kelly 07899788760

Friendship Group- Pie & Pea Supper. Monday March 25th, 6.30pm
 Catholic Club. Tickets (£5) available after Mass

The Northern Cross- MARCH- on sale £1.50p

Statue of Our Lady

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

Stations of the Cross and Exposition- Sunday, Holy Rosary, 4pm

Confessions Saturday, St John's, 10.30-11am

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ez 36: 23-26

When I prove my holiness among you,
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;
and I will pour clean water upon you
and cleanse you from all your impurities,
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

THE COLLECT

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving
have shown us a remedy for sin,
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,
that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,
may always be lifted up by your mercy.
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.

FIRST READING *Shorter form*

A reading from the book of Exodus 20:1-3. 7-8. 12-17

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

R) You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R)**

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. **(R)**

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. **(R)**

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. 1:22-25

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an

obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Jn 3:16
God loved the world so much that he his only Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL

John 2:13-25

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: 'Zeal for your house will devour me.' The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings,
and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins,
may take care to forgive our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 83: 4-5

**The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young;
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge
of things yet hidden in heaven
and are nourished while still on earth
with the Bread that comes from on high,
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,
that what is being brought about in us in mystery
may come to true completion.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



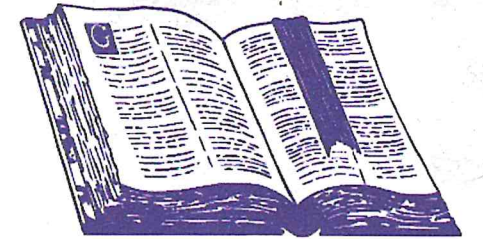
The image we normally have of Jesus is one of a peaceful, loving and compassionate person. He was such a person, but the Gospels also recount a number of times when he became angry with those around

him. His anger was reserved almost exclusively for religious people, the Scribes and the Pharisees, and in this case, people who had come to the temple. If Jesus were to come on earth today he would probably still have problems with those people who practise their religion by observing every detail of the 'law', but who miss the point of Christianity, which is

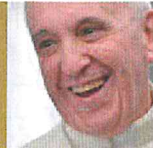
essentially to love God and neighbour.

As in last week's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the destruction of 'this sanctuary', which he will then raise up in three days. Not surprisingly,

the Jews take literally what Jesus says and dismiss it as ridiculous. This time, however, it seems that the disciples did understand what he meant. As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we too must be careful to understand what Jesus is saying to us, otherwise we run the risk of being the Scribes and the Pharisees of today.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



THE BENEFITS AND LIMITS OF LIBERAL APPROACHES

169 (Cont.). This, however, must happen in a way that will not betray their distinctive way of acting as "sowers of change, promoters of a process involving millions of actions, great and small, creatively intertwined like words in a poem".¹⁴⁴ In that sense, such movements are "social poets" that, in their own way, work, propose, promote and liberate. They help make possible an integral human development that goes beyond "the idea of social policies being a policy for the poor, but never with the poor and never of the poor, much less part of a project that reunites peoples".¹⁴⁵ They may be troublesome, and certain "theorists" may find it hard to classify them, yet we must find the courage to acknowledge that, without them, "democracy atrophies, turns into a mere word, a formality; it loses its representative character and becomes disembodied, since it leaves out the people in their daily struggle for dignity, in the building of their future".¹⁴⁶

144. Address to Participants in the World Meeting of Popular Movements (5 November 2016): L'Osservatore Romano, 7-8 November 2016, pp. 4-5.

145. Ibid.

146. Ibid.

The Fire of Love* THE REWARDS OF SOLITUDE

Loving Christ above all involves three things – warmth, song and sweetness. And from my own experience I know that these three gifts require great inner and outer quiet. I found that if I walked or stood or even prostrated myself when engaged in contemplation, I seemed to be left in dryness. What really helped me was sitting. I understood that by standing or walking the body gets tired, and so the soul gets tired too. But sitting establishes us in inner and outer quiet.

I cannot equate myself with the great saints, but I want to press forward with greater fervour, so that my song becomes more fluent and my experience of love's sweetness fuller. Fervour means that the mind is truly ablaze with love, and the heart feels that it is burning with a love that is real and not imaginary. Song means that there is within us a sweet feeling of heavenly praise. Thought then turns into song and the song into sweetest harmony. These are not attained except through utmost devotion. And from fervour and song spring ineffable sweetness.

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

