

HOLY WEEK

APRIL		<u>MASS & CONFESSION TIME</u>
12 Saturday		Feria 5.15pm-5.45pm
Confessions	18.00	People of the Parish
Vigil Mass		Easter Flowers
Collection		PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
13 Sunday	10.30	Jean Murphy† (Noel Fernandez)
	18.00	Majella Shackelford (Eileen & Denise Mills)
Collection		Easter Flowers
14 Monday	10.00	Holy Week - Shirley George (Theresa & Florence)
15 Tuesday	10.00	Holy Week - Fr Brian Coyle (Morning Mass People)
	19.00	PARISH SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION
16 Wednesday	9.20	Station of the Cross
	10.00	Holy Week - No Mass Eucharistic Service
	11.30	Chrism Mass at St George's Cathedral
17 Thursday		MAUNDY THURSDAY - June Dante† (Dante Family)
	20.00	Mass of the Lord's Supper with Washing of the feet
18 Friday		FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - Good Friday
	12.00	Children's Stations of the Cross
	15.00	Passion of the Lord
	19.00	Stations of the Cross
Collection	20.00	Pray around the Cross
19 Saturday		Holy Places of Palestine
	10.00	THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT
	20.00	Blessing of Food for Easter
Vigil Mass		Easter Vigil Mass - Procession of Easter Light
		Tom Cater† ((UCM)
20 Sunday		EASTER SUNDAY
		THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
	10.30	Renewal of Baptismal Promises
		People of the Parish
	18.00	Renewal of Baptismal Promises
		Eileen Magee (Elane Cottiss)

We wish you blessings of Peace & Joy this Easter

To donate online, please scan the QR code.
Thank you for the generosity of our Parishioners and Visitors.



PARISH NEWS



Easter Flowers there will be a 2nd collection at all Masses this weekend for contributions towards the cost of the flowers which adorn our Church during the Easter period. We would be most grateful for any donations towards the floral displays.

Traditional Easter Blessing will be held in Church on Easter Saturday, 19th April at 10.00am for parishioners who would like their Easter food baskets blessed.

EASTER OFFERINGS: The collection taken during all Easter Masses is traditionally your personal gift to the parish clergy. A priest's income is normally whatever he receives from the parish (mainly Mass offerings). The collection at Easter forms an important part of his income for the year and enables him to meet personal expenses. Offerings made by cheque must be made payable to "St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church". Please indicate on the envelopes "Easter Donations". If you are away at Easter, you can always hand in your offering before you go. Thank you

Save the Date! Current fundraiser events are: **Wine & Wisdom 'School Days' Quiz Night**, Saturday 3rd May in the Parish Centre. Further details to follow. **Parish BBQ - Pentecost** Sunday June 8th, any help in arranging this would be gratefully received.

Further to enquires regarding our parish's finances please see a brief summary below:

What happens to collection money? **Counted & deposited weekly at bank, record in newsletter**
Do we have to pay the Diocese each week? **Yes, please see P&L accounts *Diocese assessments and collections* totalling £28,178 for 2024.**

Who pays for the "normal" upkeep of the church building, presbytery and bungalow? i.e. Gas, Electricity, water rates, cleaning etc? **This is paid for by the weekly collections (First Collection)**

Does St Thomas Church have any reserves to cover emergencies? **A separate higher interest deposit account of £12k, but we would have to approach the Diocese if have any financial difficulties**

Does the Diocese help with any expenses ever?

We would have to approach the Diocese if have financial difficulties.

Is there any allowance for maintenance of the church and/or the other buildings? **This comes from weekly collections/standing orders, would have to approach Diocese if have financial difficulties.**

Do we have a finance group? **There is a group of 5 volunteers (6 including Father) who make up the Finance Committee that meet every quarter to discuss the Parishes finances.**

Are accounts drawn up, balanced and audited each year? **Yes each year by the Finance Diocese. The parish had an internal audit in December 2024, no major concerns were raised.**

Copies of our profit and loss accounts for 2024 can be obtain from the rear of Church.

