

The Complete
Funeral Service

JOHIN WHEIR

Funeral Directors
A Private Family Owned
And Run Business

- 24 Hour Personal Service
- Bereavement Counselling 130-132 High Street Rainham Kent ME8 8AR
- Monumental Masons
- Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans
- Private Chapels of Rest
- Horse Drawn Hearse Available

01634 373111

01634 855558

01634 408777

127 Watling St
Gillingham
Kent ME7 2YY
Car Parking Available

25 New Road
Chatham
Kent ME4 4QJ
Car Parking Available



Volume 32

Issue No 3

January, February, March 2021

CATHOLIC PARISH OF RAINHAM

PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Thomas of Canterbury Church
61 London Road, Rainham,

Gillingham, Kent, ME8 7RH

Parish Website www.rcrainham.co.uk
Fr Tom McElhone - 2 Century Road,
Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0BG
Telephone 01634 232972

Deacon James Coleman – Tel: 01634 306558

Deacon Arthur Champ - 01634 360251

St. Thomas of Canterbury School,
Romany Road, Rainham, Gillingham,
Kent, ME8 6JH

Head Teacher Mrs Clare Redmond
Telephone 01634 234677



24 HOUR HOME CARE VERSUS RESIDENTIAL CARE

Here are six things we think you should know

1 Working around you.

We work with you, while you remain in your own home.

2 The right care in your own home.

This is a proven fact that your own health can be enhanced.

3 At home with your very own Care Team.

Have your very own trained care team, solely there for you.

4 One size never fits all

We will tailor the care needs, and respect your wishes.

5 It's your life, live it like you want to

Choose your own agenda every day.

6 Friends, Family and The Community

Stay close to your friends, family and community with whom you have put down roots.



To arrange a free consultation in the comfort of your own home then please get in touch. Call us now on 01634 780909 or e-mail the Bluebird Care (Medway) team at medway@bluebirdcare.co.uk

*I needed
companionship &
someone to take me
shopping. You sent
the very person
I needed, Carol,
she could have
been family**



Your Premier Home Help Service

We carefully choose and match our assistants
and make sure that you see the same face.

We can be there to assist you:

At Home

- With the housework
- Respite sitting
- Well-being visits
- Gardening/Handyman

Out & About

- Visiting the shops
- Support to appointments
- Companionship for outings

Assistants CRB checked, insured & referenced

Please call us on:

**01634
316821**



Nominated
2014

Take Care

Caring For Your Independence

www.takecareltd.co.uk

**TRUDY BOULTON RGN RM
FCFHP MAFHP**

FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Tel: 01634 371910 or 07903 793 370

Painful corns removed, verrucae treated

Callous and hard skin removed

Fungal infection advice & treatment

Ingrown, involuted, thickened or

discoloured toenails treated

Diabetic & routine foot/hand care & advice

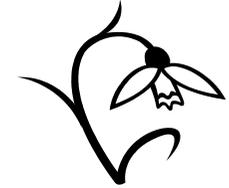
**HOME VISITS, EVENING OR SATURDAY
APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE**



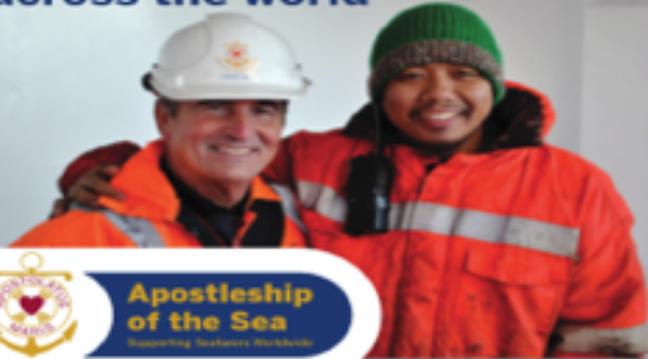
To advertise in this magazine please contact:

Mrs Alma Payne on 01634 362896

Or almapayne1@gmail.com



**Serving Seafarers from
across the world**



**Apostleship
of the Sea**
Supporting Seafarers Worldwide

For nearly 100 years our Catholic community has served millions of seafarers from across the world. Seafarers spend many months away from home and family, often exploited and in lonely and harsh conditions. Your support will enable AoS to continue as a mission of hope, meeting their spiritual, practical and pastoral needs.

