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| <b>Diocese of Hexham &amp; Newcastle   Hilda Partnership</b>   |  |  |
| <b>Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury</b>   |  |   |
| Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham. TS23 2EP<br><b>Parish Priest:</b> Father Adrian Dixon. |  |   |
| <b>Week beginning: 6th October, 2024.</b>  |  |   |

|                |                           |                  |                                  |
|----------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
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| Day  | Holy Mass and Services  | Intention                  |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b> 6th October.<br><small>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year.</small>             | Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM  | Parishioners               |
| <b>Monday</b> 7th October.<br><small>Our Lady of the Rosary.</small>                         | Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM  | Parishioners               |
| <b>Tuesday</b> 8th October.  | Holy Mass at <b>St Joseph's Primary School</b> - 10.00 AM   | Mary and Laurence Boynton  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> 9th Oct.<br><small>St John Henry Newman.</small>                            | <b>Holy Rosary:</b> There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Evening Prayer of the Church from 6.15 PM to 6.45 PM. |                            |
|  | Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 7.00 PM   | Allan Felgate              |
| <b>Thursday</b> 10th Oct.<br><small>St Paulinus of York.</small>                             | Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 9.30 AM   | Funeral Mass for Rose Wall |
| <b>Friday</b> 11th October.  | Holy Mass at <b>St John's</b> - 10.00 AM  | Holy Souls                 |
| <b>Saturday</b> 12th Oct.<br><small>Vigil Mass - 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year.</small> | <b>St John's - No confessions</b>   |                            |
|  | Holy Mass at <b>St John's - Vigil Mass</b> - <b>5.30</b> PM   | Parishioners               |
| <b>Sunday</b> 13th October.<br><small>28<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year.</small>            | Sunday Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM   | Priest's Intentions        |

| Please pray for the sick |                   |                  |                        |                  |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Sheila Allen             | Ann Christeson    | Sarah McAllister | Father John Skivington | Avril Wordsworth |
| Stephen Allison          | Canon Stephen Dye | Rev. Dan Mckie   | Peter Smith            |                  |
| Michael Bickers          | Sheila Holmes     | Grace Ollie      | Judith Sowerby         |                  |
| Maureen Braithwaite      | Judy Houchen      | Cai Rive         | Lily Ward-Thurlbeck    |                  |
| Carol Brownlee           | Brian Kane        | Christine Rooney | Helen Webb             |                  |
| Baby Cassian             | Maureen Maddren   | Max Simpson      | Kate Williams          |                  |

**Please pray for those who have died recently**  
Margaret Hitchinson, John Wordsworth, Rose Wall, and Eileen Minto.

### Friendship Group – Macmillan coffee morning

The Macmillan coffee morning raised **£723.00**. The Friendship Group would like to thank everyone who braved the terrible weather to support them. They would also like to express their gratitude for all the generous tombola donations. Bless you all - the Friendship Group.

### October Rosary

The Rosary will be said before Mass on Thursdays at Holy Rosary Church and Fridays at St. John's Church during the month of October. This will be led by members of the SVP. On Monday, 7th October, which is the patronal feast for Holy Rosary Church, we will say the Rosary after the 10.00 AM Mass.

### Saint Vincent De Paul Society (SVP)

For anything SVP related please speak to one of our members or contact Jane (07584 575541) or Janet (07840 967111).

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.

### Bereavement Group

The next meeting of the Bereavement Group will be held in the Sacristy of Holy Rosary Church at 2 pm on Wednesday, 9th October, 2024.

### RCIA

Our next meeting for those exploring becoming members of the Church will take place on Wednesday, 9th October in the Sacristy of Holy Rosary Church after the 7.00 PM Mass.

### CAFOD's Family Fast Day

CAFOD's Family Fast Day took place on Friday 4th October. Daniel, a young man in Democratic Republic of the Congo, is carving a better future for his family with carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD-funded training centre. If you give to CAFOD you'll fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so more people like Daniel can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential.

