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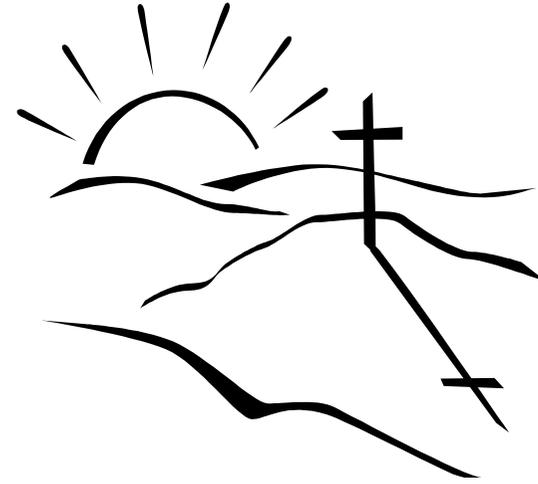
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CATHOLIC PARISH OF RAINHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



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 - 248 Lower Twydall Lane,
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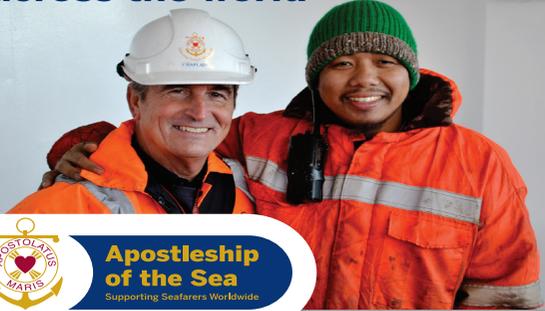
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Meeting at 10.15am every Wednesday inside Twydall Library, starting at 10.30am for a 45 minute flat walk suitable for beginners. For further details please contact:

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E-mail: laura.greenstreet@medway.gov.uk



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Maundy Thursday:



Maundy Thursday is the fifth day of Holy Week leading up to Easter. It commemorates the washing of the feet and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his disciples. Christ washed their feet as a demonstration of His humility. He also gave them a new commandment, that they should love one another. It is Jesus' final meal with His disciples before He is crucified. They had gathered for the Passover, which set an important context for what Jesus did at the

Last Supper. In Christian tradition, this was the meal at which He instituted the Eucharist, the Mass, and the priesthood - all core traditions in the Catholic Church. Sadly, few calendars highlight it and some churches don't observe it at all, even though it may be the oldest of the Holy Week observances.

This tradition was continued by his followers, and is still practiced by modern day Popes the day before Good Friday. It has also been practiced by a number of monarchs, lords, and religious leaders, often in conjunction with a distribution of alms in the form of food and drink [dole], cloth, and money.

In Britain, the tradition of giving silver coins to the poor is said to have originated with St. Augustine in 597 AD at Canterbury, and has been performed by the monarch since the days of Edward II [1307 – 1327]. Originally the recipients were all of the same sex as the monarch, but at some stage this was extended to both sexes. Samuel Pepys commented in 1667 "but the King [Charles II] did not wash the poor people's feet himself, but the Bishop of London did it for him." James II [1685 - 1688] is said to have been the last British monarch to have performed this act personally. The washing of the feet by the Bishop of London was abandoned in the 18th century.

In later times the ceremony was performed at the Chapel Royal in Whitehall, but later moved to Westminster Abbey. Early in

Queen Elizabeth II's reign, she decided that the service should be held not just in London but at a different venue every year. In 1961 it was held in Rochester.

In the United Kingdom, Maundy Thursday features the monarch offering Maundy money to selected senior citizens - one man and one woman for each year of the monarch's age. The monarch presents each man and woman with a red and white purse during the service. The red purse traditionally contains an allowance for clothing and provisions. The white purse holds Maundy coins to match the monarch's age [legally, "the Queen's Maundy money"] as symbolic alms to elderly recipients. The coins are legal tender but do not circulate because of their silver content and numismatic [the study or collection of currency] value.

