


**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



Ei  **6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
 www.facebook.com /rcdhnbillingham  
**Week Beginning: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024**  
**Prayer Week: 2**

www.diocesehn.org.uk

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	Parishioners	<b>Holy Rosary</b>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Special Intention	<b>Holy Rosary</b>
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>St John of Beverley</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	Special Intention(PE)	<b>St Joseph's school</b>
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Hughie Armstrong	<b>Holy Rosary</b>
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Ascension of the Lord</i>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	Holy Souls Parishioners	<b>Holy Rosary</b> <b>St John's</b>
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Laurence Crozier NBF	<b>St John's</b> <b>Holy Rosary</b>
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>(Vigil 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)</i>	<b>5.00pm</b>	Holy Souls	<b>St John's</b>
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	Parishioners/ Fr Nicholson	<b>Holy Rosary</b>

**Please pray for the sick :** 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, Denise Tamblingson  
**Lately Dead-** Jamie Moon

**St Michael's Annual Mass and May Procession**  
 Next Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> May, Holy Rosary, 11am. All welcome.

Cafod race night raised £931- a big thank you for your generosity

Advance notice-

- a) **Corpus Christi:** Eucharistic procession and adoration of the Blessed sacrament at Ushaw. 2<sup>nd</sup> June, led by the Bishop, starting at 3pm in St Cuthbert's chapel. Weather permitting the procession will go through the gardens returning to the Chapel for Benediction. Teas and coffees available afterwards. No ticket required.
- b) **Significance Festival Weekend,** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June from 10am. The Youth Ministry Team invite to various activities, guest speakers, live music and Mass at 3.15pm with the Bishop. All welcome- to book [nsalkeld@ymt.org](mailto:nsalkeld@ymt.org). The event is to support Fr Dermot Donnelly's charity.

**WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2024**

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

On Friday April 30<sup>th</sup> the Bishops of England and Wales issued a pastoral reflection on the gender debate and welcoming the document from the Holy See "Male and Female He created them". Cf. [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

**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.

MASS INTENTIONS- please ensure you hand in as soon as possible so that I can register them before leaving.

**A BIG thank you to all our parishioners for the collection gathered for my retirement. Your generosity will be a great support to moving forward to the next chapter in my life.**

**Next Thursday ASCENSION DAY-holyday of obligation. Masses 10am/7pm**

Confessions St John's, Saturday 10.30-11am

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 48:20

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;  
proclaim to the ends of the earth:  
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

## THE COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,  
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of  
joy,  
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,  
and that what we relive in remembrance  
we may always hold to in what we do.  
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.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him,  
knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him  
up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to  
realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that  
anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is  
right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on  
all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter  
were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be  
poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them  
speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of  
God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water  
of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy  
Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them  
to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they  
begged him to stay on for some days.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

Ps 97:1-4, R.v.2

**R) The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.**

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **(R)**

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **(R)**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **(R)**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John

4:7-10

My dear people,  
let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.  
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,  
because God is love.  
God's love for us was revealed  
when God sent into the world his only Son  
so that we could have life through him;  
this is the love I mean:

not our love for God,  
but God's love for us when he sent his Son  
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

John 15:9-17

The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.

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

Jesus said to his disciples:  
'As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's commandments  
and remain in his love.

I have told you this  
so that my own joy may be in you  
and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:  
love one another,  
as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love  
than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends,  
if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants any more,  
because a servant does not know  
his master's business;

I call you friends,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me,  
no, I chose you;  
and I commissioned you  
to go out and to bear fruit,  
fruit that will last;

and then the Father will give you  
anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you  
is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,  
together with the sacrificial offerings,  
so that, purified by your graciousness,  
we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 14:15-16

