**Weekly Bulletin**

**Saturday 11th June 2022**

**Trinity Sunday**

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| St. Mary Catholic Church, Birch Road, Barnard Castle | | St. Aidan Catholic Church, Middleton-in-Teesdale |
|  | |  |
| Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/smccbarnardcastle> | Twitter:  @SMCCBarnardC | |

**Clergy**

Fr. Thomas Mason (Parish Priest)

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**Services this week:**

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| **Day** | **Time** | **Location** | **Celebration** |
| Saturday 11th | 6.30pm | Barnard Castle | Trinity |
| Sunday 12th | 9.30am | Gainford | Trinity |
| Sunday 12th | 11.30am | Gainford (Ord.) | Trinity |
| Tuesday 14th | 10am | Gainford | *Feria* |
| **Friday 17th\*** | 10am | Barnard Castle | *Feria* |
| Friday 17th | 12noon | Gainford (Ord.) | *Feria* |
| Friday 17th | 6-7pm | Barnard Castle | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| Saturday 18th | 6.30pm | Barnard Castle | Corpus Christi |
| Sunday 19th | 9.30am | Gainford | Corpus Christi |
| Sunday 19th | 11.30am | Gainford (Ord.) | Corpus Christi |

\*Please note, that as Fr. Thomas has to be at meetings in London on Wednesday and Thursday, the weekday Mass will be on Friday for this week only.

*Today: Welcomers– Pat Estall; Reader- Jane Roberts*

*Next week: Welcomers– Heather Armstrong/Jane Roberts; Reader- Fiona Cooper*

**This Sunday’s Mass**

First reading: *Proverbs 8:22-31*

Responsorial psalm: *Psalm 8:4-9*

Second reading: *Romans 5:1-5*

Gospel acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; the God who is, who was, and who is to come. Alleluia!**

Gospel: *John 16:12-15*

**CONFESSIONS:** after most Masses, by appointment, or:

Monday and Thursdays: 5.30-6pm Saturdays: 10-11am

Dear friends,

As a small addendum to the exposition of the Mass which we have been keeping during Easter. In the Eucharistic Prayer, there are two quite long lists of Saints, and as these are mentioned so often we might easily wonder why these are included but not other major Saints.

The first list begins, quite obviously, with Our Lady – nobody would doubt that she should come at the top of any list of the Saints. After her, S. Joseph is mentioned; this is a new inclusion, having been added by Pope S. John XXIII in 1962; he is placed next to his wife, as his mission was always one of supporting her. Then we have all twelve Apostles, beginning with S. Peter, the Prince of the Apostles.

So far so familiar, but then we have some who are less known – Ss. Linus, Cletus, Clement, and Sixtus, were the first four Popes after S. Peter; they show the continuation of S. Peter’s ministry in the Church, all were martyred for the Faith. Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian have always been closely linked, the former a Pope and the latter Bishop of Carthage, they were martyred at about the same time in 250s. S. Lawrence is one of the patrons of Rome (along with Ss. Peter and Paul) having been martyred in 258. S. Chrysogonus is another early martyr, widely believed to have been a military officer before his conversion. Ss. John & Paul were brothers and officials at the imperial court who remained Christian when Julian the Apostate tried to return to paganism, they were killed for the Faith. Ss. Cosmas & Damian were also brothers and doctors who lived charitably treating people without pay, but this was not enough to spare them from the persecution.

The second list begins with S. John the Baptist; given that the first begins with the greatest Saint, it is entirely appropriate that the second list begins with the man described by Christ as ‘greater than any born of woman’. Three more Biblical Saints then follow: S. Stephen the first Martyr, S. Matthias who was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot, and S. Barnabas who appears in Acts as a close worker with S. Paul and is called ‘apostle’ (though not one of the 12). S. Ignatius, a disciple of S. John, an early Bishop of Antioch, and the person who first coined the term ‘Catholic Church’. S. Alexander, a Bishop who fought the Arian heresy, and the first non-martyr. Ss. Marcellinus and Peter were close friends who were martyred at the beginning of the fourth century.

The seven women who conclude the list were all martyred. S. Felicity, a slave-girl, and S. Perpetua a noble woman, often invoked together show that all classes of people become one in Christ. Ss. Agatha, Lucy, and Agnes were all martyred because they had sworn virginity, which led to their being exposed when they declined marriage proposals; S. Agnes was probably aged about 12 at the time. S. Cecilia is the patron Saint of musicians, though through a slightly complex line of reasoning. S. Anastasia was killed on 25 December and long had her feast kept then…until later another celebration was placed there which rather took over.

This group of Saints are all strikingly early, indeed along with the rest of the prayer, this particular group was fixed before the end of the sixth century (until the inclusion of S. Joseph). As we hear them named week-by-week we are linked with well over a thousand years of Catholics; and we are taken right back to the very earliest days of the Church. May their prayers always assist us as we follow them in journeying with Christ.

Fr. Thomas.

**Gift Aid Scheme**: With thanks to all parishioners who signed up to the Gift Aid Scheme, the Parish reclaimed £2449.73 in tax from HMRC in 2020-2021. We would like to remind Gift Aid parishioners that they must notify the Parish Priest or Gift Aid Organiser if they cease to pay tax. Tax reclaimed must not exceed the amount of tax paid by the parishioner in the tax year. If a person ceases employment during a year, it may still be possible to claim tax as long as they have paid enough in the whole year. Anyone who wishes to join the scheme and boost their donation by 25p for every £1 donated, then please leave your name and address with one of the welcomers. You will be sent a Gift Aid Declaration form to complete, alternatively you can send an email to: smccbarnardcastle@gmail.com requesting a Gift Aid Declaration form,

**Second Collection:** A second collection for the lay training fun will be open today and for the next two Sundays.

**First Communion:** Many congratulations to Evie, Rose, and Taio who made their first Holy Communion on Saturday. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to journey with the Lord.

**Did You Know?:** The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has a facility where donations can be made to our parish. The link can be found on our website: www.stmarys-rc-barnardcastle.org/. Many thanks for all your donations that are used to support our Parish.

**Sacred Heart thy Kingdom Come:** We are now in June the month of the Sacred Heart. This is a time to contemplate the love which caused Christ to endure so much for us. To make reparation by our prayers and love.

**Diaconal Ordination:** Carl Watson, a member of the Ordinariate congregation has been preparing for ordination as a permanent deacon. The ordination is on Saturday 2 July, 11am, at S. Joseph Hartlepool. All are most welcome, however the event is ticketed, so please let Fr. Thomas know if you want to attend so tickets can be arranged.

**Eucharistic Festival 2022:** As mentioned in his recent pastoral letter, Bishop Robert is organising a Eucharistic Festival on Corpus Christi (19 June) at Ushaw. This gives the chance for the diocesan community to gather in joyful celebration of our Eucharistic Lord. Details can be found on the Diocesan web-site. Booking is needed, but there is no charge. There is a list at the back, if you would like to attend, please add your details so that a group booking can be made.

**Food Bank:** We received this note of thanks from the Food Bank:

We are writing to thank you for your support for the food bank.

The generosity of donors like you has enabled us to stay open throughout the COVID restrictions, providing food for individuals and families in need.

In 2021 we were able to provide 409 food parcels, feeding over 900 people and to provide 89 Christmas hampers which were much appreciated.

We anticipate that increased food and fuel prices will put more families under pressure in the coming months and are really grateful for your support. Your continued support is much appreciated. Thank you. Anne and the team.