Clifford Mickleburgh



Editor's Note:

Spring seems to have started earlier this year and everything is in bloom. The sun is actually shining as I write, soon be Summer!!

Thank you for your contributions to the magazine. It's always good to hear everyone's news. If you go along to a service or event please do share it with others in the magazine. My grateful thanks also to Theresa providing us with news from the school, I hope all goes well for you.

Copy date for the next magazine is the 24 April. I hope you all have a very happy and holy Easter.

Alma Payne
Editor

Tel: 01634 362896

E-mail: almapayne1@gmail.com

Puppies for Sale

A farmer had some Border Collie puppies to sell. He painted a sign advertising the pups and set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard. As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eyes of a little boy.

“Mister”, he said, “I want to buy one of your puppies.” “Well,” said the farmer, as he rubbed the sweat off the back of his neck, “These puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money.” The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer. “I’ve got thirty-nine pence, is that enough to have a look at them?” “Sure,” said the farmer. And with that he let out a whistle. “Here, Dolly!” he called.

Out from the barn ran Dolly followed by eight little balls of fur. The little boy leaned as far as he could, over the wall, his eyes dancing with delight, as Dolly and her pups ran towards him and the farmer. But the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the barn – slowly another little pup appeared, this one noticeably smaller. It moved in a somewhat awkward manner, hobbling after the others, but doing its best to catch up

“I want that one!” the little boy said, pointing to the runt. The farmer knelt down at the boy’s side and said, “Son, you don’t want that puppy. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would.” With that the little boy stepped back from the wall, reached down, and began rolling up one trouser leg. In doing so he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg and attached to a specially made shoe. Looking back up at the farmer, he said, “You see sir, I don’t run too well myself, and he will need someone who understands.”

With tears in his eyes, the farmer reached down and picked up the little pup. Holding it carefully he handed it to the little boy. “How much?” asked the little boy. “No charge,” answered the farmer, “There’s no charge for love.”



Union of Catholic Mothers



During 2018 the Union of Catholic Mothers raised money for CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and managed to collect the grand total of £1,400, which will be paid over to them shortly to help in their work in the London centre where many of the young people from this area go to be tested.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our friends and parishioners who have contributed in any way towards our fundraising and supported us during the last year. The Carol Concert at St Augustine’s, which many of you supported is a lovely evening and our thanks to the Medway Singers for their support.

This year our charity is Mary’s Meals, who aim to provide one hot meal a day for every child in their place of education.

Any of you who would like to attend our UCM meetings would be most welcome to join us. We fund raise for a different charity each year and at some meetings we just get together for a chat and a coffee. We also have various events going on to make things a bit more interesting. We have recently had a meal at Upchurch Golf Club and we are also joining the St Gerard’s Group for a day at Aylesford this weekend (30 March).

We usually meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 8pm, please come along, we would love to see you!! Just get in touch or find out when and where we are meeting and join us.

Alma Payne, Secretary, UCM Rainham
Tel: 01634 362896

May the spirit of hope that Easter brings
Help you find contentment in little things
And restore your faith in the lord above
Who gave his life for the ones he loves
Happy Easter

Extracts from a Christmas letter from Sister Gillian Murphy who taught at St Thomas' School some years ago.

Christmas 2019:

It's that time of year again when I start apologizing for not meeting up with as many of you as I would have liked! You will see that I've changed my address, yet again. I really do apologise to you and your address books!!! It's a long story! Every six years our Congregation has a General Chapter where we look at the orientation of our work and life for the next six years and elect the people who will lead the whole of the Congregation. Our meeting was held in April and at that meeting I found myself elected on to the leadership team for the next six years. Not only that, but I am the Assistant General, so my prayer each day is that the Superior General doesn't get sick!! As a consequence I have had to move to Le Mans (best known for the 24 hours racing!) for the next six years! I moved here in September.

Le Mans is a beautiful old city with lots of interesting cobbled streets and a more modern part too. In the summer there is a spectacular sound and light show each evening ... and there is plenty of animation throughout the year ... and we have room for visitors!!!

