

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE | HILDA PARTNERSHIP

## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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

**Website:** www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk

**Telephone:** 01642 553 118



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**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**Week Beginning: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
**Prayer Week: 3**

www.diocesehn.org.uk

<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	Parishioners	<b>Holy Rosary</b>
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Joan, Margaret & Kathleen Mullen	<b>Holy Rosary</b>
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>St Bernadette</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	May Hutchinson	<b>Holy Rosary</b>
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Pat Bullas/ Fr Tom Mc Cormack	<b>Holy Rosary</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Hughie Armstrong (Requiem)	<b>Holy Rosary</b>
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Barbara Knox	<b>St John's</b>
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>(Vigil 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)</i>	<b>5.00pm</b>	Whitfield Family	<b>St John's</b>
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	Parishioners	<b>Holy Rosary</b>

**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, Christine Rooney, Brian Kane, Margaret Hitchinson, Helen Webb, Jim Hodgson, Fr Stephen Dye, Judith Sowerby, Kate Williams, Maureen Maddren, Maureen Braithwaite, Baby Cassian, Sheila Allen, Sheila Holmes, Michael Bickers, Ann Christeson

**Lately Dead-** Monsignor Philip Carroll

### SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION

The Northern Brethren Fund gives financial help to our retired priests who are in need

The number of retired priests continues to rise and in recent years the amount collected has fallen.

Collection remains open until 28<sup>th</sup> April.

### WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2024

Pilgrims please remainder of cost in an envelope marked "**Walsingham**" and your name. Cheques to "St Thomas of Canterbury" or cash: £194 per person

### Cafod Race Night-

Catholic Club, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, at 7pm. Tickets on sale after Mass for next three weekends.

Next Sunday- Special collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor

Last Monday the Holy See issued a document, "Dignitas infinita", which seeks to promote and defend very aspect of human dignity. You will find the text on either the Holy See website or on the website of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales.

Coffee morning in The Medway in aid of "Guide Dogs" after Mass next Thursday.

### Some Easter prayers in honour of Our Lady:

Regina caeli Laetare alleluia / Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia  
Resurrexit sicut dixit alleluia/ Ora pro nobis Deum alleluia

We fly to your patronage, O holy Mother of God, despise not our prayers and petitions, but ever deliver us from all evil, O glorious and blessed Virgin

### Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father,

In baptism you called us by name and made us members of your family, the Church.

Help all your people to know their vocation in life,

And to respond by living a life of holiness.

For your greater glory and for the service of your people, raise up dedicated and generous men who will serve as priests for the Church of Hexham and Newcastle.

Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen our communities, our seminarians, and all who are discerning their vocation. Amen

Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert, pray for us.

Confessions St John's, Saturday 10.30-11am

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.**

Cf. Ps 65:1-2

**THE COLLECT**

May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection. 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**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15. 17-19  
Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.'

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps 4:2. 4.7.9. R.v7

**R) Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.**

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;  
from anguish you released me, have  
mercy and hear me! **(R)**

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;  
the Lord hears me whenever I call him. **(R)**

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.  
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. **(R)**

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,  
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of St John

2:1-5

I am writing this, my children,  
to stop you sinning;  
but if anyone should sin,  
we have our advocate with the Father,  
Jesus Christ, who is just;  
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,  
and not only ours,  
but the whole world's.  
We can be sure that we know God  
only by keeping his commandments.  
Anyone who says, 'I know him',  
and does not keep his commandments,  
is a liar,  
refusing to admit the truth.

But when anyone does obey what he has said,  
God's love comes to perfection in him.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Cf. Lk 24:32

**Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.  
Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Luke 24:35-48

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Receive, O Lord, we pray,  
these offerings of your exultant Church,  
and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness,  
grant also that the gifts we bring  
may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Lk 24:46-47

**The Christ had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead;  
in his name repentance and remission of sins  
must be preached to all the nations, alleluia.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord,  
and grant, we pray,  
that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries  
may attain in their flesh  
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Last week we read the account of Jesus appearing to the Apostles, who were filled with joy. This Sunday's reading when Jesus appears they react with 'alarm and

fright', thinking they were seeing a ghost. As Jesus did with doubting Thomas, he showed them his hands and feet and they were filled with joy. He even eats some fish which they offer him to show he is not a ghost. Finally, he reminds them what is written in Scripture about the Christ dying and rising from the dead. It is remarkable how, after all the time these men, specially chosen by Jesus, had spent with him, they still needed reminding and reassuring of all he had told them. We too, in our journey of faith to the glory of the

Father, need plenty of reminders and reassurances. We need to ask the Lord to keep us on the right track whenever we stray from it. The best way to think of our relationship with God, is that of a child to a father. Children cannot manage their lives by themselves. They need to be held by the hand and picked up and hugged every time they fall.



### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



## INTERNATIONAL POWER

175. Providentially, many groups and organizations within civil society help to compensate for the shortcomings of the international community, its lack of coordination in complex situations, its lack of attention to fundamental human rights and to the critical needs of certain groups. Here we can see a concrete application of the principle of subsidiarity, which justifies the participation and activity of communities and organizations on lower levels as a means of integrating and complementing the activity of the state. These groups and organizations often carry out commendable efforts in the service of the common good and their members at times show true heroism, revealing something of the grandeur of which our humanity is still capable.

## The Fire of Love\* HOW LOVE IS THE QUEEN OF THE VIRTUES

Love is what counts and what gives us a true inner beauty. Love wounds us and makes us long for God, beautifying us, gladdening us, and kindling a fire within us. Every virtue must be rooted in love if it is to count for anything. Doing lots of good things without the motivation of love is like throwing precious stones down a bottomless pit. Acting well outwardly when we have no love for God or others is useless for eternity. Holding on to riches or looking for worldly comfort, without making a total renunciation of all that is opposed to God, cannot help us attain perfection. Real love takes real work, not the approach of a dilettante.

We are told in Scripture that 'the way to life is narrow' (Mt. 7: 14), and yet we expect the way to be easy. Remember Christ himself 'had to suffer and so enter into glory' (Lk. 24: 26). If we want to love and follow Christ, we must become like him who 'though he was rich became poor for our sakes' (2 Cor. 8: 9). Christ was a servant to all and yet here we are wanting to lord it over other people!

It is obvious that our love, compared with the love and service of Christ, is weak and imperfect. In fact, some even become slaves of the devil rather than servants of God; for God wishes to be served in the person of our neighbour.

\*The Fire of Love by Richard Rolle Published by Acterna Press