**Please give generously, a donation from
you will make all the difference**

www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

Registered charity in England and Wales number 1069533. Registered charity in Scotland number SC043085.

SALES ▾ SERVICE ▾ SALT ▾ FILTERS



**Your local water softener and
drinking filter specialist**

SERVING ALL OF KENT AND SUSSEX

KENT 01304 606 100

SUSSEX 01444 891 004

www.hydroworks.co.uk

hello@hydroworks.co.uk

FREEPHONE

**0800
999
4117**



JMC Mowers
lawn mower repair service

All makes & models repaired and serviced
Ride-on mowers, electric, petrol & robotic
Blade & cutter sharpening
Chainsaws, strimmers, blowers & hedgecutters
Staff with 20 years' experience in the industry

T: 01795 420969
E: enquiries@jmc-mowers.co.uk
W: www.jmc-mowers.co.uk
Highsted Barn • Highsted Valley
Sittingbourne • ME9 0AG
JMC Mowers is a division of JMC Hi-Tech Ltd.



 BenMackinsFHP

Ben Mackins 07389 139134 
MCFHP, MAFHP
Foot Health Professional

Foot Health Treatment

In Your Home

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Toenail Trimming | Corn Removal |
| Thickened Nail Reduction | Ingrown Nail Treatment |
| Diabetic Foot Care | Fingernail Trimming |
| Neurovascular Assessments | Cracked Heel Treatment |
| Callus Reduction | Verruca Treatment |
| Fungal Nail Treatment | Athlete's Foot Treatment |

Lord Jesus
When you walked with us on earth
you spread your healing power.
We place in your loving care [named petition]
and all who are affected by Coronavirus.
Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.
Bring relief to our sick,
console our bereaved,
protect those who care for us.
We lift our prayers to you Lord,
and trust in your infinite mercy.
Amen

We ask Mary Our Mother to intercede for us, as we say:

Hail Mary, full of grace



??????? EASTER PUZZLE ???????

1 Periods of 40 days and 40 nights turn up remarkably frequently in the Old Testament. Which of the following does not appear in the Old Testament?

- a) Rain fell during the flood for 40 days and 40 nights
- b) Moses was on the mount for 40 days and 40 nights
- c) Elijah was fed for 40 days in the wilderness by ravens
- d) Jonah spent 40 days and 40 nights in the whale's stomach

2 Portuguese settlers in Africa were allowed to eat hippopotamus during Lent, on the grounds that it spent so much time under water it must really be a fish. True or False?

- a) True
- b) False

3 While filming The Passion of the Christ, the actor who played Jesus, James Caviezel, suffered all manner of pain and indignity. Which of the following did not happen to him?

- a) Accidentally whipped twice, leaving a 14in scar on his back
- b) Experienced a shoulder separation when the cross fell on him
- c) Struck by lightning during the Sermon on the Mount
- d) Fell off the cross when inadequately tethered and hurt his knee

4 How is Good Friday translated in most of the Scandinavian languages?

- a) Good Friday
- b) Great Friday
- c) Holy Friday
- d) Long Friday

5 Protestant English monarchs regarded hot cross buns as a dangerous symbol of Catholicism and attempted to ban them. Which monarch passed a law allowing bakeries to make and sell them, but only at Easter and Christmas?

- a) Henry VIII
- b) Mary I
- c) Elizabeth I
- d) James I

6 When archaeologists excavated this ancient city, which had been buried under volcanic ash since AD 79, they found two small buns, each marked with a cross. Which city?

