

<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: 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2025</b>		

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Day	Holy Mass and Services	Intention
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b> The 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM <i>Live Streamed</i>	Parishioners
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	No Holy Mass	
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	No Holy Mass	
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Exposition and Evening Prayer at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 6.15 PM	
	Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 7.00 PM	Teresa Devine
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	No Holy Mass	
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Memorial Service at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM for Terry Grogan	
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b> Vigil 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	<b>Confessions at 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 6<sup>th</sup> April</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	Sunday Holy Mass at <b>Holy Rosary</b> - 10.00 AM - <i>Live Streamed</i>	Mary and John Nugent
	<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 (who will be received into Holy Rosary at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April followed by Requiem Mass on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00am), 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), Margaret Loy (whose Funeral Service will be held at 1.30pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April in Holy Rosary).

**Please pray for the sick:**

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	

**Churches Together in Billingham** - Lenten Lunch at 12.00 noon on the following dates: 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.

**Assisted Suicide Bill** MPs voted for this to be passed its Second Reading last November but it can still be defeated when they next vote at the end of April. To find out what you can do to help defeat it you can attend a meeting at St Thomas More's Church Hall, Kirkham Row, Middlesbrough, TS4 3EE on 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm. Speaker: Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson.

**Next Weekend** there will be the annual Collection for Sick and Retired Priests (NBF). This will remain open until the end of April.

**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.

**Old Postage Stamps, Jewellery, Medals** - David & Theresa O'Neill have been raising funds to assist the nuns of Little Sisters of the Poor carry on their wonderful work caring for elderly people including retired clergy & religious. They are not asking for financial help but rather by your donations of used postage stamps (any country or period), foreign currency (notes & coins from any country), broken or unwanted pieces of gold/silver jewellery & military medals from any conflict. If you have any old stamp albums or other items & let David & Theresa know. Their contact details are: David & Theresa O'Neill, Tel: 0191 264 5771 Email: [david-oneill3@sky.com](mailto:david-oneill3@sky.com).

**Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp: Volunteering is a Work of the Heart** - Holy Island Children's Camp seeks young adult volunteers for Summer 2025 holiday weeks, supporting 9-12 year olds. Full training provided. Volunteers also needed for kitchen/caretaking roles and term-time meal support (vital for summer camp sustainability). Info on **website notices, quick links** or email [BarbaraT@svp.org.uk](mailto:BarbaraT@svp.org.uk)

**This week's CAFOD's 'Big Lent Walk'**

Next week there will be two opportunities to join the walkers: **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** - Meet either at King's Arms at 09.30 ( if you need a lift ) or Tees Barrage car park at 10.00 to walk along the Tees to Stockton and back. **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April** - Meet at King's Arms at 1 pm to do our usual loop around Wolviston. All welcome to do either or both of the above walks

**CAFOD Coffee Morning** - This will be held next Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April after Mass in the Medway. All are welcome.

**St. Michael's pupils and staff** would like to warmly invite parishioners to an Easter craft afternoon on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April from 1:45-2:45 pm. We will be creating easter bookmarks, selling candles, decorating easter cakes and flower arranging. There will also be a raffle and lots of creative ideas for you to take away. If you would like to attend, please contact the school office on 01642 870003 to book your place and numbers. All proceeds from the raffle will go to CAFOD.

**All our Yesterdays - Another submission**

The last of Vince Corcorn's photos from around the church have now been added. Sheila Allen has also added flowers of the past. Fr Butters has provided even more photos from the past. If you would like to help keep our history alive, please contact Father Adrian with your memories.

**Diocesan Youth Council Relaunch** - The YMT and Diocese are restarting the Youth Council, giving young people a voice in the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese. The first meeting is Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 2:30 - 4pm at Newcastle Cathedral. Year 9+ students are invited to join. Details & nominations are on our **website notices, quick links**.

**Stations of the Cross led by the Children proposal** - We are proposing to hold the Stations of the Cross led by the Children, on Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 10.15 am. If you would like your child to be involved, either by doing a reading or processing after the Cross, could you come to a meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 6 pm in the Medway (behind Holy Rosary Church), in order to allocate roles.

