**Weekly Bulletin**

**Saturday 16th July 2022**

**Sixteenth Sunday of the Year**

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| St. Mary Catholic Church, Birch Road, Barnard Castle | St. Aidan Catholic Church, Middleton-in-Teesdale |
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| 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 16th | 6.30pm | Barnard Castle | 16th Sunday of the Year |
| Sunday 17th | 9.30am | Gainford | 16th Sunday of the Year |
| Sunday 17th | 11.30am | Gainford (Ord.) | 5th Sunday after Trinity |
| Tuesday 19th  | 10am | Gainford | *Feria* |
| Thursday 21st | 10am | Barnard Castle | *S. Lawrence of Brindisi* |
| Friday 22nd  | 12noon | Gainford (Ord.) | **S. Mary Magdalene** |
| Friday 22nd  | 6-7pm | Barnard Castle | Holy Hour |
| Saturday 23rd  | 6.30pm | Barnard Castle | 17th Sunday of the Year |
| Sunday 24th | 9.30am | Gainford | 17th Sunday of the Year |
| Sunday 24th | 11.30am | Gainford (Ord.) | 6th Sunday after Trinity |

*Today: Welcomers– Leanne Porter, Tracy Tallentire; Reader – Pat Estall*

*Next week: Welcomers– Nadia Earl, Pat Graham; Reader – Heather Armstrong*

**This Sunday’s Mass**

First reading: *Genesis 18:1-10*

Responsorial psalm: **The just will live in the presence of the Lord.** *Psalm 14:2-5*

Second reading: *Colossians 1:24-28*

Gospel acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!** *Acts 16:14*

Gospel: *Luke 10:38-42*

**CONFESSIONS:** after most Masses, by appointment, or: Monday and Thursday 5.30-6pm, Saturday 10-11am

Dear friends,

Last week, we began to delve into the Holy Father’s recent apostolic letter *Desiderio desideravi*. We considered how he speaks of the liturgy as the place where we encounter Christ, and therefore of the importance of all of the Church being aware of what is happening and participating so that they can have that encounter.

He speaks of two disordered visions of Christianity and how the liturgy can help to avoid them. He calls these ‘gnosticism’ and ‘neo-Pelagianism’ and has spoken about them a few times during his pontificate. Gnosticism has a tendency to subjectivism and make people ‘imprisoned in their own thoughts and feelings’ (*Evangelii Gaudium 94*) – a fundamentally inward looking and ultimately potentially narcissistic vision. This is completely at odds with Catholicism which believes that the truth of the faith has been given to us, revealed. It is also a faith which is lived communally, our belief in the Church is a belief in the gathering together of Christians. ‘Neo-Pelagianism’ is said to ‘cancel grace’ (*Desiderio desideravi 17*), it removes God’s work or places it below our own efforts.

Pope Francis suggests that the liturgy can help us to avoid both of these tendencies. The liturgy, by bringing us to an encounter with God, brings us to meet with truth himself. It is always a communal action, even when it is prayed alone, because it is the work of the whole Church. The liturgy necessarily opens our minds and our hearts to our brothers and sisters in Christ precisely because it is that action of the whole Church – as Pope Francis says ‘the liturgy does not say “I” but “we”’ (*Desiderio desideravi 19*)and to have that ‘we’ at the centre of our prayer helps to free us from that subjective misunderstanding.

The liturgy also reminds us of the work of grace and so avoids that ‘neo-Pelagianism’ which makes Christianity and salvation something which we achieve. In the liturgy, and particularly in the Eucharist, we are given something which is pure gift. Before receiving Communion we say ‘Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof’ not because we are rejecting his offer, but because we know that it is only from his free gift to us that we can receive him. Ultimately the liturgy is the work of God, in which we are invited to take a part – just as the whole of Christianity is something which we receive from God as his free gift to us.

This consideration has been rather heavy, but as these two themes are ones which Pope Francis has mentioned several times, they need to be addressed. Next week, we will reflect somewhat more practically on what *Desiderio desideravi* says about how we participate in the liturgy, and how what it says will affect us here at Barnard Castle.

Fr. Thomas.

**Q.R. Code for donations:** As you arrived today you may have noticed a number of Q.R. codes on display. These take you to a donations page for the church, which you may find more convenient than bringing cash or a cheque.

**Second Collection – Sea Sunday:** The collection for the work of Stella Maris remains open today. Please see the poster at the back of church with further details, as well as the option to make a cash-free donation.

**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.

**Numerate Volunteers:** The collection taken at Mass has to be counted by two people, and it would be helpful to have some more volunteers willing to help with this; the more people involved then the lower the burden on each person. If you are willing to help, please speak to Fr. Thomas.

**Missio Boxes:** If you have one of the red *Missio* boxes, please can you return to the sacristy so that the monies collected can be gathered and sent off to the charity.

**Children’s Mass Sheets:** We now have a supply of sheets each week with activities for children based on that week’s Mass. They are available at the back of church, and can be used by children during the service.

**Food Bank:** The foodbank writes: Thank for your donations. This week we are looking for (tinned or packets) Potatoes & Vegetables, Long Life Milk and Toilet Rolls.

**Gardening Club:** Thank you to those who gathered to work hard on our grounds in the gardening club last week. A reminder that over the summer, the gardening club will meet on the first Sunday of each month at 10am. A chance to enjoy fellowship and to look after and further beautify our church grounds. 7 August, 4 September, and 2 October. All are most welcome.

**Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) 2022-2023:** The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. The programme seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith. This programme is available for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education, serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, and teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools. The CCRS course programme is now available for 2022-2023 and there is a short presentation shown on the Diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/education/continuing-professional-development-and-formation/#ccrs>

If anyone would like further information, they can contact Eamonn Diffley at the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or email education@diocesehn.org.uk