- a) Pompeii
- b) Herculaneum
- c) Nola
- d) Messina

7 The Easter Bunny is a fertility symbol in all but name. In one country at least the rabbit is not good news, the Easter Bunny has been replaced by the 'Easter Bilby'. Where?

- a) Canada
- b) Jamaica
- c) New Zealand
- d) Australia

8 Which Christian name, popular in France, is derived from a Latin word meaning 'relating to Easter' and is therefore usually given to children born at around that time?

- a) Joel
- b) Raphael
- c) Gabriel
- d) Pascal

9 As well as painting eggs and going cross-country skiing, inhabitants of this country like to spend the Easter week solving murder mysteries. Television stations show little but detective shows, magazines print who-dunnits, even milk cartons have murder stories on their sides. Which country?

- a) Norway
- b) Sweden
- c) Germany
- d) Austria

***Sister Gillian Murphy's letter to Anne Stinson & Friends,
December 2020:***

1 December 2020

Dear Anne & Friends

As I sat down to write my Christmas letter this year and went through my diary, I did wonder what I was going to say. It certainly hasn't been a year during which there has been a lot happening ... certainly not for me!

However, I have come up with a cunning plan and that is to bore you with my visit to Sri Lanka, which I announced in my Christmas letter last year!

I was there from the end of November until the end of December and was lucky enough to spend the build-up to the Christmas season with the Sisters. What impressed me the most was how similar the preparation in school is to what I was doing when I was teaching! Decorations ... concerts ... singing ... dressing up ... Advent wreaths ... Carol Services ... Nativity plays etc etc. There isn't the same excitement here in Le Mans.

I'll never forget the hours that we put into getting our concerts ready only for some child to fall up the steps and look for the laughs from the audience How I miss those days now!!

Nevertheless, it was great to be the guest of honour at the various concerts and nativity plays in Sri Lanka, the children are so graceful. Even the sheep was delighted to be a sheep! And these children were no different to the children that I used to teach.

It was an eye opener to spend Christmas in the Southern hemisphere

singing Christmas carols about the snow and the frost in 35 degree humid heat!

The parish that we went to for Midnight Mass had extra chairs all around the outside of the church as they were expecting up to 5,000 people for the Mass. There was tight security at all the churches because of the bomb blasts that had occurred the previous Easter. Anyone that arrived after the stroke of midnight was not allowed in through the airport style security gates. Still, we sang all the usual favourites ... Away in a Manger, Silent Night, Ding Dong merrily on High etc etc.

When we finally got home at around 4.30am (no, the Mass didn't last that long We went to a feast with the parish clergy!) We went to bed, only to get up at 6am to go back to the Christmas Day Mass at 7am!!

Lunch was a grand affair of spicy seafood curry, chicken a la Sri Lankan, plenty of rice and vegetables and home-made ice cream.

As Christmas day is not a holiday in this mostly Buddhist country we caught a bus to go to the beach for the afternoon. It was great fun to be able to paddle in the sea on Christmas Day, and the presence of the Sisters certainly caused a bit of a stir. A great time was had by all!!

As you can imagine I am extremely grateful to have been able to go to Sri Lanka before the lockdown. Since then I have had my Irish passport as both my parents are Irish. I am hoping it will save me a lot of time and effort after Brexit!!!

I have been to Valladolid in Spain to teach the young men training to be priests. I should have gone three times this year, but have only managed once. We will have to see for next year. I spent a fortnight in Bradford with mum in August. She wasn't great at that time but has perked up a bit since. It has been hard not being able to go and visit

family and friends hasn't it. But we will appreciate those encounters all the more when they happen!

I saw on the internet that Alan Boxall had died. May he rest in peace!

It seems such a long time since I've been to Rainham, and it's not looking good for the near future!

I hear Jacinta Connelly is now the Deputy Head. (Sheelagh Graves sent me a bit of news!)

