

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

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**Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday**

**Services this week**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Celebration</b>
Saturday 25	6.30pm	Barnard Castle	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday 26	9.30am	Gainford	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday 26	11.30am	Gainford (Ord.)	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Monday 27	6.15pm	Barnard Castle (Lat.)	<i>Easter feria</i>
Tuesday 28	10am	Gainford	<i>S. Louis de Montfort</i>
Thursday 30	10am	Barnard Castle	<i>S. Pius V</i>
Friday 1	12noon	Gainford (Ord.)	<i>Votive</i>
Friday 1	6-7pm	Barnard Castle	Holy Hour
Saturday 2	4pm	Middleton	Fifth Sunday of Easter
Saturday 2	6.30pm	Gainford	Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday 3	9.30am	Barnard Castle	Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday 3	11.30am	Gainford (Ord.)	Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

**Mass at Barnard Castle next Sunday morning, no Mass on Saturday evening**

**Mass Readings – Parish Mass Book, page 262**

First Reading	<i>Acts 2:14, 36-42</i>
Responsorial Psalm	<b>The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</b> ( <i>Ps. 22</i> )
Second Reading	<i>1 Peter 2:20-25</i>
Gospel Acclamation	<b>Alleluia, alleluia. I am the good shepherd, says the Lord. I know my sheep and my own know me. Alleluia.</b>
Gospel	<i>John 10:1-10</i>

## Rota

This week: Welcome –; Reader – Sheila

Next week: Welcome –; Reader – Sheila; Bidding Prayers – John

### **Pope S. Pius V, not why the Pope wears white.**

This Thursday the Church celebrates one of her great reformers, a man who sought to implement the work of the Council of Trent, and so launch the counter-reformation which helped the Church to regain stability and a renewed mission in the light of the reformation. Born Antonio Ghislieri, becoming Michele when he joined the Dominicans. He rapidly gained a reputation for devotion and a severe practice of the monastic life. This was a time when there was some moral laxity within the Order, and his attempts to tighten discipline were not always well received. Having been made Bishop by Pope Paul IV, he worked for the inquisition; though it should be noted he was not some religious zealot and even received a papal reprimand for his defence of an Archbishop of Toledo accused of heresy. He continued to rise through the hierarchy, being made Cardinal in 1557. His reputation as a reformer continued, as well as a willingness to speak out regardless of personal consequences; he became marginalised within the Roman Curia when he opposed the appointment of a thirteen year-old as Cardinal.

His fearless support of church reform, as well as his evident personal piety created momentum in the conclave of 1565-1566. S. Charles Borromeo (another significant reforming Cardinal) seems to have led support for Ghislieri, and when he was elected (becoming Pope Pius V) wrote of the 'high esteem for him on account of his singular holiness and zeal'.

There had been many promoting reform within the Church for some time; however with Pius as Pope their efforts were greatly strengthened. His first area of focus was the papal court, where he reduced the cost as he removed various unnecessary hangers-on and luxuries which had grown up over the years. He also worked to enforced residency among the clergy, previously a widespread practice was that men would be appointed to church posts (especially more senior ones) and collect the payments for them without actually living in their parishes or dioceses and ministering to the people. Ensuring that people received the spiritual care which was their due, was complemented by an increase in material care for the poor; within Rome (under his direct control) there were organised efforts to provide cheap grain and distribute alms to the poor, as well as improving the water supply to fight against typhoid.

As he promoted the implementation of the decisions of the Council of Trent, he provided a standardised Missal (i.e., form for the celebration of Mass). There had been various experimental changes and oddities growing up, and he ordered that unless there was a clear well-established local use this standard form should be used.

In England he became infamous as he clashed with Queen Elizabeth I, in response to her return of the Church of England to Protestantism and persecution of Catholics. With the papal bull *Regnans in Excelsis* he excommunicated Elizabeth and released English Catholics from obedience to her. This would prove controversial, and helped the portrayal of Catholics as disloyal.

There is a widespread myth that he introduced the practice of Popes wearing white. According to the story, he continued to wear his white Dominican habit after becoming Pope; while he was often still seen in Dominican habit, it is worth noting that Popes are recorded as wearing white 300 years earlier. Finally, whilst looking into his life, I discovered

something new – there is a pudding eaten in Nicaragua called 'Pio Quinto' named after him, made from cake soaked in rum and topped with custard and cinnamon; though the connexion with S. Pius is unclear, it sounds worth looking into the pudding itself. – 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, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Esme Bailey. 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.

**New Rota** Please note that there is a new rota covering the weekends up until the end of August. Please do sign up generously to act as welcomer, reader, bidding prayer writer, and refreshment server. If you have not done so before but are interested, please speak to Jane or Fr. Thomas for further information.

**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.

**Knitted Bible exhibition** will take place at the Methodist Church from Friday (24<sup>th</sup>) to Wednesday (29<sup>th</sup>), entrance is free. For times please see the poster at the back of church.

**Diocesan Pastoral Strategy** Thank you to everybody who contributed to the discernment process for the Diocesan Pastoral Strategy. The P.P.C. is now finalising the parish's return, which is due to be submitted later this week; once completed it will be made public for all members of the parish to read. It includes a number of initiatives to allow us to build our parish, so please be ready to consider your involvement with these as they arise.

**Children's Liturgy.** As noted recently, we are preparing to offer a children's liturgy during Sunday Mass. Volunteers are most welcome to help with, if you are interested please speak to Fiona Bissell. Those who have already expressed a willingness will be contacted regarding D.B.S. checks.

#### **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.

### **World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Sunday, 26 April**

Bishop Stephen invites us all to pray for vocations this Sunday.

Please pray particularly for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Please pray every day that people will respond to the Lord's call to serve Him in ordained and consecrated life. They are intimate adventures in God's love.

In our parishes and churches and schools and chaplaincies, please offer regular time in prayer for vocations.

Pope Leo encourages us to offer time for Eucharistic adoration and to meditate faithfully on the Word of God. Prayer leads to vocations. This is not a last resort; it is the essential first resort.

For more information, prayer resources, and for enquiries please contact:  
[vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk) [vocationspriest@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:vocationspriest@diocesehn.org.uk)  
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**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.