

Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Hilda Partnership		
Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury		
Parish Priest: Father Adrian Dixon. Telephone: 01642 553 118 Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham. TS23 2EP		
Week beginning: 6th April, 2025		

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Day	Holy Mass and Services	Intention
Sunday 6th April The 5 th Sunday of Lent	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM - Live Streamed	Mary and John Nugent
Monday 7th April	Holy Mass in St Joseph's School - 10.00 AM	Nick, Colin, and Cath Welch
	Funeral Service for Janet McCabe at Holy Rosary - 1.00 PM	
Tuesday 8th April	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM	Maureen Maddren
Wednesday 9th April	Holy Mass in St Paul's School - 9.15 AM	Private Intention
	Reception of Chris Allison into Holy Rosary Church	
	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 7.00 PM	Ken, Mary, and Philip Allison
Thursday 10th April	Requiem Mass for Chris Allison at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM	
Friday 11th April	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM	Percy and Patricia Emm
	Funeral Service for Margaret Loy at Holy Rosary - 1.30 PM	
Saturday 12th April	Vigil - Holy Mass at Saint John's - 5.30 PM	Parishioners
Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary - 10.00 AM - Live Streamed	Sally Paczynski
	Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition and Evening Prayer at Holy Rosary - 4.00 PM	

Please pray for those who have died recently: Chris Allison, Stephen Allison, Denis Murphy, Avril Wordsworth, Audrey Upton, Terry Grogan, and Coleen Webster, and Margaret Loy

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

Churches Together in Billingham - Lenten Lunch at 12.00 noon on Friday 11th April at Saint Cuthbert's.
Donations go to Christian Aid and CAFOD. All are welcome.

Advance Notice of Holy Week Services:

Wednesday, 16th April: Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle at 10.00 AM
Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 7.00 PM

Maundy Thursday: Morning Prayer in Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM.
Mass of the Lord's Supper in St John's at 7.00 PM followed by watching until: 9.30 PM - when we will have a Gethsemane Service.

Good Friday: Children's Stations of the Cross at 10.00 AM at Holy Rosary. 11.00 AM - Walk of Witness. 3.00 PM - Solemn Liturgy of the Passion at Holy Rosary.

Holy Saturday: 10.00 AM - Morning Prayer with Office of Readings at Holy Rosary.
8.00 PM - Solemn Vigil with first mass of Easter at St John's.

Easter Sunday: 10.00 AM Mass of Easter Day at Holy Rosary

This Weekend there will be the annual Collection for Sick and Retired Priests (Northern Brethren's Fund). This will remain open until the end of April.

CAFOD events

Coffee Morning - This will be held today (Sunday 6th April) after the 10.00 AM Mass in the Medway. All are welcome.

Next week's CAFOD walk will be Wednesday 9th April 10 am at Tees Barrage. Meet in the public car park next to the Talpore Pub.

Stations of the Cross led by the Children

We are proposing to hold the Stations of the Cross led by the Children, on Good Friday, 18th April at 10.00 AM at Holy Rosary. Please note the slightly earlier time than originally indicated.

Assisted Dying

A Pastoral Letter from the Bishops of England and Wales has been sent to all parishes. There are copies at the back of each church as well as some handouts. The letter can also be found on the Parish website.

Please give to CAFOD's **Myanmar Earthquake Appeal** to provide water, food, solar lights, mosquito nets and water purification tablets to those devastated by this disaster. Your generosity will extend far and wide and will help the Catholic Church in Myanmar bring comfort and relief to families who are in urgent need. Donate at <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/myanmar-earthquake-appeal>

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 18th May 2025, 2:30 - 4pm at Newcastle Cathedral. Year 9+ students are invited to join. Details & nominations are on our **website notices, quick links.**

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.