I am now the proud owner of a white Renault Clio, which is standard issue for all the Sisters and I am gradually getting accustomed to driving on the wrong side of the road with the gears and steering wheel on the wrong side too. Most mornings I find myself into the passenger side of the car! I live with 4 other Sisters who make up the leadership team: Sr Josette, the Superior General from Belgium, Gaelle from France, Shiromali from Sri Lanka and Brigitte from Madagascar.

The language used is French. I did think that I was fairly fluent until I had to use it daily ... I find myself in bed at 9.30pm each night as I am shattered after a long day of concentration. My job so far has entailed visiting sisters in the various communities in France, writing and translating letters and attending lots of meetings about finances of the Congregation etc.

As a result of my move, it means that we are closing our house in

Birmingham and leaving the Diocese, which is a source of huge sadness for me as we've been there for the last 20 years and we have some fantastic friends there. We've also been able to take part in some amazing ventures. The goodbyes were long, but we had some great evenings with lots of different groups, culminating in an Open House weekend where we didn't sleep much. It was great to have so many visitors who brought everything from Sri Lankan curry to Mexican Tacos to French cheeses to... well you name it we had it!!! Sr Pauline, my partner in crime is moving to London at Christmas, so I am still backwards and forwards trying to empty the house and sort things out.

In other news

My nephew, Jack, got married in the summer. We had a fabulous time. Obviously it was quite poignant as the move to France was at the back of my mind all the time. Mum thoroughly enjoyed herself. She loves having the family around her, all my other nephews and nieces, including the twins who celebrated their 21st this summer.

After my 8 day retreat (yes ... in silence ...) in Northern Ireland I went to stay with my friend and holiday buddy in her holiday home in County Clare. We did nothing for the whole week except eat, drink, sleep, walk and read ...Despite the good weather in the summer we had plenty of rain to contend with too.

And finally I had the great privilege of being able to go to Valladolid in Spain in November and get back into the classroom for a week to teach the men who are considering priesthood. The rector has become a great friend and I was thoroughly spoilt with lots of fantastic meals both in and out of the college. It made a great break from being in France and it enabled me to do what I love doing ... which is teaching!!

I hope all is well with you! Your new PP (no longer new!) seems to be doing well! Please give my love to all my friends.

Much love and prayers.

Sr Gillian

Thank you Anne for sharing your letter with us, Sr Gillian is so busy and it's always interesting to hear from her.

**News from St Thomas'
March 2019:**

Our first term of 2019 is over and the staff and children of St Thomas' school have returned after the half term holidays. In fact, at the time of writing, we have actually been back for two weeks! A lot has been happening since then and it is amazing to think that we are already half way through the academic year.

As usual, Easter preparations are already underway. Key stage 1 and foundation stage are enjoying learning the Easter Story through the Easter alphabet. Years 4 and 5 are rehearsing for the annual Passion service and the rehearsals are going very well. Mr Griffin and I are very pleased with the children's dedication and the amount of talent being shown. Last Wednesday, we marked the start of Lent by celebrating Mass together as a school for Ash Wednesday. Fr Tom very kindly came to lead us in our worship and the children were very well behaved, reverential and respectful.

On Monday 4th March, the children enjoyed a visiting circus skills group. The children learned acrobatics, juggling and stilt walking among various other circus skills. The whole school was able to join in and all the children and staff had a wonderful time.

On Thursday 7th March, the whole country went book crazy as we celebrated world book day. Our school was no different. Our children were sent home to make hats depicting their favourite books and some of the designs were AMAZING! It was wonderful to see the effort and care that went into the hats. The children very much enjoyed wearing them. Years 2 and 3 were also treated with a visit to Twydall library to meet the librarians and to see the books they have on offer. The children listened to stories and then were able to explore the books in the library. Many children have since signed up for library cards which is wonderful!

