

<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 <b>Parish Priest:</b> Father Adrian Dixon. Telephone: 01642 553 118		
<b>Week beginning: 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2025</b>		

<b>Website</b>	www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk	<b>Facebook</b>	www.facebook.com/rcdhnbillingham
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Day	Holy Mass and Services	Intention
<b>Sunday</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM	
<b>Monday</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM	
<b>Tuesday</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 7.00 PM	
<b>Thursday</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Friday</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Saturday</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>No Confessions</b>	
	Vigil - Holy Mass at <b>Saint John's</b> - 5.30 PM	Jack Devine (Sr)
<b>Sunday</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Sunday Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM	Parishioners

**Please pray for those who have died recently:**

Father Kevin Cummins, Doreen Doran, Joan Maria Tunney, Maureen Maddren and Monica (Monty) Sharp.

<b>Please pray for the sick:</b>			
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	

**Retiring Collection**

This weekend the retiring collection will be for the White Flower Appeal.

**Question Corner**

There are six winners for Father Adrian's puzzle this week. See the website for the results and full explanation from Father Adrian. Have a go on this week's puzzle.

**Thoughts on Sunday's readings**

Father Adrian continues to write weekly reflections available on our website. Make it one of your weekly reflections. Spread the word.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

A week of prayer for Christian unity comes to a close on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Our part in this week of prayer will be holding a special service for the Churches together in Billingham on **Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> January at 3.00 p.m. in Holy Rosary Church.** Do please make every effort to come along.

**Walsingham Pilgrimage 2025**

The next pilgrimage to Walsingham will be **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2025**

There will be an urgent booking meeting in the **Medway on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January at 5.30 p.m.**

The deposit is £50.00. Please would you please bring cash or your cheque book if you are planning to go. Cheques payable to 'St Thomas of Canterbury' please.

Please spread the word.

**Setting up for Mass and Services**

We are very fortunate to have some parishioners who help with arranging things for Services such as Baptisms, Funerals and Masses, but there is a real need to have more people involved. If you would be able to help out in this way please contact Father Adrian. Training will be provided in the near future at St Joseph's in Norton (19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February) for those who would like to learn more about what is involved.

**All our Yesterdays**

Part of the history of every parish are the stories of how things began and who were the well-known members of the family of the local Church in its early days. Older parishioners often have special memories of how it all started, and it is important that these are not forgotten. It would be nice to put such recollections together and include them on our parish website. We could record you on your own or with a friend reminiscing or you might like to write down some of your memories. If you would like to help with this, please contact Father Adrian.

**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 p.m. (no need for a referral).

**SVP Food Hub**

The food hub in the Medway opens every Friday from midday to 3:00 p.m.

No referral is required to use the food hub, and you do not need to belong to our Catholic community – we are open to everyone. Please just attend during the times above.

The cost is **£2.00 for eight items from the tables and two frozen items.** If you need more, **£2.50** will get you **ten items from the tables and three items from the freezer.** Items from the tables can include fresh, tinned, or bottled goods, etc.

You will be warmly welcomed to our food hub. If you need us, we are here to help. Please pass this information on to others who may wish to use the food hub.

**Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes**

The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. We shall have a special Mass with the Anointing of the Sick on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00 a.m.** in Holy Rosary with refreshments in the Medway afterwards. This is for anyone who feels they would like to receive the Sacrament on that day.

**Want to add a notice**

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

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,  
and shall sing to you,  
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

## 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

Almighty ever-living God,  
who govern all things,  
both in heaven and on earth,  
mercifully hear the pleading of your people  
and bestow your peace on our times.  
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.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

Psalm 96(95):1-2a. 2b-3. 7-8a. 9-10ac. R.3

R. Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord; bless his name.

Proclaim his salvation day by day.  
Tell among the nations his glory,  
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and power;  
ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name.

Worship the Lord in holy splendour.  
O tremble before him, all the earth.  
Say to the nations, 'The Lord is king.'  
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

## SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Brothers and sisters: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.  
God called us through the gospel,  
so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia.

Stand  
Cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:14

Stand  
Ps 65:4

## GOSPEL

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

John 2:1-11

At that time: There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding seventy or one hundred litres. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.' So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

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

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,  
that we may participate worthily in these mysteries,  
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated  
the work of our redemption is accomplished.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have prepared a table before me,  
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

Cf. Ps 22:5

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,  
and in your kindness  
make those you have nourished  
by this one heavenly Bread  
one in mind and heart.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Stand

Stand

All bow

All bow

## Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



This Gospel of the wedding feast of Cana is a beautiful illustration of the relationship between Jesus and Mary, mother and son. When Mary appeals to Jesus about the shortage of wine he seems to rebuff her rather abruptly:

'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not yet come.' But Mary is quite confident that her request will be carried out: 'Do whatever he tells you.' She could have said: 'I don't think he wants to do anything,' but her relationship with Jesus is so strong that she has no doubt that he will save the embarrassment of the hosts. The 'do whatever he tells you' can also apply to us, but first we have to ask what we would like from him. God knows what is best for us and he also wants to help us reach our goal, which is eternal life. So, if he

seems not to grant what we have asked, or even seems to give us something we don't want, our wisest course of action is to do what he tells us. This Gospel should also encourage us to ask Mary's help when praying, so that in some she can support us in our efforts to build a relationship with her son.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
FRATELLI TUTTI  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



## A NEW CULTURE

215. "Life, for all its confrontations, is the art of encounter".<sup>204</sup> I have frequently called for the growth of a culture of encounter capable of transcending our differences and divisions. This means working to create a many-faceted polyhedron whose different sides form a variegated unity, in which "the whole is greater than the part".<sup>205</sup> The image of a polyhedron can represent a society where differences coexist, complementing, enriching and reciprocally illuminating one another, even amid disagreements and reservations. Each of us can learn something from others. No one is useless and no one is expendable. This also means finding ways to include those on the peripheries of life. For they have another way of looking at things; they see aspects of reality that are invisible to the centres of power where weighty decisions are made.

204. VINICIUS DE MORAES, Samba da Bênção, from the recording Um encontro no Au bon Gourmet, Rio de Janeiro (2 August 1962).  
205. Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (24 November 2013), 237: AAS 105 (2013), 1116.

Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia  
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

We also need to be humble and realistic, acknowledging that at times the way we present our Christian beliefs and treat other people has helped contribute to today's problematic situation. We need a healthy dose of self-criticism. Then too, we often present marriage in such a way that its unitive meaning, its call to grow in love and its ideal of mutual assistance are overshadowed by an almost exclusive insistence on the duty of procreation. Nor have we always provided solid guidance to young married couples, understanding their timetables, their way of thinking and their concrete concerns. At times we have also proposed a far too abstract and almost artificial theological ideal of marriage, far removed from the concrete situations and practical possibilities of real families. This excessive idealization, especially when we have failed to inspire trust in God's grace, has not helped to make marriage more desirable and attractive, but quite the opposite.