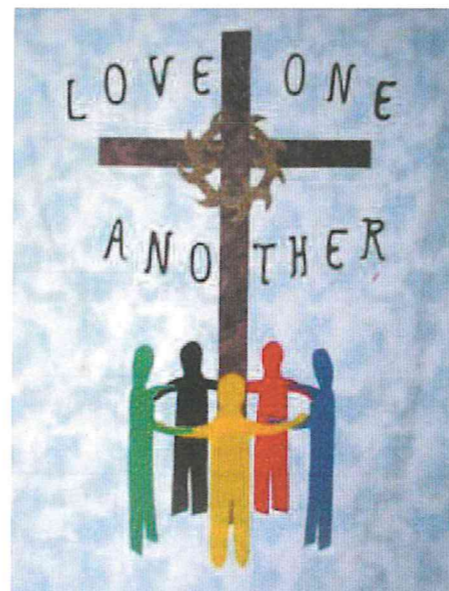
If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,  
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another  
Paraclete,  
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God,  
who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ,  
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament  
and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel reinforces that of  
last Sunday and takes it a step  
further. Here Jesus talks about 'his'

commandment: "love one another  
as I have loved you." And how did  
Jesus love us? He actually gave his  
life for us. As we can see from the  
news, there are still plenty of places  
in the world where Christians are  
literally giving their lives, or where  
their lives are being taken from  
them. But there are many ways in  
which we can give our lives out of  
love for our brothers and sisters,  
not in a literal sense, but in a still  
meaningful way. How can we 'give  
our lives' for our brothers and  
sisters on a daily basis. We can do  
that with our children when they  
want us to play with them,  
especially when we feel exhausted  
ourselves. We can put down the

newspaper or turn off the television  
when our husband or wife wants to  
talk to us. We can offer to do  
household chores when we really  
just want to put our feet up. The  
more we are able to 'deny' ourselves  
in order to love others, the deeper  
our relationship with God  
becomes. If we live our lives at the  
service of our brothers and sisters,  
we are truly following in the  
footsteps of Jesus.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM  
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)THE POLITICS  
WE NEED

178. In the face of many petty forms of politics  
focused on immediate interests, I would repeat  
that "true statecraft is manifest when, in  
difficult times, we uphold high principles and  
think of the long-term common good. Political  
powers do not find it easy to assume this duty  
in the work of nation-building",<sup>162</sup> much less  
in forging a common project for the human  
family, now and in the future. Thinking of  
those who will come after us does not serve  
electoral purposes, yet it is what authentic  
justice demands. As the Bishops of Portugal  
have taught, the earth "is lent to each  
generation, to be handed on to the generation  
that follows".<sup>163</sup>

<sup>162</sup> Ibid., 178; AAS 107 (2015), 918.

<sup>163</sup> PORTUGUESE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, Pastoral Letter  
Responsabilidade Solidária pelo Bem Comum (15 September 2003),  
20; cf. Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' (24 May 2015), 159; AAS 107  
(2015), 911.

The Fire of Love\*  
BECOMING A CONTEMPLATIVE (2)

Prayer kindles the fire of love within us. The prophet says: 'Are  
not my words as a burning fire, and as a hammer for breaking  
stones? (Jer. 23: 29) And the psalmist adds: 'Your promise is  
refined in the fire' (Ps. 119: 140).

We have to pray and meditate with a perfect heart and not be lazy  
and indifferent about our prayer. We need to meditate ceaselessly  
on the Word of God and model our lives on it. To pray also  
means to busy ourselves with good works, always praying,  
reading, meditating, or doing other useful things to keep us from  
idleness. We must watch in prayer and not allow ourselves to fall  
asleep. Pray therefore with watchfulness, care and love.

The active life is good and we need it, but the contemplative life  
is better. However, if we can live both action and contemplation  
with real perfection, doing everything for, with and in God, we  
will be truly blessed. Most are called to one or the other kind of  
life, and we each have our own gifts. Contemplation needs a lot  
of spiritual work, but it gives us peace and inner quiet, so it is  
worth labouring for. High office in the Church is no guarantee  
of high spiritual giftedness. In fact, practical people are needed  
and are often called to labour for God, but their very activity  
precludes them from reaching the contemplative state. Christ and  
his mother obviously managed both but they are a special case.

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