

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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17th March 2024 **5th Sunday of Lent (B)**

Sat 16 Feria of Lent

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Leonard Lucas RIP

Sun 17 5th Sunday of Lent (B) – (St Patrick)

2nd Collection for Poor Parishes

9am People of the Parish – Fr William Hogg RIP

11am Francis & Johanna Higgins RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –

All welcome

Mon 18 Feria of Lent (St Cyril of Jerusalem)

12noon Fr Francis Joseph Parkinson RIP (1994)

Tues 19 St Joseph, Solemnity

9.30am Deceased relatives of Mariya Pappachan

11am Stations of the Cross – Sacred Heart Chapel

Wed 20 Feria of Lent – no Mass today

Thurs 21 Feria of Lent

12noon Fr David Whitehead RIP

Fri 22 Feria of Lent

12noon John O'Keeffe RIP

7pm Stations of the Cross – St Thomas

Sat 23 am Feria of Lent / pm Holy Week

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Good health of Lochie Murray

Sun 24 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

2nd Collection – Easter flowers

9am People of the Parish

11am Mark Fleetwood RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –

All welcome

THE WORD OF GOD: 5th Sunday of Lent (B), p159

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Response Ps 50: A pure heart create for me, O God.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL GLORY! If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too. PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL GLORY!

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March: For new martyrs – We pray for those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world; may their courage and missionary zeal permeate the Church.

Parish News

Sick & housebound parishioners: please keep in your prayers all who are sick and housebound and all who have requested our prayers: June Bartels, Bernadette Baugh, Bernadette Hunter, Andrew Lock, Pauline Farmer, Josie O'Keeffe, Graham Edwards, Maureen Sipek & Paul Dale. Please continue to pray for the good health of Pope Francis and HM The King.

The weekly newsletter is on our website:

[Newsletters St Thomas of Canterbury Deal \(stthomasdeal.org\)](https://stthomasdeal.org/newsletters)

St John's, St Richard's Road, and St Andrew's, Sandwich: thank you to the St John's and St Andrew's for the very prayerful Lent Service last Sunday.

2nd Collection today for Poor Parishes next Sunday: formerly the Needs of the Diocese collection. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

Easter Flowers: 2nd collection next Sunday to help defray the cost of decorating our church for Easter.

Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday – volunteers needed. A sign-up sheet is in the porch.

DEAL WARM WELCOME Churches and Community Groups offer warmth, refreshment and friendship during these cold months to all. Full details of times and places in the porch.

The Book of Remembrance is on the Lady Altar. You are invited to fill in the names of loved ones who have died (with the year of death) on the appropriate page in the Book. Please keep to one line per person.

[Register with The Parish \(stthomasdeal.org\)](https://stthomasdeal.org/register)

Our Parish Register needs continually updating to ensure that it is reliable and current. Whether you are new to the parish or have been here for many years you are now kindly asked to register your details on our new database, powered by ChurchSuite. Your information will only be accessed by authorised parish office staff for administrative purposes. Thank you for co-operation and for those who have already shared their information with us.

Red boxes / Missio: please return **red boxes** (with name on the underside of the box) to the church (they can be left in the sacristy). If more convenient, please contact John Letts (*Missio* parish organiser) on 07964 189256 to arrange collection. Copies of the *Missio Spring 2024* magazine are available free at the back of the church.

Prayers requested: Ben Bano writes: 'For over ten years I have been a pen friend to Willie Pye, a man

convicted of murder 28 years ago in the United States. He has a deep faith and is altogether a changed man. After a gap of four years without executions he is due to be executed by the authorities in Georgia on 20th March. The teaching of the Church on capital punishment is very clear. Please pray for him, his loved ones and the repose of his soul and that he may have courage in facing his ordeal.'

Easter Offering envelopes are available in the porch and by the newsletter rack. Priests in our diocese rely principally on the Christmas & Easter offerings for the bulk of their income. We do not receive an annual salary. Thank you for your generosity.

Lent in the Parish

Passiontide: this weekend some of our Crucifixes and statues will be veiled to remind us of the nearness of the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

Praying the Gospel of Mark during Lent: based on *Meeting God in Mark* by Rowan Williams (SPCK). Individually, we can pray a few verses each day.

Here is Week 6: Monday to PALM SUNDAY – Mon: 12:38-44; Tues: Mk 13:1-23; Wed: Mk 13:24-37; Thurs: Mk 14:1-11; Fri: 14:12-31; Sat: Mk 14:32-52. The following Reflection is given for Palm Sunday: From Jesus' teaching in the Temple to his dramatic arrest in the garden, the tension between Jesus and the authorities is building, as is the reader's sense of agitation. Jesus is becoming more isolated, and even his followers' efforts at faithfulness are found wanting. As readers, our enthusiasm for this climax to Jesus' story is tempered by his unsettling apocalyptic warnings.

What do you imagine God is experiencing at the time of the Son's death draws near? How would you feel if you were one of Jesus' disciples at this stage of his ministry?

God, give me insight to experience Jesus' story as it was, not only the beautiful parts, but the difficult as well. Amen.

The Big Lent Walk: sponsor forms are available in the porch. The aim is to complete 200km during Lent. All proceeds go to Cafod. Fr Brian has so far completed 160km since Ash Wednesday.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2024

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
Masses Sat 23 Mar 5.30pm & Sun 24 Mar 9 & 11am
Palms will be blessed at all Masses. Please bring along greenery for the 9 & 11am processions.
(weather permitting, the 9 & 11am Masses will start in the Becket Centre)

Lent Penitential Service at St John's, St Richard's Road, Monday of Holy Week, 25 March at 7pm. The Advent Penitential Service was at St Thomas' and Fr Matthew and parishioners from St John's joined us. They now invite us to join them for the Lent service.

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

MAUNDY THURSDAY 28 March
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 7.30pm
(including Washing of the Feet)
Watching at the Altar of Repose until 10pm

GOOD FRIDAY 29 March
Children's Stations of the Cross 1030am
Confessions 1130am
SOLEMN LITURGY 3pm
Confessions 6pm
Stations of the Cross 7pm

HOLY SATURDAY 30 March
Confessions 11am
THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL 8pm
(weather permitting, the Easter fire & blessing of the Paschal Candle will be in the front garden of the presbytery)
[NB clocks go forward one hour during the night]

EASTER SUNDAY 31 March
Easter Day Masses at 9 & 11am with the Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Diocesan, National & International News
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER IN THE LAKE DISTRICT? Castlerigg Manor (Diocese of Lancaster Retreat Centre) are looking for a Programme Leader to join their youth ministry team. The post is residential and comes with a salary package in the range of £26-28k. Would suit somebody with youth ministry experience. Contact: jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Catholic Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes, including Southwark: 23-30 August 2024. Register your interest: www.catholicassociation.co.uk **Ask anything** (from pilgrims on Zoom): 16 March 2024 11am: www.catholicassociation.co.uk/askanything

A Prayer for Peace & Justice

O God of peace, who are peace itself, and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp, nor a violent mind receive, grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good and that those in conflict may forget evil and so be healed. Amen.

LENT – A TIME FOR MERCY

A few words from Pope Francis: We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace.

Is this Lent a good time to celebrate this Sacrament?
A blessed week ahead, fr Brian

