

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Birch Road, Barnard Castle, DL12 8NR
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Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year

Services this week

Day	Time	Location	Celebration
Saturday 3	4pm	Middleton	Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year
Saturday 3	6.30pm	Gainford	Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year
Sunday 4	9.30am	Barnard Castle	Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year
Sunday 4	11.30am	Barnard Castle (Ord.)	Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 4	5pm	Barnard Castle	October Devotions
Monday 5	6.15pm	Barnard Castle (Lat.)	<i>S. Faustina Kowalska</i>
Tuesday 6	10am	Gainford	<i>S. Bruno</i>
Thursday 8	10am	Barnard Castle	<i>Votive</i>
Friday 9	12noon	Barnard Castle (Ord.)	S. John Henry Newman
Friday 9	6-7pm	Barnard Castle	Holy Hour
Saturday 10	6.30pm	Barnard Castle	Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year
Sunday 11	9.30am	Gainford	Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year
Sunday 11	11.30am	Barnard Castle (Ord.)	Nineteen Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 11	5pm	Barnard Castle	October Devotions

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

Mass Readings – Parish Mass Book, page 137

First Reading	<i>Isaiah 5:1-7</i>
Responsorial Psalm	The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel (Ps. 79)
Second Reading	<i>Philippians 4:6-9</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia. I chose you out of the world, say the Lord, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide. Alleluia.
Gospel	<i>Matthew 21:33-43</i>

Rota

This week: Welcomer –; Reader – Sheila

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

The Cross stands while the world turns – the Carthusians

This Tuesday sees S. Bruno's Day, he was a French Priest who was appointed as Bishop, but turned down the preferment and went to live a solitary life with two companions. In time their group grew and became the foundation of the Carthusian Order. One of the smaller orders in the Church, and less well known than others, not least because of its serious approach to enclosure.

The name of the order comes from the Chartreuse Mountains where S. Bruno founded the first house. The name is also anglicised as 'Charterhouse'. Staying on the name, since the seventeenth century the monks have produced a herbal infused drink, naturally giving it the same name.

Most monastic orders contain an emphasis on the community supporting each other, and so gather for prayer, for meals, and for recreation. The Carthusian life, by contrast, pursues a solitary life. They spend the vast majority of their time in their cells; the community gathers for Mass, and the more solemn parts of the liturgy of the hours; for a weekly walk (during which they may engage in conversation); and on Sundays and major feasts they eat together (though do so in silence) – for the rest of the time, monks remain in their cells.

The cells themselves are necessarily larger. Typically they will have two levels, with a workshop and wood store on the grounds floor, then a bed, table, prayer desk on the upper floor. Uniquely the standard design gives each cell its own garden, with high walls between, monks can then grow their own vegetables to supplement the food provided. The solitude of the cell is maintained even when meals are delivered, there is a 'turn' which allows items to be passed in and out with coming face to face with the deliverer – two meals per day are delivered to each cell, and notes can also be passed.

Each community is made up of a mixture of choirmonks and lay brothers. The choirmonks are priests (or are in preparation for the priesthood), they spend most of their time in contemplative prayer. The lay brothers still live in silence, but engage in more manual work; especially providing for the material needs of the monastery (e.g. cooking meals, running the laundry).

The other, related, distinction from most monastic communities is the lack of hospitality. There is no guest house, and Carthusians are very deliberate about leaving the world behind as they enter. The only guests who go to a Carthusian monastery are usually those considering entering. This isn't an attempt to be rude, but to allow for the completeness of solitude which is at the heart of Carthusian spirituality.

The history of the motherhouse, the Grande Chartreuse as it's often known, has been mixed. The French Revolution, and then the governments ban on religious communities in 1905 both caused it to be emptied, but each time the monks have eventually been able to return and it continues to function today. There are a further 20 monasteries (15 for monks and 5 for nuns), including S. Hugh's Charterhouse in Parkminster, near Horsham in Sussex.

In a world a great noise and busy-ness, the Carthusians continue to live the life of silence, of contemplation, of seeking God entirely. Their motto *Stat Crux Dum Volvitur Orbis*, the

Cross stands whilst the world turns, summarises their attempt to place God as the very centre of all things. A life which few are able to undertake, but yet a vital and powerful part of the life of the Church. A small glimpse into their world was recently made, with the film 'Into Great Silence' from 2005, which is well worth watching. As we go about our daily lives, we can know that monks and nuns around the world are holding us all in their prayers. – 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, including Brother Michael Delmer and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Edna Dignan, Mary Ann Kean, John Bowes, Valerie Holmes. 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).

August 2026: Loose plate (giving at the offertory during Mass) - £939.92

Weekly envelopes and monthly standing orders - £834.67

Total: £1774.59

Many thanks for your generosity.

October Devotions as we enter into the month of October during the week, the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary, we will be having October Devotions (Rosary and Benediction) on the Sundays of October at 5pm.

Parish WhatsApp group "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up..." *1 Thessalonians 5:11* A Parish WhatsApp group is to be set up to allow Parishioners the opportunity to share and encourage one another in their faith. To share events, prayer petitions, news, reflections, etc, to build up our Parish community in a beneficial and positive way. If you wish to join, please add your name & mobile number to the list at the back of church or speak to Anne-Marie Kelly. Thank you!

Men's Group A suggestion to have a men's group has been made, this would be for mutual support and growth with a mixture of spiritual and social activities. An opening meeting to explore has been scheduled for Thursday 8 October, 6.30pm in the Garden Room.

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.

Centenary Group The sharp eyed among you, may have noticed that the foundation stone (just outside the West Doors) was solemnly laid on 30 October 1926, this was followed by the building of the church, with its solemn consecration on 29 September 1928. As such we are fast approaching our centenary. A group to organise various celebrations is being gathered – if you would be willing to be involved, please let Fr. Thomas know.

Gift Aid A big thank you to those who recently signed up to gift aid their weekly offerings or monthly standing orders. However, judging by the amount of cash received that is still not in the little blue gift aid envelopes, I fear we could be losing out on a significant amount of money, which the parish desperately needs to support Fr. Thomas and everything that goes on here at St Mary's. If you are a tax payer, then gift aiding your donations allows us to claim from HMRC, 25% in lieu of the tax you have paid. That means that for every £10 you give, we get an extra £2.50. Great for the parish and IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY!

So please see Fiona Cooper or myself, Andrew Heron, and we will help you complete a one-off form. Let's make the most of everything that we can. Thank you. Andrew

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.