**New Rota** - There is a new Rota at the back of Holy Rosary Church for Readers, Ministers, etc. together with a sheet for you to volunteer to be added to the Rota in future. A new Rota for St John's will appear very soon

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

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

**The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD week** of free residential work experience - *Full details on our web notices.*

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Entrance Antiphon**  
**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.**  
**Be joyful, all who were in mourning;**  
**exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.**

Cf. Is 66: 10-11

**Collect**  
 O God, who through your Word  
 reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,  
 grant, we pray,  
 that with prompt devotion and eager faith  
 the Christian people may hasten  
 toward the solemn celebrations to come.  
 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 Joshua. Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

In those days: The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.' While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

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

**Psalm** Psalm 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. R.9a

**R. Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
 praise of him is always in my mouth.  
 In the Lord my soul shall make its boast;  
 the humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me;  
 together let us praise his name.  
 I sought the Lord, and he answered me;  
 from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;  
 let your faces not be abashed.  
 This lowly one called; the Lord heard,  
 and rescued him from all his distress.

**Second Reading**  
 A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Brothers and sisters: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

Acclamation before the Gospel

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.** Luke 15:18  
**I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,**  
**'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.'**  
**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

**Gospel** Luke 15:1-3, 11-32  
**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: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me." And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a

severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

'But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."'

'And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him back safe and sound." But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, "Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" And he said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

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

**Homily**  
**The Nicene Creed or The Apostles' Creed**

**R. Prayer over the Offerings**  
 We place before you with joy these offerings,  
 which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,  
 praying that we may both faithfully revere them  
 and present them to you, as is fitting,  
**R.** for the salvation of all the world.  
 Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**R. Communion Antiphon** Lk 15: 32  
**You must rejoice, my son,**  
**for your brother was dead and has come to life;**  
**he was lost and is found.**

**Prayer after Communion**  
 O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world,  
 illuminate our hearts, we pray,  
 with the splendour of your grace,  
 that we may always ponder  
 what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty  
 and love you in all sincerity.  
 Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

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

**The Priest continues:**  
 Look upon those who call to you, O Lord,  
 and sustain the weak;  
 give life by your unfailing light  
 to those who walk in the shadow of death,  
 and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil  
 to reach the highest good.  
 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

Or:  
 Or:  
 Or:

# Our Faith on Sunday

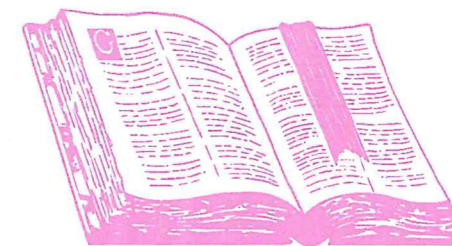
## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel recounts perhaps the best known and most powerful of all Jesus' parables.

finds himself destitute does he recognise what he has done. His father would have every right to

God is love and because he is love he is also mercy. Mercy and forgiveness are key to our understanding of Jesus and his mission. No matter how low we have sunk, how many sins we have committed, God will always forgive us. The younger son in today's Gospel has gone against his father in every way possible. He has spent his inheritance on women and drink and abandoned his family. Only when he disowns him and to refuse to have him back in his household. Yet, the very opposite happens. The father welcomes him back with open arms and prepares a banquet to celebrate his return. When we go 'off the rails' in one way or another we can be sure that when we choose to get back on track, the whole of heaven is celebrating our return. This parable tells us that God's mercy is free and completely unmerited, but available to all who turn back to him.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
**FRATELLI TUTTI**  
 BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



### PATHS OF RENEWED ENCOUNTER

225. In many parts of the world, there is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.

## Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia LOVE IN THE FAMILY

No one can think that the weakening of the family as that natural society founded on marriage will prove beneficial to society as a whole. The contrary is true: it poses a threat to the mature growth of individuals, the cultivation of community values and the moral progress of cities and countries. There is a failure to realize that only the exclusive and indissoluble union between a man and a woman has a plenary role to play in society as a stable commitment that bears fruit in new life. We need to acknowledge the great variety of family situations that can offer a certain stability, but de facto or same-sex unions, for example, may not simply be equated with marriage. No union that is temporary or closed to the transmission of life can ensure the future of society. But nowadays who is making an effort to strengthen marriages, to help married couples overcome their problems, to assist them in the work of raising children and, in general, to encourage the stability of the marriage bond?