On Tuesday 5th March, Mrs Tong and Mr Wilkins brought our cross country club for the second heat of cross country races. This

was held at the Great Lines Athletics track. We seem to have a real talent as our girl's team are still in the lead with one race to go! The next heat is at Cliffe Woods school and we are all keeping our fingers crossed for a St Thomas' victory. Mrs Tong did say that the boys have also been doing extremely well and showing remarkable teamwork. We are very proud of the whole team!

We ask that you pray for our school family during Lent. We pray that, as a school, we can all prepare for the holy season of Easter with reverence and that, as teachers, we can effectively prepare the children for this very special time of year.

Theresa Stanton



Marriage Care (Catholic Marriage Care Ltd)

'Marriage Care' is a voluntary organization offering counseling help to anyone experiencing difficulties in their relationship. Our counsellors are carefully selected, trained and supervised.

As well as counseling Marriage Care also help prepare couples to marry. We provide Marriage Preparation courses. For an appointment or booking please ring 0800 389 3801 or enrol on our website: www.marriagecare.org.uk

Medway Marriage Care are holding Marriage Preparation Days for engaged couples on Sundays 28 April and 19 May this year.

For those couples unable to attend one of the Marriage Preparation days Marriage Care are also able to offer marriage preparation by the FOCCUS method at any time during the year. For further information please e-mail Alma Payne on: almapayne1@gmail.com or telephone 01634 362896.

Lord in thy vast ocean of light
make me a fish
swimming your way of delight,
Olive

**St. Thomas of Canterbury
Bereavement Group**

Our aim is to give the bereaved a time and a space to talk freely about their deceased family and friends in a confidential and safe setting; to meet others in a similar position and to make friends.

We hold a monthly coffee morning on the third Tuesday of the month, (the next one is on 16 April at 10.30) in the Parish Centre. Or we can meet on a one to one bereavement support basis.

You are welcome to come and join us. We look forward to seeing you.

For further help and support: Please contact Father Tom.

Easter Services 2019

Holy Week

- Sunday 14 April 10.30am Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (C) Passion according to Luke
- Thursday 18 April Maundy Thursday

The Easter Triduum

- Thursday 18 April 8pm The Mass of the Lord's Supper
The Washing of the Feet
followed by Adoration for 1 hour
- Friday 19 April 12 noon Children's Stations of the Cross
3pm Friday of the Passion of the Lord
7.30pm Stations of the Cross
- Saturday 20 April 8.30pm The Easter Vigil
The Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Candle – the New Light
- Sunday 21 April 10.30am Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord – Renewal of Baptismal promises
6pm Mass – Renewal of Baptismal promises

The end of the Easter Triduum

From the Registers

Baptisms:

- 09.02.2019 Dilis Reju George
- 03.03.2019 Lewis Carl White

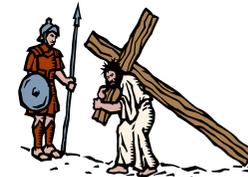
Funerals:

- 13.01.2019 Thomas Michael Bertuello
- 05.02.2019 William Devine
- 11.02.2019 Helen Mary O'Brien
- 21.02.2019 Elizabeth Maire Mountain
- 28.02.2019 Bernard Joseph Stebbens
- 05.03.2019 James Patrick McNama
- 18.03.2019 Margaret Isabel Hanley



Anniversary List:

- 08.03.14 George Doyle
- 19.03.16 Eileen Lewis
- 25.03.15 Theresa Chapman
- 17.04.17 Francis Parsons
- 12.04.16 Mavis Lovibond
- 03.03.15 Mary Rachel Hanson
- 22.03.14 Luigi Lovarini
- 26.03.14 Jean Finch
- 23.04.17 Pamela Farnham
- 27.04.17 Ellen Cooper



CHRIST is the MORNING STAR who, when the NIGHT of this WORLD is past brings HIS SAINTS the promise of The LIGHT OF LIFE and opens EVERLASTING DAY.
Venerable Bede (673 – 735)

St Patrick:



Born Maewyn Succat in Roman Britain around 387AD, he was kidnapped by pirates, taken to Ireland and forced to work as a herdsman in County Antrim for about 6 years. This gave him a great deal of time for contemplation and he believed, that whilst in Ireland, God spoke to him. According to legend his next 12 years were spent at a French monastery studying Christianity under St Germain, the Bishop of Auxerre. Once he was made a bishop in his own right, Patrick Daorbae, as he was then called returned to Ireland to spread Christianity.