I still play the guitar, alone, for me, not like in the good old days. It occupies a place in my bedroom!!

I still play the guitar, alone, for me, not like in the good old days. It occupies a place in my bedroom!!

Much love

Gillian



“The perfect family doesn't exist, or is there a perfect husband or a perfect wife, and let's not talk about the perfect mother-in-law! It's just us sinners.” A healthy family requires frequent use of three phrases. “May I? Thank you, and I'm sorry” and “never, never, never end the day without making peace.”

Pope Francis

On Valentine's Day

An old man got on a bus one 14 February, carrying a dozen roses. He sat beside a young man. The young man looked at the roses and said, “Somebody's going to get a beautiful Valentine's Day gift.”

“Yes,” said the old man.

A few minutes went by and the old man noticed that his young companion was staring at the roses. “Do you have a girlfriend?” the old man asked.

“I do, said the young man. “I'm going to see her right now, and I'm going to give her this Valentine's Day card.”

They rode in silence for another ten minutes, and then the old man got up to get off the bus. As he stepped out into the aisle, he suddenly placed the roses on the young man's lap and said, “I think my wife would want you to have these. I'll tell her that I gave them to you.”

He left the bus quickly. As the bus pulled away, the young man turned to see the old man enter the gates of a cemetery.

Source unknown



Funerals:

- 10.12.20 Zygmunt Piotr Zebrowski
- 31.12.20 Peter Ryan
- 18.01.21 Paul Tapley
- 11.02.21 Patrick Lawrence John Hamilton
- 12.2.21 John Magee



Anniversaries:

January

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 01.1.16 Maureen Atkins | 01.1.17 Patricia Singh |
| 05.1.19 Bill Divine | 06.1.19 Tom Bertuello |
| 23.1.17 Jill Dowell | 27.1.17 Mary McDowell |
| 18.1.18 Stephen Plummer | 20.01.20 Frank Eric Stevens |
| 20.1.19 Helen Mary O'Brien | |
| 20.1.17 Elizabeth Marie Mountain | |
| 20.1.20 Frank Eric Stevens (funeral) | |
| 21.1.20 Barbara Marie Casey (funeral) | |
| 23.1.20 Alison Mary McManigan (funeral) | |
| 27.1.17 Ian Jenner | 30.1.18 Norah Wood |

February:

- 09.2.18 Bernard Joseph Stebbens
- 12.2.18 Joan Cullen
- 13.2.19 Margaret Isabel Hanley
- 18.2.16 Janet Laus
- 18.2.19 James McNama
- 21.2.16 Violet Davison

March:

- 17.4.17 Francis Parsons
- 23.4.17 Amelia Farnham
- 24.4.16 Mavis Lovibond
- 27.4.17 Ellen Cooper



To LIVE in the HEARTS we leave behind is not to DIE



We are aware that parishioners have expressed concern that they are unable to support the ongoing costs of the parish through their regular offertory collections at this time while the church is closed. If you wish to provide your regular support you

can do so by setting up a Bankers Order or by donating to the church accounts by Bank Transfer. If you wish to do so please contact me on e-mail chrisiles311@gmail.com or by phone on 01634 373840 [please leave a message if the answer phone cuts in] and I will provide bank details. Alternatively make a single donation when the church is reopened.

Thank you for your concern
Take care and keep safe

Chris Iles Parish Finance Chairman

HOLY WEEK 28th March-4th April – Due to Covid restrictions, you will be required to book if you wish to attend any of the following services by calling the parish office on **232972** or emailing rainham@rcaos.org.uk
Palm Sunday 28th at 10.30am, Vigil 6.00pm,
Maundy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper 8.00pm, **Good Friday** Solemn Liturgy 3pm,
Station of the Cross & Adoration 7.30pm, Easter Vigil 8.00pm, Easter Sunday 10.30pm.

