

<b>Diocese of Hexham &amp; Newcastle   Hilda Partnership</b>		
<b>Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury</b>		
<b>Parish Priest:</b> Father Adrian Dixon. <b>Telephone:</b> 01642 553 118 Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham. TS23 2EP		
<b>Week beginning: 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2025</b>		

<b>Website</b>	www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk	<b>Facebook</b>	www.facebook.com/rcdhnbillingham
<b>Email</b>	StThomasofCanterbury.Billingham@diocesehn.org.uk		

Day	Holy Mass and Services	Intention
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b> The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM	Parishioners
	<b>Stations of the Cross</b> followed by <b>Exposition and Evening Prayer</b> at <b>Holy Rosary Church</b> - 4.00 PM	
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> Saint Patrick	Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM Live Streamed	Terry Lavery
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Funeral Mass</b> for <b>Molly Quigley</b> at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.30 AM	
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b> Saint Joseph	Exposition and Evening Prayer at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 6.15 PM	
	Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 7.00 PM	Chris Allison
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b> Saint Cuthbert	Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM	Maureen Maddren
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Holy Mass at <b>Saint John's</b> - 10.00 AM	George and Betty Maddrell
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b> Vigil 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	<b>Confessions</b> at <b>Saint John's</b> 10.00 AM to 10.30 AM	
	Vigil - Holy Mass at <b>Saint John's</b> - 5.30 PM	Parishioners
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Sunday Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM	Owen Duffy
	<b>Stations of the Cross</b> followed by <b>Exposition and Evening Prayer</b> at <b>Holy Rosary Church</b> - 4.00 PM	

**Please pray for those who have died recently:**  
 Molly Quigley, Chris Allison, Stephen Allison, Denis Murphy, Avril Wordsworth, Audrey Upton, Terry Grogan, and Coleen Webster (whose funeral will be at Stockton Crematorium at 1.30pm on Tue 25<sup>th</sup> March).

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

**It was a privilege** for many of us to take part in the Requiem Mass for Stephen Allison. To witness Elizabeth speak of the family's love for Stephen and how he would be greatly missed was deeply moving. The active involvement during the Mass of Chris, Olivia and Caitlin gave real testimony to Elizabeth and Stephen's recognition that they have raised a wonderful family. All this made the news of the sudden death of Chris during the night following the funeral so much harder to bear. It is impossible to know the grief his mum and sisters must be experiencing. At such times words are inadequate; we can only hold them in our hearts and in our prayers. May Chris and his dad through the mercy of God rest in peace. May Mary, who in deepest sorrow gently held Jesus in her arms, be close to Elizabeth, Olivia and Caitlin in this most testing time.

**Diocesan Youth Council Relaunch** - Full details on our web notices

**The Rite of Election** - Full details on our web notices.

**As part of CAFOD's 'The Big Lent Walk'** Some of us are walking on Tuesday morning 18<sup>th</sup> March. We will meet outside the King's Arms at 11.15 and walk the loop up around St Paul's and along the back path towards Wolviston duck pond. Then to Wellington pub and right back along the high street to finish where we started. This walk lasts less than an hour and is over the daily 5km challenge. Anybody is welcome to join in.

**Hexham and Newcastle Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025** - Helpers needed for the 25<sup>th</sup> July-1<sup>st</sup> August pilgrimage. Register by 31<sup>st</sup> March via our **website notices, quick links**. Young people who would like to go, contact Father Adrian for fundraising help to cover the costs of going to Lourdes.

**Sunday Masses live streamed**  
 From Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Masses on a Sunday at Holy Rosary will be live streamed.

**Our Parish Bereavement Group** - If you would like to become a member, please come along to an introductory Meeting on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00pm in the back Sacristy at Holy Rosary.

**Fr Adrian's 40<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Ordination.**  
 Fr Adrian celebrates this anniversary on Easter Sunday. Parishioners are invited to join Fr Adrian on the evening of April 25<sup>th</sup> at Billingham Synthonia to celebrate this special occasion. **Tickets will be available after Mass next weekend.**

**A Message from Saint Joseph's Primary School**  
 We would like to invite parishioners to our St. Joseph's Day coffee morning, being held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March between 8.45 - 10.00 a.m. in the hall, at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. We look forward to seeing you.

**The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD**  
 The SVP and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June in London. Candidates must have completed their first or second year at university and have a passion for social justice. Applications close on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2025. For any queries, please contact [KeziaH@svp.org.uk](mailto:KeziaH@svp.org.uk)

**All our Yesterdays - Another submission**  
 Fr Butters has photos with some of his many memories. Vince Corcoran has lots of photos starting with Father Damien. If you would like to help keep our history alive, please contact Father Adrian with your memories.

**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.

**Churches Together in Billingham**  
 Lenten Lunch at 12.00 noon on the following dates: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March in Saint Cuthbert's, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March in North Billingham Methodists', Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April Saint Columba's and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April Saint Cuthbert's. Donations go to Christian Aid and CAFOD. All are welcome.

**Confirmation** - Next weekend those young people looking forward to being confirmed in May will be enrolled on the Programme at the Sunday Masses.