Back in Ireland Patrick converted and baptised thousands of people and whilst preaching Christianity he is said to have used the three-leafed shamrock to demonstrate the existence of the Blessed Holy Trinity.

St Patrick is believed to have died on 17 March in 461AD and is thought to be buried at Down Cathedral in County Down. Every year his feast day is widely celebrated not only in Ireland but in many other countries around the world.

COFFEE:



Please come along and meet your fellow parishioners for a cup of coffee (or tea!) after the 10.30am Mass at St Thomas' on a Sunday morning.

From the warmth of the tomb,
 To the cold of the tomb,
 Memories past
 Are meant to last
 Heal them so I may go home
 Then without any aggravation
 I shall kneel in ADORATION
Olive

One Hundred Club Winners 2018-19

April 2018	1 st	Janet Nastaly	54	25.00	
	2 nd	David High	89	20.00	
	3 rd	Bernard Dunn	158	10.00	55.00
May 2018	1 st	Maureen Kelly	88	25.00	
	2 nd	Josephine Page	58	20.00	
	3 rd	Ann-Marie Egan	147	10.00	55.00
June 2018	1 st	David Sheridan	185	25.00	
	2 nd	Monica Flanagan	114	20.00	
	3 rd	Ronnie Risborough	70	10.00	55.00
July 2018	1 st	Theresa Durham	11	25.00	
	2 nd	Steve Classey	125	20.00	
	3 rd	Mary Mickleburgh	16	10.00	55.00
August 2018	1 st	Josephine Page	58	25.00	
	2 nd	Majella Shackelford	29	20.00	
	3 rd	H F Laus	7	10.00	55.00
September 2018	1 st	Collette Thornton	106	25.00	
	2 nd	Tony Roberts	100	20.00	
	3 rd	Mary Hamblin	80	10.00	55.00
October 2018	1 st	Collette Thornton	106	25.00	
	2 nd	Rod O'Neill	26	20.00	
	3 rd	Clifford Mickleburgh	165	10.00	55.00
November 2018	1 st	Cynthia Johnson	118	25.00	
	2 nd	Lyndsay Marley	100	20.00	
	3 rd	Rod O'Neill	26	10.00	55.00
December 2018	1 st	Cynthia Johnson	118	25.00	
	2 nd	Ann Devine	52	20.00	
	3 rd	John Wilkins	62	10.00	55.00
January 2019	1 st	Mary Buultjens	167	25.00	
	2 nd	Yvonne Durkan	2	20.00	
	3 rd	Sr Mary O'Neill	91	10.00	55.00
February 2019	1 st	Claire Drain	122	25.00	
	2 nd	Alan Boxall	21	20.00	
	3 rd	Noah Nicholls (Lindsay Marley)	186	10.00	55.00
March 2019	1 st	Amanda Freeman		100.00	
	2 nd	Mary Buultjens		65.00	
	3 rd	B Jackson		25.00	190.00
Total paid out	-	in prizes		-	£795.00

100 Club Winners to February 2019

The March Draw will be the last for 2018-2019 and by then we will have paid out **£795.00** in prize money. The Organ Fund has benefited by about **£2,500.00** thanks to everyone's continued support and generosity

Prizes for March 2019 will be:

1 st Prize	£100.00
2 nd Prize	£ 65.00
3 rd Prize	£ 25.00

I have been asked to run the 100 Club for one more year and I have been asked by many to raise the annual contribution to **£15.00**.