COLLECTION: 5th & 6th April main collection in Church was £814.61

Confirmation for those interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, please complete and return the designated form from rear of Church to the office by the 30th April 2025.

Parishioners with sick or housebound members not on the visitation list, please call the office if they wish to receive visits from communion ministers and clergy.



ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY RC CHURCH

63 London Road, Rainham, ME8 7RH

Tel: 01634 353771 Email: rainham@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Emmanuel Onwu (T:232972)

Email: emmanuelonwu@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Deacons: Deacon Arthur Champ (T: 07856560738)

Deacon James Coleman (T:306558)

Parish Secretary: Emma's hrs: 9-12 - Mon, Wed & Fri

Safeguarding email: rainhamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, Tel: (01634) 234677

St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School Tel: (01634) 543123



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (Year C) 13th APRIL

Dear Friends,

We have entered a truly profound and significant time known as HOLY WEEK, the final week of Lent leading up to Easter. Throughout this week, we take special time to reflect on the final days of Jesus Christ's life and are encouraged to engage in various meaningful activities.

PALM SUNDAY: This day marks the commencement of Holy Week and celebrates Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, welcomed by a joyful crowd who waved palm branches and laid their cloaks on the ground. Palms hold a special significance in this celebration, just as they did in Jesus' time, representing peace, justice, joy, and festivity. During the service, we receive small palm crosses to display in our homes throughout the year as symbols of our faith. These crosses are burned the following Lent to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Christians observe this day as the one of the Last Supper, notable for Jesus washing His disciples' feet and establishing the Blessed Eucharist. Traditionally, this is also when oils for anointing during the year are blessed at the Chrism Mass, typically held in the Cathedral. That evening, we gather for the Mass of the Lord's Supper, celebrated at dusk in accordance with the Passover tradition. During the service, priests wash the feet of twelve individuals, mirroring Jesus' act of humility. After the Mass, the altar is stripped bare and crosses are either removed or covered, serving as a stark reminder of Jesus' impending arrest and His anguished prayers. Following this, we participate in Eucharistic adoration at the altar of repose, where we keep Jesus company in quiet worship until midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY: This solemn day invites us to remember the passion and crucifixion of Jesus. We reflect deeply on His suffering and death, and it is a time for us to participate in the Stations of the Cross.

HOLY SATURDAY: Often regarded as the most sacred of all solemnities, this evening focuses on vigil, as the faithful hold lighted candles akin to those waiting at the Lord's tomb, engaging in prayer and meditation on Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to immerse themselves in the essential observances of HOLY WEEK.

Every Blessing, Fr Emmanuel

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (Year C) 13th APRIL

Entrance Antiphon: Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest.

1st Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm 21 - R: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

2nd Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Acclamation: 2:8-9 R: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

The Gospel: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 22:14-23:56

Communion Antiphon: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

Live Streamed Mass Links are available on our website: www.rcrainham.co.uk

CHANGE TO HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME - Please note there is a Parish Service of Reconciliation at 19.00pm on Tuesday 15th April with visiting priests. There will be no confessions at 10.30am on Monday and Tuesday morning.

Pope's April prayer intention: For the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

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.



Easter Egg Hunt - 21st April at The Friars Aylesford, starting in the North Barn 10.00am to 3.00pm, £5 (in advance) or £6 on the door per child who participates. Pre-book by calling 01622 717272. For full details see poster at rear of Church.

Vacancy for the position of Secretary at Our Lady of Gillingham. Those interested should send their application to hr@rcaos.org.uk before 24th April 2025. Visit <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/get-involved/vacancies/vacancies-in-southwark/parish-secretary-our-lady-of-gillingham/> for full details.

Assisted suicide Bill even worse than before Committee Stage of the assisted suicide Bill has ended. It is now weaker and less safe than it was before. 300+ amendments that sought to strengthen safeguards in the Bill and protect vulnerable groups were rejected by Bill supporters, including protection for people with disabilities and domestic abuse victims. **Please take action now - collect a postcard, fill out your details and post it to your MP today!**