**Answer the Call: Teach in a Catholic School** - Full details on our web notices.

**National Catholic Leadership Programme** - Full details on our web notices.

**Old Postage Stamps, Jewellery, Medals** to help Little Sisters of the Poor. Full details on our web notices.

**Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp: Volunteering is a Work of the Heart** - Full details on our web notices.

**Job Vacancy** - Full details on our web notices.



## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

## Entrance Antiphon

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

Cf. Ps 26:8-9

## Collect

O God, who have commanded us  
to listen to your beloved Son,  
be pleased, we pray,  
to nourish us inwardly by your word,  
that, with spiritual sight made pure,  
we may rejoice to behold your 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.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading

A reading from the Book of Genesis. Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

In those days: God brought Abram outside and said, 'Look towards  
heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.'  
Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' And he believed  
the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

And he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the  
Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God,  
how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me  
a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three  
years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' And he brought him all  
these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But  
he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on  
the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And  
behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. When the sun  
had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking firepot and a  
flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD  
made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your offspring I give this  
land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

Psalm 27(26):1. 7-8b. 8c-9c. 13-14. R.1a

R. The LORD is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread?

O LORD, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer me.  
Of you my heart has spoken,  
'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O LORD, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.  
Dismiss not your servant in anger;  
you have been my help.

I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD; be strong;  
be stout-hearted, and wait for the LORD!

## Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians. Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes  
on those who walk according to the example you have in us.  
For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even  
with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is  
destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame,  
with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven,  
and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will  
transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power  
that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore,  
my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and  
crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Acclamation before the Gospel

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.  
From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:  
'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.  
Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

## Gospel

Luke 9:28b-36

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

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went  
up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance  
of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white.  
And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who  
appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to  
accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him  
were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw  
his glory and the two men who stood with him.  
And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus,  
'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one  
for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' — not knowing  
what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and  
overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the  
cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son,  
my Chosen One; listen to him!' And when the voice had spoken,  
Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in  
those days anything of what they had seen.

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

## Homily

## The Nicene Creed or The Apostles' Creed

## Prayer over the Offerings

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,  
cleanse us of our faults  
and sanctify your faithful in body and mind  
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Communion Antiphon

This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well pleased;  
listen to him.

Mt 17:5

## Prayer after Communion

As we receive these glorious mysteries,  
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,  
for allowing us while still on earth  
to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Prayer over the People

*The Deacon, or the Priest, says:*  
Bow down for the Blessing.

*The Priest continues:*

Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord,  
with a blessing that endures for ever,  
and keep them faithful  
to the Gospel of your Begotten Son,  
so that they may always desire and at last attain  
that glory whose beauty he showed in his own Body,  
to the amazement of his Apostles.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.  
Amen.

*Then the Deacon, or the Priest, says:*

Go forth, the Mass is ended.  
Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.  
Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.  
Go in peace.

Or:  
Or:  
Or:

Thanks be to God.

## Our Faith on Sunday

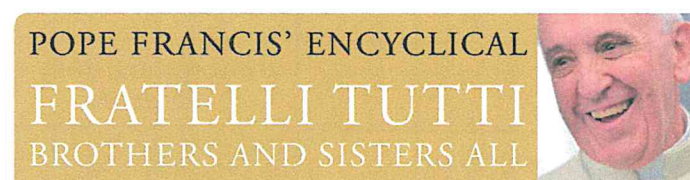
## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel reading seems rather a strange one for the season of Lent. Luke describes Jesus being transfigured and shown in all his glory. Peter in his spontaneous, impulsive way wants to set up tents and stay there, but that is not what

Jesus intends. Both Matthew and Mark describe the same episode in similar ways, but what is strangely missing from Luke's account is the reference to the resurrection. If ever we feel we haven't understood Jesus, and especially his death on

the cross, we can find consolation in Peter. On many occasions he reacts angrily, or speaks out of turn, or just gets it wrong. He even denies Jesus almost immediately after promising he would never do so. And yet Jesus chose him as the rock on which his Church would be built. Peter's 'saving grace' was that he always returned to Jesus. As we live, with Jesus, the horror story of his passion and death on the cross, we need to remind ourselves that it didn't all end there – it finished in glory.



## RECOVERING KINDNESS

223. Saint Paul describes kindness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit ( Gal 5:22). He uses the Greek word *chrestotes*, which describes an attitude that is gentle, pleasant and supportive, not rude or coarse. Individuals who possess this quality help make other people's lives more bearable, especially by sharing the weight of their problems, needs and fears. This way of treating others can take different forms: an act of kindness, a concern not to offend by word or deed, a readiness to alleviate their burdens. It involves "speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement" and not "words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn".<sup>208</sup>

208. Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (19 March 2016), 100: AAS 108 (2016), 351.



The responses given to the two pre-synodal consultations spoke of a great variety of situations and the new challenges that they pose. In addition to those already mentioned, many of the respondents pointed to the problems families face in raising children. In many cases, parents come home exhausted, not wanting to talk, and many families no longer even share a common meal. Distractions abound, including an addiction to television. This makes it all the more difficult for parents to hand on the faith to their children. Other responses pointed to the effect of severe stress on families, who often seem more caught up with securing their future than with enjoying the present. This is a broader cultural problem, aggravated by fears about steady employment, finances and the future of children.