Please observe current **Government guidelines** when in Church to ensure everyone's safety. **PLEASE CHECK AGAIN NEARER THE DATE**

The Night before Christmas alternative:

T'was one sleep before Christmas, and all through the town, people wore masks that covered their frown. The frown has begun way back in the Spring when a global pandemic changed everything. They called it Corona, but unlike the beer, it didn't bring good times, it didn't bring good cheer.

Airplanes were grounded, travel was banned. Borders were closed across air, sea and land. As the world entered lockdown to flatten the curve, the economy halted, and folks lost their nerve. From March to July we rode the first wave, people stayed home, they've tried to behave.

When Summer emerged, the lockdown was lifted but away from caution, many folks drifted. Now it's December and cases are spiking, wave two has arrived, much to our disliking. It's true that this year has had sadness a-plenty, we'll never forget the year 2020. And just round the corner – the holiday season, but why be merry? Is there even one reason? To decorate the house and put up the tree, who will see it, no one but me.

But outside my window, the snow gently falls, and I think to myself, let's deck the halls! So, I gather the ribbon, the garland and bows, as I play those old carols my happiness grows. Christmas is not cancelled and neither is hope. If we lean on each other, I know we can cope ... Keep smiling



Found on Facebook (I didn't want to save it for next year as, by then things might have changed, hopefully, and this awful situation with the pandemic might be better) – fingers crossed

Editor's Note:

It seems hard to believe that this time last year we knew nothing of the dreaded Corona Virus and little did we know of the devastation it would cause, or how much life as we know it would change.

At the moment one day seems much like the next but hopefully things will get better as more people are vaccinated and more countries gain access to vaccines. We can but hope and pray.

This lock down seems very different to the last and the winter weather probably hasn't helped.

Thank you Sister Gillian for your annual letter, it's lovely to hear from you. It doesn't seem 5 minutes since you were in Rainham, although it's a long time ago now!

Please would some of you think about writing something about life or experiences for the magazine. I often see you on face book and it would be nice to hear from you.

Alma Payne
Editor
Parish Magazine
Tel: 01634 362896
e-mail: almapayne1@gmail.com

- call someone, for no other reason than to just say "hi"
- show kindness to an animal
- stand up for what you believe in
- smell the rain, feel the breeze, listen to the wind
- use all your senses to their fullest
- cherish all your TODAYs

STILL PUZZLED?? STILL PUZZLED?? STILL PUZZLED??

1 Periods of 40 days and 40 nights turn up remarkably frequently in the Old Testament. Which of the following does not?

d) Jonah spent 40 days and 40 nights in the whale's stomach

2 Portuguese settlers in Africa were allowed to eat hippopotamus during Lent, on the grounds that it spent so much time under water it must really be a fish.

a) True.

3 While filming The Passion of the Christ the actor who played Jesus, James Caviezel, suffered all manner of pain and indignity. Which of the following did not happen to him?

d) Fell off the cross when inadequately tethered and hurt his knee

4 How is Good Friday translated in most of the Scandinavian languages?

d) Long Friday

5 Protestant English monarchs regarded hot cross buns as a dangerous symbol of Catholicism and attempted to ban them. Which monarch passed a law allowing bakeries to make and sell them, but only at Easter and Christmas?

c) Elizabeth I

6 When archaeologists excavated this ancient city, which had been buried under volcanic ash since AD 79, they found two small buns, each marked with a cross. Which city?

b) Herculaneum

7 The Easter Bunny is a fertility symbol in all but name. In one country at least the rabbit is not good news, the Easter Bunny has been replaced by the 'Easter Bilby'. Where?

d) Australia

8 Which Christian name, popular in France, is derived from a Latin word meaning 'relating to Easter' and is therefore usually given to children born at around that time?

d) Pascal

9 As well as painting eggs and going cross-country skiing, inhabitants of this country like to spend the Easter week solving murder mysteries. Television stations show little but detective shows, magazines print whodunnits, even milk cartons have murder stories on their sides. Which country?

a) Norway

