St. Thomas of Canterbury RC Church Newsletter

PARISH CLERGY Fr Tom McElhone (T: 232972)

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**St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, Romany Road, Gillingham ME8 6JH**

**Tel: (01634) 234677 Head Teacher Mrs Vicki Gallagher**

**St. John Fisher Catholic Secondary School, City Way, Rochester ME1 2FA**

**Tel: (01634)** **543123 Head Teacher Mrs Dympna Lennon**

**Parish Secretary**: Emma’s office hours this week: 9-12 Thursday & Friday

**Live Streamed Mass Links** are available on our website [www.rcrainham.co.uk](http://www.rcrainham.co.uk)

**Pope’s April Prayer Intention: For the dignity of women.** During April, Catholics are asked to pray that “the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture.” The prayer intention includes praying for an end to the discrimination many women face in different parts of the world.

**Funeral: Lawrence Micallef†**, St Thomas’ Church, Monday 22nd April at 10.00am, followed by committal at the Garden of England Crematorium at 11.00am.

**Recently Deceased: John Coyne† and Victor†.** Please remember their family and friends in your prayers, may they rest in peace, Amen.

**THE SEASON OF EASTER** “The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one ‘great Sunday’. **CYCLE OF PRAYER** - Intentions for Eastertide:

New Members of the Church

Vocations - especially on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations 4th Sunday of Easter

Survivors of Sexual Abuse - especially on Tuesday in the 5th week of Easter

Right Use of the Media - especially on World Communications Day 7th Sunday of Easter

The Church - especially at Pentecost

Human Work - especially on 1st May, St Joseph the Worker.

**Thank you** to the stewards, readers and all who prepared the Church for Holy Week and

***I would like to wish everyone a Blessed and Happy Easter, Fr Tom***

**Welcome** to all who have come to live in our Parish, it is good to see. If you would like to celebrate prayers of blessing for your family and house, please contact Fr Tom or Deacon Arthur. You may like to fill in a parish registration form, available at rear of the Church.

**Pastoral Message on the Question of Assisted Suicide.** There are various individuals and groups calling for a change in legislation to enable assisted suicide. Please to write to your MPs to ask them to oppose this dangerous threat to the dignity and value of human life. Copies of the Pastoral Message are available at the rear of Church.

**Any Mass Readers** who missed the recent training evening, but would like to receive material in support of your Ministry, please email Jim at [jplspencer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jplspencer@hotmail.co.uk)

**Dear Friends** - thank you so much for your precious gift of £65.00, which is helping us to transform the lives of hungry children around the world with a nutritious daily meal in school. Your kindness is bringing food, joy and hope to the children who eat Mary’s Meals,allowing them to make the most of their education and giving them the chance of a better future.

**Please** see our noticeboard and website [www.rcrainham.co.uk](http://www.rcrainham.co.uk) for up-coming events.

**Beginning Experience Weekend,** 12th-14th April, Sion Community, Essex, CM15 9BX

**SVP** quiz night Friday 26th April in the hall. More details nearer the date

**Mass Celebration** of the Sacrament of Marriage,July 13thSt George’s Cathedral

**A Day with Mary 2024 Pilgrimages** to Fatima & Italy visit: [www.adaywithmary.org](http://www.adaywithmary.org/)

**Collections:** 23rd & 24th March main collection in Church: £919.66 not including S/O’s.

£173.65 was given in March for the foodbank. Thank you for your kind generosity.

**MARCH & APRIL 2023**

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| 30 Saturday  Vigil Mass  31 Sunday  Holy Week Clip Art | **10.00**  **18.00**  **10.30**  **18.00** | **Easter Food Blessing**  **THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT**  **Confessions 10.30-11.30am & 5.30-6.30pm**  Michelle Burnett† (SVP)  Procession of Easter Light  **EASTER SUNDAY - THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**  **Renewal of Baptismal Promises**  People of the Parish  Lesley King† (Eileen & Denise Mills) |
| 1 Monday | **10.00** | **Monday within the Octave of Easter**  Mary & Kevin Bishop |
| 2 Tuesday | **10.00** | **Tuesday within the Octave of Easter**  Trais Rabuya† (Mr & Mrs Chugg) |
| 3 Wednesday | **10.00** | **Wednesday within the Octave of Easter**  Eucharistic Service |
| 4 Thursday | **10.00** | **Thursday within the Octave of Easter**  Val Riseborough (Ronnie Riseborough & Family) |
| 5 Friday | **10.00** | **Friday within the Octave of Easter**  Deceased Members of Lewis Family† (Anne) |
| 6 Saturday  Vigil Mass | **18.00** | **Saturday within the Octave of Easter**  Daphine Clarke† (Noel Fernandez) |
| 7 Sunday | **10.30**  **18.00** | **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  People of the Parish  Majella Shackleford (Eileen & Denise Mills) |