Clifford Mickleburgh



Definitions (from Chamber's gigglossary):

Abbreviation a long word used to describe a short word used in place of a long word

Computer an electronic timesaving device that is commonly used for time-wasting activities

Dieting wishful shrinking

Lisp the result of muddled lips

Monosyllable a contradiction in terms

Sprightly an adjective applied by journalists to anyone over 60 who is still breathing

Unbelievable a word used by sports commentators to describe any normal event

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THE TRIDUUM

Lent comes to an end before the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, which inaugurates the Easter Triduum—the three days which form the pinnacle of the Church year. These three days witness the most exalted liturgical celebrations of the year and recall the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.

HOLY THURSDAY:

On the morning of Holy Thursday, the bishop celebrates the Chrism Mass, where three kinds of oils used in anointing and consecrations throughout the year are blessed

The Holy Oils

Oil of Catechumens [OC or OS]	Holy Chrism [SC]	Oil of the Sick [OI]
Oleum Catechumenorum or Oleum Sanctum	Sanctum Chrisma	Oleum Infirmorum
Used with candidates for Baptism in the ceremonies and prayer and exorcism prior to Christian initiation and is also used to anoint infants prior to their Baptism	Used to anoint the newly baptised, to seal the candidates for Confirmation and to anoint the hands of priests and the heads of bishops at their ordination. Also used for the blessing of bells and for consecrating churches, altars, chalices and patens	Used to comfort and support the infirm in the sacrament of Anointing the Sick

From this reserve, priests of a diocese take a sufficient amount of the oils to meet the needs of their parish. Each church houses the consecrated oils in a locked ambry in appropriately labelled containers. It is also on Holy Thursday when Christ's institution of the priesthood and Holy Eucharist are commemorated. The night before his death, Jesus and his disciples were celebrating a final meal together when he commanded them to "do this in remembrance of me." Two thousand years later, the Catholic Church has half a million priests who, on a daily basis, carry out Jesus' command. It is during this Mass that the bishop and priests recommit themselves to their priestly duties and vocation as the continuation of Christ's sacramental mission. During the Holy Thursday liturgy, the celebrant will wash the feet of

12 parishioners in imitation of Christ's actions at his final ritual meal with his followers. While eating the last supper, Jesus humbled himself before the apostles by washing their feet as an example of the humility and service he wished them to share with others. In an era when open sandals were the most common footwear, hospitality norms in the East dictated that a host should provide water for guests to wash their feet. Often, the host would provide servants to do the washing as referenced in the Hebrew Scriptures:

"Rising and bowing to the ground, she answered, 'Your handmaid would become a slave to wash the feet of my lord's servants.'"—I Samuel 25:41

Later, Jesus gave them a strict new commandment

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."—John 13:34-35

For this reason, Holy Thursday is also called *Maundy Thursday*, from the Latin for New commandment, *Mandatum novum*

GOOD FRIDAY

From the earliest days in the Church, Good Friday, now called the Friday of the Passion and Death of our Lord, is the most solemn day of the entire liturgical year as it commemorates Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

The term *Good Friday* is exclusive to the English language, and its origin is disputed. Some claim that the word *Good* had the secondary meaning of *holy*. Indeed, Good Friday is known as Holy and Great Friday by the Eastern Christians. Others believe that *Good* refers, not to the cross, but to the redemption of man. Still others argue that the words *Good* and *God* were switched. For example *God be with you*—used as a departing blessing—was contracted to *good-bye*. Therefore *Good Friday* is a corruption of *God's Friday*. Whatever the origins, the term **Good Friday** has been in use for centuries to designate the anniversary of Christ being crucified outside the city walls of Jerusalem. It is, perhaps, the most dramatic ceremony of the church year.

The Liturgy of the Word includes the suffering servant passages from Isaiah and the passion narrative in John's Gospel account, often depicted in a passion play. Later in the service the procession and unveiling of the cross as well as its veneration take place, a custom whose roots are in the Holy Land.

According to tradition, a part of the cross upon which Jesus hung was discovered by Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine, while on pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 326. She sent fragments to Rome. Before 400 the cross was venerated in Jerusalem, before 700 in Rome and in the rest of Christendom after that.