**Please place your CAFOD Family Fast envelopes in the box at the back of church - or you can give online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope).**

### FLAME 2025

Flame 2025 takes place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March. The theme is 'UNSTOPPABLE. FAN THE FLAME OF HOPE'. It is open to anyone from school year 9 to University/young adult age. Under 18s must be part of an organised group. Please talk with your school chaplain, catechist or parish priest if you would like to come along. Two years ago, over 700 young people from our Diocese travelled to Wembley Arena for this national Catholic youth gathering. Once again YMT is hoping to take a large number of young people (up to 1,000 including accompanying adults). COST: £45 per person (includes return rail travel, Wembley ticket and London travel card). The cost has been generously subsidised by Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott Donnelly. For further information contact [mary.hughes@ymt.org](mailto:mary.hughes@ymt.org)

### Parish Finance Committee

The next meeting of the Parish Finance Committee will take place in the Sacristy of Holy Rosary Church at 7.00 PM on Thursday, 10th October.

### Pope Francis

During his homily for the Feast of the Guardian Angels, Pope Francis said:

*Brothers and sisters, we begin anew our synodal path with an eye toward the world, since the Christian community is always at the service of humanity in order to announce the joy of the Gospel. In such a dramatic time in our history, when the winds of war and the flames of violence continue to devastate entire peoples and nations, there is need for this message.*

*In order to invoke the intercession of Mary Most Holy for the gift of peace, I will recite the Holy Rosary and make a heartfelt plea to the Virgin in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major this coming Sunday (6th October). If possible, I ask all members of the Synod to join me for this occasion. The following day, 7th October, I ask everyone to participate in a day of prayer and fasting for peace in the world.*

*Let us walk together. Let us listen to the Lord and allow him to guide us by the "breath" of the Spirit.*



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Cf. Est 4:17

**Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.**

**THE COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask. 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 book of Genesis

2:18-24

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****PSALM**

Ps 127. R.v5

**R) May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. **(R)**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **(R)**

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children. On Israel, peace! **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

2:9-11

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

1 Jn 4:12

**As long as we love one another****God will live in us****and this love will be complete in us.**

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mark 10:2-16

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us,' they said, 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the sacrifices instituted by your commands and, through the sacred mysteries, which we celebrate with dutiful service, graciously complete the sanctifying work by which you are pleased to redeem us. Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Cf. 1 Cor 10:17

**Though many, we are one bread, one body, for we all partake of the one Bread and one Chalice.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant us, almighty God, that we may be refreshed and nourished by the Sacrament which we have received, so as to be transformed into what we consume. Through Christ our Lord.

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



If we love him, Jesus says, we must keep his word; his word which is "not my own: it is the word of the Father who sent me." Today's word is clear enough: divorce is contrary to God's will; to God's intention in creating. It sounds a negative

command, but it has a positive purpose. God's intention in creating is always positive, because "God is Love", as St. John tells us. God does not create without purpose; his purpose is the happiness and fulfilment of his creatures. "Let us make man," He said, "In our own image, in the likeness of ourselves." So He wills that in marriage a man and woman, both physically and spiritually, should be in love as one, in an image of the One-ness of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Good, positive relationships, are essential to the fruitfulness, happiness, continuance and finally fulfilment, of the human race. Relationships for

fallen human persons can be a challenge, but God does not abandon his creatures. He says through the prophet, ". "I am your God. I give you strength, truly I help you, truly I hold you firm with my saving right hand." He sent His Son as man to empower human love through the gift of grace and the friendship of the Holy Spirit.



### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



### SOCIAL DIALOGUE FOR A NEW CULTURE

200. Dialogue is often confused with something quite different: the feverish exchange of opinions on social networks, frequently based on media information that is not always reliable. These exchanges are merely parallel monologues. They may attract some attention by their sharp and aggressive tone. But monologues engage no one, and their content is frequently self-serving and contradictory.

### The Fire of Love\*

#### THE THIRD DEGREE OF LOVE

In the third degree of love you will find great delight and comfort. Not everyone comes to this degree, for it is not within our own choice but God's, who is free to do as he pleases. Various graces and degrees of love will bring us to heaven; but whoever is in this third degree is brought to contemplation.

A contemplative love loves to be alone in silence. At the beginning you are taken up into the bliss of heaven, illumined by grace, kindled with the fire of Christ's love. You will feel the burning love of Christ in your heart, always lifting your thoughts to God, feeling love, joy and sweetness. In this state no sickness, anguish, shame or penance can grieve you. All your life will turn into joyful song and melody.

Then Jesus is all your desire and delight, all your comfort and solace. I know that, in him, all shall be everlasting song, and in him all rest. Then you may truly say: 'I sleep and my heart watches.'

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

