

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
Birch Road, Barnard Castle, DL12 8NR  
**Clergy Fr. Thomas Mason (Parish Priest)**

Tel: 01833 631457 | Mobile: 07876 308657

Email: [stmary.barnardcastle@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:stmary.barnardcastle@diocesehn.org.uk) [thomas.mason@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:thomas.mason@diocesehn.org.uk)

Website: <https://www.stmarys-rc-barnardcastle.org>

**Twelfth Sunday of the Year**

**Services this week**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Celebration</b>
Saturday 20	6.30pm	Gainford	Twelfth Sunday of the Year
Sunday 21	9.30am	Barnard Castle	Twelfth Sunday of the Year
Sunday 21	11.30am	Gainford (Ord.)	Third Sunday after Trinity
Monday 22	6.15pm	Barnard Castle (Lat.)	<b>Ss. John Fisher &amp; Thomas More</b>
Tuesday 23	10am	Gainford	S. Etheldreda
Thursday 25	10am	Barnard Castle	<i>Votive</i>
Friday 26	12noon	Gainford (Ord.)	<i>Votive</i>
Friday 26	6-7pm	Barnard Castle	Holy Hour
Saturday 27	6.30pm	Barnard Castle	<b>SS. PETER &amp; PAUL</b>
Sunday 28	9.30am	Gainford	<b>SS. PETER &amp; PAUL</b>
Sunday 28	11.30am	Gainford (Ord.)	<b>SS. PETER &amp; PAUL</b>

**Confessions:** after Mass, by appointment, or Monday 5.30-6pm, Thursday 5.30-6pm, or Saturday 10-11am

**Second collection** there is a second collection today for the Day for Life  
Next week there will be a second collection for Peter's Pence

**Mass Readings – Parish Mass Book, page 93**

First Reading	<i>Jeremiah 20:10-13</i>
Responsorial Psalm	<b>In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord. (Ps. 68)</b>
Second Reading	<i>Romans 5:12-15</i>
Gospel Acclamation	<b>Alleluia, alleluia. The Spirit of truth will bear witness about me, say the Lord, and you also will bear witness Alleluia.</b>
Gospel	<i>Matthew 10:26-33</i>

## Rota

This week: Welcome – Wynn; Reader – Michael

Next week: Welcome –; Reader – Jane; Bidding Prayers – Owls Class

### **Delving into the Scriptures – Psalms, part 2**

Last week we looked at the book of the Psalms, its structure, and content. It's also worth seeing how the Church has used these texts, because they have played a central role in Church life, especially prayer, since the very beginning.

As with much reflection on the Old Testament, Christians have always looked for the presence of Christ in the Psalms. This is drawn out in a number of places very clearly, Psalm 2:7 includes the line "You are my son, today I have begotten you." This is directly quoted in Hebrews 5 with reference to Christ. Psalm 109 (110) opens "The LORD says to my lord: "Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool." ' Christ himself quotes this, noting that it refers to the Messiah, he asks the Pharisees ' "If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word.' (Matthew 22:45–46). Similarly Psalm 117 (118) gives us the idea of the rejected stone which becomes the cornerstone, and many others besides.

In terms of how the Church has used the psalms, one of the first points to note is that they are designed to be sung. Various different means of singing them have been used across the centuries, but there is a strong sense that they are at their best when sung, rather than merely recited or read. This leads to an engagement with the texts at a deeper level in the human heart. Because the psalms aren't trying to teach doctrine or history directly, they are texts more suited to ruminating over with an almost endless depth of meditation.

Connected with this sense of reflection rather than just reading, is the point that the clergy (along with religious, and many lay people) come to know the Psalms far more than other books of the Bible – this isn't because we are supposed to study them more, but because they form a central part of the cycle of daily prayers known as the office. Each day there are a number of moments of prayer which are supposed to sanctify the day. The prayers which are to be offered at these points are built around the psalms, which form over half of the length of the prayer services.

Traditionally, the whole of the book would be prayed over the course of a week; this would obviously lead to a great familiarity with the texts as they get memorised by constant use. Some key texts would even be repeated every day and so gain especially familiarity. More recently that weekly cycle was thought to be too burdensome alongside the other demands on clergy time, but even so a four-week cycle was developed to keep that constant refreshing of the psalms.

We also see the psalms used in the Mass. At various points there is a varying text (known as an antiphon) to be read or sung, for example the entrance antiphon at the beginning. These are overwhelmingly taken from the psalms, and seek to draw out an idea related to the Mass being celebrated – for example the recent feast of the Sacred Heart uses Psalm 32 "The designs of his Heart are from age to age..." and Corpus Christi speaks of the manna in the wilderness pointing forward to the Eucharist "He fed them with the finest wheat" (Psalm 80).