To further emphasize Christ's death on the cross and our yearning for salvation, Good Friday is the one day of the liturgical year when the Holy sacrifice of the Mass is not celebrated, in deference to the historical sacrifice on Calvary. Since there is no consecration, the service is not a Mass. The faithful receive communion from the reserved Sacrament which was consecrated previously.

The cross is as much a symbol of murder and death as it is an instrument of salvation and hope. It is this ambivalence that permeates the Good Friday liturgy

Finally, at the end of the Good Friday service, the altar—the central symbol of Christ in the church—is stripped of its cloth and left bare, recalling Christ being stripped before Crucifixion. Christ is now dead and his Church is in mourning. But the faithful hold on to the hopes of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

EASTER

Easter is the high point of the entire liturgical cycle. It celebrates the central mystery of Christ—his triumph over death and the cross by his resurrection. From the beginning of Christianity, the feast of the Resurrection of Christ has been celebrated as the most important and festive day of the whole year.

EASTER VIGIL

The Easter Vigil liturgy is the most beautiful liturgy in the Roman Catholic Church. This walks through the Easter Vigil, and includes the words to the *Exsultet*. Although celebrated Holy Saturday evening, it is the dramatic Easter vigil liturgy that marks the beginning of Easter. We are awaiting our master's return with our lamps full and burning, so that he will find us awake and seat us at his table [cf. Luke 12:35]. All Catholics should try to attend this beautiful service. The vigil is divided into four parts:

- 1 Service of Light
- 2 Liturgy of the Word
- 3 Liturgy of Baptism
- 4 Liturgy of the Eucharist

Service of Light - The atmosphere in the church is different: the holy water fonts are drained, all the lights are out, the tabernacle is empty. The service begins outside the church. A new fire is lit and blessed.

The candle is then processed through the church, with the deacon lifting the candle at three different times, singing: **The Light of Christ**. [or *Lumen Christi*] and the congregation sings in reply: Thanks be to God [or *Deo gratias*]. Everyone lights their candle from the Easter candle and continue in procession until the whole church is alight. The Paschal candle symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World.

Next follows the glorious Easter song of the Catholic Church: the *Exsultet* [Easter proclamation]. "This magnificent hymn, which is remarkable for its lyric beauty and profound symbolism, announces the dignity and meaning of the mystery of Easter; it tells of man's sin, of God's mercy, and of the great love of the Redeemer for mankind, admonishing us in turn to thank the Trinity for all the graces that have been lavished upon us" [©1947 *With Christ Through the Year*, by Bernard Strasser]. This is usually sung by the deacon.

Liturgy of the Word - During the Easter vigil, nine readings are provided: seven Old Testament and two New Testament. Not all are required to be read due to time constraints, but at least three Old Testament readings must be read, including Exodus 14. These readings help us meditate on the wonderful works of God for his people since the beginning of time

Liturgy of Baptism - During this time the Easter water is blessed, new members are brought into the Church through baptism, part of the liturgy includes the Litany of the Saints. Afterwards the faithful are blessed with water and all renew their baptismal promises

Liturgy of Eucharist - So resumes the Mass, with the special prayers inserted during the Eucharist Prayer. The whole church is called to join at the sacrificial table that Christ prepared for us through his death and resurrection. The Mass ends with the glorious

V. The Mass is ended, go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.
R. Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia

(Preface: Mass for the Dead)

Contributed by Clifford Mickleburgh

World Day of Prayer:

We had World Day of Prayer not so long ago and I have to say the parish was well represented. This is what used to be Woman's World Day of Prayer, which has now been re-named to make it more inclusive! I have to say that, although there were a few men, it was mainly attended by the ladies.

It was an interesting service, held at Holy Trinity that focused on the Christian Women of Slovenia and their culture and way of life. We even had a couple of our UCM members from Walderslade arrive. They did not have this service there and had picked up on it somehow.

This was followed by refreshments and a chance to mingle with everyone before we headed for home.