Society of the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) Middlesbrough, Thornaby, and Ingleby Barwick SPUC have organised a Public Witness event outside James Cook University Hospital entrance protesting against Assisted Suicide. Placards will be provided. Please meet in the car park of St Thomas More church at 11.15 a.m. after the 10.30 AM Mass at St Thomas More church, Middlesbrough on Monday, 7th April, 2025.

Blessed Carlo Acutis

There are prayer cards at the back of each church - please do help yourself. Blessed Carlo is due to be canonised in Rome at the end of April, 2025.

National Mass for Altar Servers

On Saturday, 17th May, 2025 at St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster led by Bishop Paul Swarbrick. The Mass commences at 12.15 PM. The Mass is organised by the Archconfraternity of St Stephen, the Church's official organisation for Altar Servers. Servers and their families are invited to this Mass. If you would like to go, please sign the list at the back of the church so that we can decide what size coach we will need.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

Cf. Ps 42: 1-2

Collect

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
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 Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 'Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 126 (125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6. R.3

**R. What great deeds the LORD worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.**

When the LORD brought back the exiles of Zion,
we thought we were dreaming.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
on our tongues, songs of joy.

Then they said among the nations,
'What great deeds the LORD worked for them!
What great deeds the LORD worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.'

Bring back our exiles, O LORD,
as streams in the Negeb.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
bearing seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back with a song,
bearing their sheaves.

Second Reading

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

Philippians 3:8-14

Brothers and sisters: I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Acclamation before the Gospel

**Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
Even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
for I am gracious and merciful.
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.**

Joel 2:12-13

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 8:1-11

At that time: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?' This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

The Nicene Creed or The Apostles' Creed

Prayer over the Offerings

Hear us, almighty God,
and, having instilled in your servants
the teachings of the Christian faith,
graciously purify them
by the working of this sacrifice.

R. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Communion Antiphon

R. **Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.
Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.**

Jn 8: 10-11

Prayer after Communion

We pray, almighty God,
that we may always be counted among the members of Christ,
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. **Amen.**

Prayer over the People

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

The Priest continues:

Bless, O Lord, your people,
who long for the gift of your mercy,
and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire
they may receive by your generous gift.
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



As we can see from the news, women are still regarded as second-class citizens in many parts of the world. We can see from reading the Gospels that, when Jesus was on this earth they were clearly regarded as inferior to men. For example,

in the episode of the feeding of the five thousand, it was the man who were counted. Jesus caused scandal by associating with a woman of ill-repute, and yet it was the women who perhaps understood who he was, probably better than the

apostles. It was to a woman that he first revealed himself after the resurrection. When, in an attempt to trick him, the scribes and the Pharisees brought the woman caught committing adultery to him, Jesus defended her and pardoned her. One might ask what happened to the man who had also committed adultery! Yet again Jesus is telling us about not judging others, because in so doing we are also condemning ourselves.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



PATHS OF RENEWED ENCOUNTER

227. "Truth, in fact, is an inseparable companion of justice and mercy. All three together are essential to building peace; each, moreover, prevents the other from being altered... Truth should not lead to revenge, but rather to reconciliation and forgiveness. Truth means telling families torn apart by pain what happened to their missing relatives. Truth means confessing what happened to minors recruited by cruel and violent people. Truth means recognizing the pain of women who are victims of violence and abuse... Every act of violence committed against a human being is a wound in humanity's flesh; every violent death diminishes us as people... Violence leads to more violence, hatred to more hatred, death to more death. We must break this cycle which seems inescapable".²¹¹

[211] Address at the National Reconciliation Encounter, Villavicencio, Colombia (8 September 2017): AAS 109 (2017), 1063-1064, 1066.

Pope Francis'
Amoris Laetitia
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

Men "play an equally decisive role in family life, particularly with regard to the protection and support of their wives and children... Many men are conscious of the importance of their role in the family and live their masculinity accordingly. The absence of a father gravely affects family life and the upbringing of children and their integration into society. This absence, which may be physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual, deprives children of a suitable father figure".