As you come across the Psalms, whether at Mass or in your own prayer and reflection, seek to have that spirit of reflection, of rumination. Taking a psalm or even a few verses from a psalm and slowly and prayerfully repeating them can take you deeper into prayer. We have

been given the Psalms as a great treasury, we would do well to use all of its great depths. – Fr. Thomas.

**Prayer List:** Among the sick of the parish, please keep John Burgess, Anthony Cole, Norah Mackay, Izzy Herbert, Alice Musto, Diedre and Pat Estall in your prayers. We pray particularly for the recently departed, including Kay Green and Angela Williams, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Margaret Heron. If you know of others who would like to be added to the parish prayer list, please let Fr. Thomas know. You may find the following prayer useful as a way of drawing our parish ever closer together round Our Lord. It is through his grace that we are turned from a gathering of people in the same place, into a parish, into a genuine community.

Loving Father, we the people of St Mary's Parish offer ourselves to you, to be your people in this place, to be your Church in our community, and to be instruments of peace, forgiveness and love. Help us grow in gratitude so that we can recognise and thank you for all our blessings.

Instil in us a deep sense of generosity so that we are willing to share our gifts, our talents, our time and our resources. Help us face whatever the future holds and to make new beginnings in your name.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

**Monthly giving** As part of making financial matters clear and transparent, from now on we will publish the giving to the parish on a monthly basis (as this allows standing orders to be included).

May 2026: Loose plate (giving at the offertory during Mass) - £1037.99

Weekly envelopes and monthly standing orders - £844.67

Total: £1882.66

Many thanks for your generosity.

**Day for Life.** On Sunday 21 June, we mark the Day for Life under the theme "The Wonder of the Child in the Womb." The theme also recognises the loss of children who died before birth and the grief of their parents. The bishops' message and prayers can be found on the Day for Life website: [www.dayforlife.org](http://www.dayforlife.org) The second collection will go towards the Day for Life Fund, which distributes grants to organisations that promote respect for life from conception until natural death. You can also donate online via the Day for Life website."

**Message from Bishop Stephen – Pastoral Strategy** Thank you to all parishes who have completed and returned their reflections as part of our diocesan pastoral strategy. I, together with others, look forward to reading and praying through your discernments in the Spirit. We next move to a second phase as we invite local parishes to discern together in their partnerships, or with others in their neighbouring area. Information and updates will be shared on our website.

Please keep this discernment in your prayers as we seek to respond to the Lord's call to worship Him and serve our communities in a flourishing and sustainable manner.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi** Led by Bishop Stephen

22nd – 29th October 2027 £1725 per person

Places are limited to 50 pilgrims and places are allocated on a first come first served basis with payment of the deposit securing your place.

The itinerary and booking details can be found on the diocesan website ([www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)).

**Knit and natter – following Mass on Thursday** a group to spend some time in fellowship together, whilst engaging in knitting, crochet, embroidery...or indeed any other similar craft.

**Sister Act at Carmel College.** Students will be performing Sister Act: The Musical at Carmel College, Darlington, from Wednesday 8th July to Friday 10th July at 6:30pm each evening. This is a joyful, uplifting show centred around community, faith, and music, and we would love to welcome members of the wider community to support our students Tickets are available: <https://www.ticketsource.com/whats-on?q=carmel+college>

### **SVP Camp – Holy Island**

Calling all young adults 18+. Do you have a week to spare to spend on Lindisfarne this Summer helping out at the Holy Island SVP Camp? Volunteers are needed to work alongside the children who stay in the SVP purpose-built centre on the island. Weeks, 3, 5 and 6 of the Summer have 60 children ready to have a great time rock pooling, walking, arts and crafting and enjoying outdoor activities but we need more helpers to ensure they have the best time!

- Week 3 Sat 1st August - 8th August
- Week 5 Sat 15th August - 22nd August
- Week 6 Sat 22nd - 29th August

If you are interested have a look at the website <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> or email Barbara Taws [barbarat@svp.org.uk](mailto:barbarat@svp.org.uk)

All helpers receive training and will need to be DBS checked.

**Religious Pendants** At the back of church are some religious pendants which Katey and Pip Bolland have made, these are available for a donation (which will go to church funds). Thank you to Katey and Pip for such lovely work and an excellent idea.

**Safeguarding** The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Fiona Bissell or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at [safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk)

### **Prayer for England**

As the jubilee year has finished, we return to offering the prayer for the conversion of England at the end of Mass.

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England, thy Dowry, and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee. By thee it was that Jesus, our Saviour and our hope was given unto the world; and He has given thee to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us thy children whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the Cross O sorrowful Mother. Intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the chief shepherd, the vicar of thy Son. Pray for us all, dear mother, that by faith and fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God together with thee, in our heavenly home. Amen.