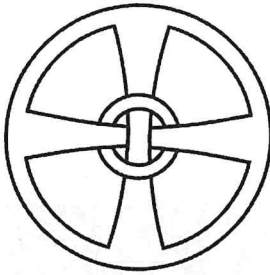


Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle   Hilda Partnership				
Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury				
Parish Priest: Father Adrian Dixon. Telephone: 01642 553 118 Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham. TS23 2EP				
Week beginning: 13 <sup>th</sup> July, 2025				
Website	www.rcdhnbillingham.co.uk	Facebook	www.facebook.com/rcdhnbillingham	
Email	StThomasofCanterbury.Billingham@diocesehn.org.uk			
Day	Holy Mass and Services		Intention	
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> July. 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year.	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM Live Streamed		Aniella Paczynski	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> June.	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM		Rose McGinty	
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July. St Bonaventure	No Mass today			
	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Liturgy at St Michael's at 5.30 PM			
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July. Our Lady of Mount Carme	Holy Mass at Saint Joseph's School at 10.00 AM			
	Exposition and Evening Prayer at Holy Rosary at 6.15 PM			
	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 7.00 PM		Betty and Dick Wright	
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July.	Holy Mass at Holy Rosary with School Leavers at 9.15 AM		Mary and George Wright	
	Holy Mass at Saint John's with School Leavers at 11.00 AM		Priest's Intention	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July. Feast of Saint Benedict.	No Mass today			
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> July. Vigil-15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year	Vigil Holy Mass at Saint John's at 5.30 PM No Confessions today		Parishioners	
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> July. 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year.	Sunday Holy Mass at Holy Rosary at 10.00 AM Live Streamed		JPT, CT and BT	
Please pray for the sick:				
Sheila Allen	Maureen Braithwaite	Carol Brownlee	Ann Christeson	Robert Dalton
Bill Devine	Judy Houchen	Sheila Hunt	Brian Kane	Sarah McAllister
Rev. Dan Mckie	Marcin Odziomek	Grace Ollie	Christine Rooney	Bill Simpson
Fr. John Skivington	Peter Smith	Judith Sowerby	Lily Ward-Thurlbeck	Helen Webb
Kate Williams	Margaret Wilkie			

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

Frankie Miller, Neil Davis, Trevor Pennington, Pope Francis, Chris Allison, Stephen Allison, Denis Murphy, Audrey Upton, Terry Grogan, Coleen Webster, Margaret Loy, and Kathleen Wright (Matthews).

**May they rest in Peace. Amen.**

**Photos from last week's SVP Coffee morning**

- Ann-Marie Knox, one of photographers, took some great shots. See if you are in one of the photos on our website.

**Walsingham Quiz 3** - The third Walsingham Quiz

has been released. Make sure you have a go. You can research the answer before answering and learn something of our Catholic heritage. It's not cheating - it's learning.

**Billingham Parish Council - more information.**

During Lent, Bishop Stephen wrote a pastoral letter to all the parishes of our Diocese. He spoke about the role of a Parish Council in the life of the local Church family. Bishop Stephen wrote, *'For effective mission, I invite and encourage us all to breathe new life into parish and partnership councils'*.

Before the onset of Covid there was a parish council here in Billingham, but the effects of the pandemic have meant that it has not met for several years. It's time for us to start things up again. This will provide us with opportunities to look at the future of our parish. We need to discuss what we think is going to be needed in years to come so that we can thrive and reach out to the wider community.

In the near future, we will have the opportunity to discuss this as a group of parishioners but, before we do that, it might be useful to do some praying and thinking as individuals and with those near us. Please give the following questions some thought: What are the goals of our Parish as we face the future? How would our Parish Council help us achieve these goals? Who do we need to be members of the Parish Council?

It is important to have ideals and to mix these with a dose of practicality. To have goals that are impossible will only frustrate us; on the other hand, a sense of direction helps us to be effective and express our faith, hope and love. Pray, think, and have a chat with your family and friends.

**Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)** - Do you

know of anyone who would benefit from a visit from members of the SVP. If so, please speak to Fr Adrian or contact one of the numbers below.

For any SVP enquiries, please contact Jane (07584 575541) or Janet (07840 967111). **The Food Hub** continues every Friday from 12 noon to 3.00 p.m.

**All our yesterdays** - Help us preserve our parish

history by sharing your memories with Father Adrian. Peter Tucker has added more history.

**Jubilee Day** Bishop Stephen invites you to a special

event on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, from 10 am to 3 pm, at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead. Everyone is welcome! There'll be guest speakers from the Prisons' Chaplaincy and the Justice & Peace Refugee Project, and a choice of seminars/forums to reawaken and empower us for mission. This is an opportunity to connect with old friends and new, and to celebrate our diocesan family as we explore what a Church in Mission invites us to be and do! There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a prayer space in the chapel, and praise and worship led by Durham musicians 'Set A Fire'. Take a look around the marketplace where there'll be stands and gifts from some of our Catholic partners and groups. Registration and refreshments from 9.15am, but please bring a packed lunch. Ample parking is available and entry is FREE but please register at <https://bit.ly/DHNAlive25> where you'll also find more information about the seminars you'll be able to join during the day. For enquiries:

- email Amy at: [formation.mission@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:formation.mission@diocesehn.org.uk)
- or telephone 0191 2433316.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word.**

At Sunday Mass in Holy Rosary we are blessed with having a Children's Liturgy Group for those younger members of our parish who can go into the Medway Hall to listen to the Gospel presented in a way for them to easily understand. It is always a delight to welcome them back into Church to hear their understanding of the message for that day – they have a lot to teach us. As is the custom, the Group will be taking time off during the Summer Holidays. We owe those who lead a great deal of thanks. There are some who have led Children's Liturgy for many years and understandably they would like to step down – so we need some new volunteers to help with this. It is not as daunting as some might think there are materials that guide you through what to say and do (we have books that provide sheets to be photocopied etc). Please volunteer for this important activity – we are all aware of our need to encourage the young, this is one of the most effective ways. We also need a group of people to restart the Group based at St. John's on a Saturday evening. Please speak to Father Adrian or contact the Group.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;  
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

COLLECT

O God, who show the light of your truth  
to those who go astray,  
so that they may return to the right path,  
give all who for the faith they profess  
are accounted Christians  
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ  
and to strive after all that does it honour.  
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 Book of Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Moses spoke to the people: 'Obey the voice of the LORD your God, keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

'For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?" Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?" But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.'

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 69(68):14, 17. 30-31. 33-34. 36ab, 37. R.cf. 33

R. Seek God, you who are poor, and your hearts will revive.

I pray to you, O LORD,  
at an acceptable time.  
In your great mercy, answer me, O God,  
with your faithful salvation.  
LORD, answer, for your mercy is kind;  
in your great compassion, turn toward me.

As for me in my poverty and pain,  
let your salvation, O God, raise me up.  
Then I will praise God's name with a song;  
I will glorify him with thanksgiving.

The poor when they see it will be glad,  
and God-seeking hearts will revive;  
for the LORD attends to the needy,  
and does not spurn his own in their chains.

For God will bring salvation to Sion,  
and rebuild the cities of Judah.  
The children of his servants shall inherit it;  
those who love his name shall dwell there.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians. Colossians 1:15-20

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the Church. He is the

beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia. Cf. John 6:63c, 68c  
Your words, O Lord, are Spirit and life;  
you have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.  
Glory to you, O Lord. Luke 10:25-37

At that time: Behold, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? How do you read it?' And he answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.'

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back." Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' And Jesus said to him, 'You go, and do likewise.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord,  
as she makes her prayer to you,  
and grant that, when consumed by those who believe,  
they may bring ever greater holiness.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise. Cf. Ps 83: 4-5

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord,  
that, by our participation in this mystery,  
its saving effects upon us may grow.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

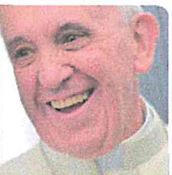


In 21st century Britain the question of what one must do to "inherit" eternal life is not one of high priority for most people. In centuries past, it was something which concerned the majority of people. This lead to many abuses, some of which were highlighted by the reformers in the 16th century. There are still some remains of this "superstitious" attitude. If I pray a certain prayer, or do a certain penance, or have a devotion to a particular saint, I will guarantee my place in heaven. In this well-known parable of the man attacked by brigands, Jesus makes it crystal clear, that the sure way to heaven is in how we love our neighbour. And by neighbour he means anyone human being who needs our help. The person who really loves his neighbour here is a

Samaritan. Samaritans were hated by the Jews, who wanted nothing to do with them. Jesus is saying that heaven is not a reward for belonging to a particular Church or religion, it is a reward for anyone, believer or not, who loves his or her neighbour as himself. When we see, as we often do, great works of charity performed by non-Christians, we should rejoice. First, because of the love they have for their neighbour, and second because they give us a great example to follow.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
FRATELLI TUTTI  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



### LEGITIMATE CONFLICT AND FORGIVENESS

241. Nor does this mean calling for forgiveness when it involves renouncing our own rights, confronting corrupt officials, criminals or those who would debase our dignity. We are called to love everyone, without exception; at the same time, loving an oppressor does not mean allowing him to keep oppressing us, or letting him think that what he does is acceptable. On the contrary, true love for an oppressor means seeking ways to make him cease his oppression; it means stripping him of a power that he does not know how to use, and that diminishes his own humanity and that of others. Forgiveness does not entail allowing oppressors to keep trampling on their own dignity and that of others, or letting criminals continue their wrongdoing. Those who suffer injustice have to defend strenuously their own rights and those of their family, precisely because they must preserve the dignity they have received as a loving gift from God. If a criminal has harmed me or a loved one, no one can forbid me from demanding justice and ensuring that this person – or anyone else – will not harm me, or others, again. This is entirely just; forgiveness does not forbid it but actually demands it.

Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia*  
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

In a word, love means fulfilling the last two commandments of God's Law: "You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's" (Ex 20:17). Love inspires a sincere esteem for every human being and the recognition of his or her own right to happiness. I love this person, and I see him or her with the eyes of God, who gives us everything "for our enjoyment" (1 Tim 6:17). As a result, I feel a deep sense of happiness and peace. This same deeply rooted love also leads me to reject the injustice whereby some possess too much and others too little. It moves me to find ways of helping society's outcasts to find a modicum of joy. That is not envy, but the desire for equality.

