

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

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Thirtieth Sunday of the Year

Services this week

Day	Time	Location	Celebration
Saturday 24	6.30pm	Barnard Castle	Thirtieth Sunday of the Year
Sunday 25	9.30am	Gainford	Thirtieth Sunday of the Year
Sunday 25	11.30am	Barnard Castle (Ord.)	Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 25	5pm	Barnard Castle	October Devotions
Monday 26	6.15pm	Barnard Castle (Lat.)	<i>Ss. Chad & Cedd</i>
Tuesday 27	10am	Gainford	<i>Votive</i>
Thursday 29	10am	Barnard Castle	<i>Votive</i>
Friday 30	12noon	Barnard Castle (Ord.)	<i>Votive</i>
Friday 30	6-7pm	Barnard Castle	Holy Hour
Saturday 31	6.30pm	Gainford	ALL SAINTS
Sunday 1	9.30am	Barnard Castle	ALL SAINTS
Sunday 1	11.30am	Barnard Castle (Ord.)	ALL SAINTS

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

The second collection for the work of Missio remains open this week.

Mass Readings – Parish Mass Book, page 146

First Reading	<i>Isaiah 22:21-27</i>
Responsorial Psalm	I love you, LORD, my strength. (Ps. 17)
Second Reading	<i>1 Thessalonians 1:5-10</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. Alleluia.
Gospel	<i>Matthew 22:34-40</i>

Rota

This week: Welcomer –; Reader – Sheila

Next week: Welcomer – Wynn; Reader – Nuala; Bidding Prayers – John

Ss. Chad & Cedd, brother missionaries

We rightly hold our northern Saints in great esteem, Ss. Cuthbert, Aidan, Bede and so forth; however, as well as those who spread and developed the Faith here in the north, the Church rapidly raised up those who went out to the rest of the country. On Monday we celebrate two of these: Ss. Chad and Cedd. It is fitting that they're celebrated together as they were not merely brothers in Christ, but actual brothers – indeed they had two further brothers who also became Priests (Cynbil and Caelin). We don't know much about their family origins, except to note that their names are Celtic in origin rather than Anglo-Saxon. Both studied under S. Aidan at Lindisfarne, and they went to found a monastery at Lastingham, near Pickering.

From there Cedd was sent on a mission to convert the Mercians (modern-day midlands), but this mission was not particularly successful; he returned to Northumbria, but was quickly sent on a new mission – to Essex. The Kingdom of the East Saxons had swayed between Christianity and paganism since the arrival of S. Augustine. Having made some notable progress, Cedd was appointed Bishop there – sometimes he was titled 'Bishop of the East Saxons' and sometimes 'Bishop of London'. At the same time, he retained close ties with Lastingham, often returning to give spiritual guidance to the monks, as well as retreats for himself.

Among his work in Essex was the foundation of a monastery at Bradwell-on-Sea. The church there was built reusing bricks from a near-by Roman fort. It remains in use today as the Chapel of S. Peter-on-the-Wall, one of the oldest churches in use today in this country. Working in various parts of the country involved learning several different languages (this was before Old English became universal), and so while present at the famous Synod of Whitby he acted as translator between the various groups – this also speaks to the trust which all sides placed in him.

In the meantime, his brother Chad had been travelling and studying; Chad was invited to become Bishop of the Northumbrians. The Archbishop of Canterbury had just died, and therefore he was ordained bishop by three others in Wessex; however, all three had canonical irregularities. Because of this, a few years later a new Archbishop (sent to resolve various problems in the English Church, S. Theodore) instructed him to step-down in favour of S. Wilfrid. Chad's humility in accepting this judgment with grace impressed Theodore who then appointed him as Bishop of the Mercians.

Chad, therefore, went to the same territory which his brother had attempted to convert earlier. He made his base at Lichfield, including a group of monks who travelled south with him from Lastingham. He was only able to serve there for a couple of years before dying of plague; however, in this time Mercia had swung decisively to Christianity. His church at Lichfield became a shrine, and later Lichfield cathedral. At the Reformation a number of his relics were smuggled out of the shrine before its destruction and held secretly by a family who remained Catholic. As Catholicism re-emerged in the nineteenth century, these were

presented to the local Bishop and were eventually enshrined in S. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham (where they remain).

These two brothers recognised what they had received, but rather than merely keep it for themselves, they rapidly moved to spread the faith to others. May we all be inspired by their example, use our talents (e.g., S. Cedd's translation skills) as well as the virtues we receive from God (e.g., S. Chad's humility) to pass on the great gift of Faith which we have received.
– 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, and Thomas Savage in your prayers. We pray particularly for the recently departed and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. 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).

September 2026: Loose plate (giving at the offertory during Mass) - £665.75

Weekly envelopes and monthly standing orders - £995.67

Total: £1661.42

Many thanks for your generosity.

October Devotions today we have the final October Devotions (Rosary and Benediction) as we bring this month of the Rosary to a close.

November – month of the Holy Souls As usual, during November we will intensify our prayers for the Holy Souls. All available Masses will be Requiem Masses. There are forms for names to be included in our prayers, these names will rest on the altar during Masses in November; and for lamps to burn for particular individuals/groups during the weeks of November.

First Holy Communion 2027 Application forms are now available for those who would like to be part of the First Holy Communion preparation this year. Preparation will begin later in the autumn, with first reconciliation during Lent, and first Communion around *Corpus Christi*. If you know of any children in Year 4, please do take a form.

Parish ceilidh 28th November We will be hosting a Parish Ceilidh on Saturday 28th November at St. Mary's Parish hall, Newgate, Barnard Castle. Doors open 6:15pm, music &

dancing from 6:30pm. There will be a shared table, please bring along food to share, with ingredient list re allergies. Bring your own drink and if you wish, cash for the raffle. Family ticket £25, £8 adults, child £5, under 5's free. Tickets will be for sale before and after Masses.

Contactless Payments The parish is now able to accept donations by card/contactless. There is a card reader close to the West door, with the option to select donation amount. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Men's Group the first meeting of the men's group is being planned as a ramble around Low and High Force on Saturday 14 November, meeting at church at 11 to share rides up the dale.

Advent Lunches 2026 Christian Aid Advent Lunches are again taking place at the Parish Hall, Newgate Barnard Castle DL12 8NQ on three consecutive Fridays commencing 27th November, 4th December and 11th December served between 12:00 - 1:30 pm, with arrival by 1.00pm.

This year St Mary's Catholic Church team will be preparing the lunch on Friday 4th December. We have a few volunteers already, but it is always good to welcome new faces and/or familiar faces. The more the merrier to lighten the load. We will need a number of people to make soup but there are also many other jobs you can help with: setting up tables and chairs; serving soup, cheese and biscuits, mince pies and tea and coffee; washing and drying up and, tidying away table and chairs at the end. Please do sign up on the list at the back of church. Thank you.

For further information please contact Fiona Cooper: ftcooper@hotmail.co.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.

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

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.