

**Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle | Hilda Partnership**  
**Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury**

Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham. TS23 2EP  
**Parish Priest:** Father Adrian Dixon.

**Week beginning: 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.**



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Day	Time	Date	Church	Intention
<b>Sunday</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year	10:00 AM	8 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2024	Holy Rosary	Parishioners
<b>Monday</b> St Peter Claver	10.00 AM	9 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2024	Holy Rosary	Holy Souls
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.00 AM	10 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2024	St. John's	Fr. Revill
<b>Wednesday</b> St Deiniol	7.00 PM	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2024	Holy Rosary	Priest's Intention
<b>Thursday</b> Most Holy Name of Mary	10.00 AM	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2024	Holy Rosary	Fr. Cornelius O'Connor
<b>Friday</b> St John Chrysostom	10.00 AM	13 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2024	St John's	Intentions of the Holy Father
<b>Saturday</b> Vigil - 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year	<b>Confessions</b> 10.00 - 10.30	14 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2024	St John's	
	<b>Vigil Mass</b> 5.00 PM			Fay Family
<b>Sunday</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year.	10:00 AM	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2024	Holy Rosary	Parishioners

**Please pray for the sick**

Sheila Allen	Canon Stephen Dye	Rev. Dan Mckie	Rose Wall
Stephen Allison	<b>Angela Gilhen</b>	Grace Ollie	Lily Ward-Thurlbeck
Michael Bickers	Sheila Holmes	Cai Rive	Helen Webb
Maureen Braithwaite	Judy Houchen	Christine Rooney	Kate Williams
Carol Brownlee	Brian Kane	Max Simpson	Avril Wordsworth
Baby Cassian	Maureen Maddren	Peter Smith	
Ann Christeson	Sarah McAllister	Judith Sowerby	

**Please pray for those who have died recently**  
 Iole Faso, Elizabeth Diane Casey, Jim Hodgson, Margaret Hitchinson, and John Wordsworth.

**Father Adrian's Induction**

Father Adrian's Induction as Parish Priest will take place at the 7.00 p.m. Mass on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 (Our Lady of Walsingham). Canon John Cooper has kindly agreed to come along on that day to lead the ceremony. This is an occasion for us all to celebrate our parish and give thanks to God for the faith that we share. We ask Our Lady of Walsingham to pray for us all that we may make our home with the Holy Family of Nazareth. There will be light refreshments in the Medway Hall afterwards.

**RCIA - Journey in Faith**

The programme for those who wish to look at becoming a member of the Church will begin on Wednesday 25 September at about 7.45pm after the evening Mass in Holy Rosary. We will meet in the Sacristy meeting room. If you know of anyone who would like to become a member of the Church please let them know.

**Walsingham Pilgrimage**

Father Butters and a good number of Parishioners had a most fruitful pilgrimage to Walsingham last weekend and we give thanks to Almighty God for the graces received - and for their safe return.

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

We are going to have a local course especially arranged for parishioners of our Partnership who might like to join the teams of Special Ministers in our parishes. It begins at the end of the month so please let Father Adrian know if you would like to take part.

**Children's Liturgy at Holy Rosary and St John's churches**

The Children's Liturgy will begin again this weekend in both Churches. Children are invited to come out during the Mass (with an adult if necessary), to take part in a Liturgy more suited to their age, and return at the Offertory to take part in the rest of the Mass. It will run during Term time only. Please encourage your child to come along and take part.



**Newman Tyneside Circle**

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear Fr Dermot Preston SJ speak about Heart speaks to Heart: the Life and Significance of St John Henry Newman. The meeting will be at Holy Name parish hall, Jesmond, Newcastle, on Wednesday 11 September at 7.30pm.

**Saint Vincent De Paul Society (SVP)**

For anything SVP related please speak to one of our members or contact Jane (07584575541) / Janet (07840967111).

The Food Hub continues every Friday 12 noon to 3.00 PM without any need of a referral. The Food Hub is open to all.

**Friendship group**

The Friendship group is holding a Macmillan coffee morning on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 in the Medway. We are asking for any items to use as tombola prizes. Members of the group will be at the back of both churches after our weekend Masses for any kind donations. Thank you.

**ADOREMUS EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS**

As part of the National Eucharistic Congress taking place in Birmingham on 14<sup>th</sup> September, the Bishops of England and Wales are requesting parishes and deaneries across the country to host a period of Adoration on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. This will allow us to come together fruitfully in focusing on the Eucharist with renewed and deepened devotion in anticipation of the Jubilee Year 2025. Our partnership will be celebrating a Holy Hour of adoration at St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool, at 4 pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. This will begin with Vespers and conclude with Benediction. All are most welcome to attend as we gather as a partnership community to mark this great event.

**Adding an item to the Parish bulletin:**

For bulletin submissions, would you kindly email [rcdhnbillingham@gmail.com](mailto:rcdhnbillingham@gmail.com) by 12 Noon on Thursday or ring the Presbytery by 12 Noon on Tuesday for it to appear in the Bulletin for the following Saturday/Sunday. Thank you.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 118:137,124

**You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.**

## THE COLLECT

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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 prophet Isaiah

35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

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

## PSALM

Ps 145:7-10. R.v1

**R) My soul, give praise to the Lord.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger. **(R)**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R)**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best

seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Cf. Mt 4:23

**Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom,  
and cured all kinds of sickness among the people.  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Mark 7:31-37

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.  
**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

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

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that, through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 8:12

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



The miracle told in today's Gospel is more than just an act of love by Jesus for a deaf and dumb man. It may seem strange that Jesus told all those who saw

others about his miracles. Jesus wanted the people then, and us now, to follow him for the 'right' reasons and not simply become camp followers of a wonder

worker. Another lesson to learn from this Gospel is that we are all to a greater or lesser degree dumb and blind, spiritually speaking. And unless we open our selves up to him we will remain so. In order to hear the voice of the Holy spirit we need to hear his gentle voice. In order to have Jesus' vision of the world we need the gift of spiritual insight which only he can give us.



### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



### FRUITFULNESS OVER RESULTS

196. For this reason, it is truly noble to place our hope in the hidden power of the seeds of goodness we sow, and thus to initiate processes whose fruits will be reaped by others. Good politics combines love with hope and with confidence in the reserves of goodness present in human hearts. Indeed, "authentic political life, built upon respect for law and frank dialogue between individuals, is constantly renewed whenever there is a realization that every woman and man, and every new generation, brings the promise of new relational, intellectual, cultural and spiritual energies".<sup>195</sup>

<sup>195</sup> Message for the 2019 World Day of Peace (8 December 2018), 5; L'Osservatore Romano, 19 December 2018, p. 8.

### The Fire of Love\* A MEDITATION ON THE PASSION (5)

After this, Lord, you cried out that you were thirsty; and they offered you vinegar and gall – the very people for whom you were giving your heart's blood. Your thirst was both physical and spiritual. You thirsted for the salvation of those who were putting you to death; and for those who were in hell awaiting your coming and who had kept your laws throughout their lives.

Happy indeed is the one who, like you Jesus, is willing to suffer pain and earthly disgrace, or who can in any way accompany you in the shadow of the cross of harsh living.

Lord, your last words were 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' meaning 'Why have I been so completely abandoned?' You hung on the cross between two thieves at the centre point of the world – naked, flayed, with gaping wounds, and seeing the suffering of your mother.

Lord, no heart can understand such great mercy as yours, such limitless love and compassion, even for your enemies. In my imagination I want to embrace the foot of the cross, lying on the ground among the stinking bones of the dead. I refuse to get up until your precious blood has reddened me and until I am thereby marked as one of your own.

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

