

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. Telephone: 01642 553 118		
Week beginning: 5th January, 2025		

Website	www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk	Facebook	www.facebook.com/rcdhnbillingham
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Day	Holy Mass and Services	Intention
Sunday 5 th January The Epiphany of the Lord	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM	Alan Pennington
Monday 6 th January	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM	
Tuesday 7 th January	No Mass	
Wednesday 8 th January	No Mass	
Thursday 9 th January	No Mass	
Friday 10 th January	No Mass	
Saturday 11 th January The Baptism of the Lord	No confessions	
	Vigil - Holy Mass at St. John's - 5.30 PM	Parishioners
Sunday 12 th January The Baptism of the Lord	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM	Sally Pacinski

Please pray for those who have died recently:
Father Kevin Cummins, Doreen Dolan, Joan Maria Tunney,

Maureen Maddren (Requiem Mass at 12 NOON on Monday, 13th January, 2025 at Holy Rosary), and

Monty Sharp (Requiem Mass at 10.30 AM on Tuesday, 14th January, 2025 at Holy Rosary).

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

Question Corner

There are two winners and three honorable mentions for the puzzle from last week. See the website for the results and full explanation from Fr Adrian. Have a go on this week's puzzle.

Thoughts on Sunday's readings

Fr Adrian continues to write weekly reflections available on our website. Make it one of your weekly reflections.

Jubilee 2025

Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee, and the theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18th to 25th January, 2025. We will be holding a special service for the Churches together in Billingham on Sunday, 19th January at 3.00 PM in Holy Rosary Church. Do please make every effort to come along.

Dementia Awareness training

The Dementia Awareness training, for those who have volunteered for it, will take place in the Medway on Wednesday, 15th January, 2025 from 9.30 a.m.

Jubilee 2025

Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee, and the theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". It will be a year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and reconciliation and we will be opening the Jubilee Year in our Diocese with celebrations at our two Jubilee Hub Churches on Sunday 29th December, 2024. Bishop Stephen will be celebrating Mass and opening the Holy Door at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle at 11.30 AM and at St. Joseph's Hartlepool at 4.00 PM. Everyone is welcome. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

Safe Families

Please see our website for two new paid positions in this Christian charity that helps families with children.

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)

For any SVP enquiries, 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 (no need for a referral).

Newman Tyneside Circle

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear John Murray speak about Mgr Kevin Nichols: the poem. The meeting will be at Holy Name parish hall, Jesmond, Newcastle, on Thursday 14 November at 2.30pm.

The RCIA Group

The RCIA Group for those looking at becoming members of the Church will next meet on Wednesday 15th January after 7.00pm Mass in the Sacristy at Holy Rosary

The 400+ CLUB

The 400+ Club is a scheme that supports the Parish financially and, at the same time, pays four winning prizes each month of £100 or £50. Each number costs £2.50 which can be paid monthly or £30 in January, 2025 to cover the full year. A reminder for current members to please update any changes in name or address. Anyone wishing to join the scheme can find details at the back of each church or please contact Caroline Kelly on 07899 788760.

The 400+ Club envelopes will be available after the Masses this weekend.

The winners of December's draw are as follows:

Number:	Prize:	Member's Name:
465	£ 100	P. Smith
229	£ 100	A. Woods
147	£ 50	P. McCartie
198	£ 50	C. Swainston

Our primary schools

The artwork released by our Primary Catholic schools has been very popular. The artwork will be moved to a new area called **Past Posts**.

Want to add a notice

Send your notice to the parish's email by Thursday noon.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Stand

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

THE COLLECT

O God, who on this day
revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star,

grant in your mercy
that we, who know you already by faith,
may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.
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.
Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all round, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 72(71):1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13. R.c.f. 11

R. All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice,
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish,
and great peace till the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the bounds of the earth.

The kings of Tarshish and the islands
shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him.

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry,
the poor who have no one to help.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy Apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
We saw his star when it rose
and have come to worship the Lord.
Alleluia.

Stand
Matthew 2:2

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Or:

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, Lord, we pray,
on these gifts of your Church,
in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh,
but he who by them is proclaimed,
sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Cf. Mt 2:2

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord,
always and everywhere,
that we may perceive with clear sight
and revere with true affection
the mystery in which you have willed us to participate.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Stand

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



In today's Gospel we hear about another dream which comes to the rescue of Jesus. The wise men from the East are warned not to report back to Herod, but to return home by another route.

or Yemen. The fact that they were Gentiles shows how open non-Jews were to the arrival of the Messiah and how they recognised him as such when the Jewish authorities could not.

Crib scenes the world over show three kings, but the Gospel does not tell us how many they were, nor that they were kings. Perhaps the most significant point of this episode is that the wise men were not Jews, they came from the East, probably from what are nowadays Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia

The gifts the wise men brought were highly symbolic:

Gold – associated with royalty and therefore recognising the kingship of Jesus

Frankincense – used in worship and thus showing that Jesus should be worshipped

Myrrh – a perfume used in the embalming of dead bodies foreseeing the death of Jesus



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia*
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

CONSENSUS
AND TRUTH

213. The dignity of others is to be respected in all circumstances, not because that dignity is something we have invented or imagined, but because human beings possess an intrinsic worth superior to that of material objects and contingent situations. This requires that they be treated differently. That every human being possesses an inalienable dignity is a truth that corresponds to human nature apart from all cultural change. For this reason, human beings have the same inviolable dignity in every age of history and no one can consider himself or herself authorized by particular situations to deny this conviction or to act against it. The intellect can investigate the reality of things through reflection, experience and dialogue, and come to recognize in that reality, which transcends it, the basis of certain universal moral demands.

On the other hand, "equal consideration needs to be given to the growing danger represented by an extreme individualism which weakens family bonds and ends up considering each member of the family as an isolated unit, leading in some cases to the idea that one's personality is shaped by his or her desires, which are considered absolute".¹² "The tensions created by an overly individualistic culture, caught up with possessions and pleasures, leads to intolerance and hostility in families".¹³ Here I would also include today's fast pace of life, stress and the organization of society and labour, since all these are cultural factors which militate against permanent decisions. We also encounter widespread uncertainty and ambiguity. For example, we rightly value a personalism that opts for authenticity as opposed to mere conformity. While this can favour spontaneity and a better use of people's talents, if misdirected it can foster attitudes of constant suspicion, fear of commitment, self-centredness and arrogance. Freedom of choice makes it possible to plan our lives and to make the most of ourselves. Yet if this freedom lacks noble goals or personal discipline, it degenerates into an inability to give oneself generously to others. Indeed, in many countries where the number of marriages is decreasing, more and more people are choosing to live alone or simply to spend time together without cohabiting. We can also point to a praiseworthy concern for justice; but if misunderstood, this can turn citizens into clients interested solely in the provision of services.

