



Parish Priest: Fr Philip Knights
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Parish Secretary: Sharon O' Toole
The Parish Office is open:

Tues 9:30am - 12:30pm

Wed 9:30am - 12:30pm

Fri 9:30am - 12:30pm

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Mass this Sunday: Third Sunday in Lent (A) 15th March 2020

Today's Readings

Exodus 17:3-7 The Israelites, dying of thirst in the desert, begin to doubt God's love for them. At God's command, Moses strikes the rock with his staff. Out gushes water.

Romans 5:1-2. 5-8 God's love is overflowing: that is why Christ came to save us, and not because we deserved it. Trusting in God's love, we face the future with hope.

John 4:5-42 The conversion of Samaria begins when Jesus stops by a well, where he meets a woman coming to draw water. She gives him a drink; he, in turn, offers her the living water of God's Spirit.

Mass This Week

Saturday 14th 6:30pm

Sunday 15th 9:00am

10:30am

Tuesday 17th 7:30pm

Wednesday 18th 9:15am

Thursday 19th 9:15am

Friday 20th 9:15am

St Patrick

St Cyril of Jerusalem

ST JOSEPH

Lent Weekday

Intention

Marjorie & Michael Barrett (anniversary)

For Our Parishioners

Monsignor Brian Halloran (RIP)

Paddy Behan (Intention)

Archbishop Peter Smith (RIP)

Robert Ingham (RIP)

Archbishop Peter Smith (RIP)

Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:45pm or by appointment

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for Health Care Workers

Coronavirus we remain at 'Stage 2' of the Bishops' Conference guidelines. (See notice at back of Church for full details).

We have begun a Parish Blog to keep people connected and informed. Please find this at:

<https://stthomasofcanterbury470115706.wordpress.com>

Another way we shall keep in touch is via e-mail alerts. If you have signed up already you will have received an e-mail this week. You may sign up to these at our parish website:

<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/>

Last Week's Offertory This amounted to £451.38
Many thanks for all your generosity. **Text Giving** If you wish to support the parish by giving £5 via your mobile 'phone, just text PARISH ROYST to 70800.

CWL Easter Hamper Raffle We will be selling raffle tickets for our Easter Hamper Raffle, together with our Easter Bunnies and Chicks, outside church after all Masses this weekend. They will also be on sale next weekend and the raffle will be drawn at our Coffee Morning on 29th March.

Parish Pastoral Council our next meeting will be on Wednesday March 18th at 7:30pm in the Sacristy. Among items for discussion will be to update our 'Culture of Safeguarding', to review our responses to the Coronavirus and to work towards planning for the next five years. Any other items for planning please could they be given to Peter Brazier or Fr Philip by next weekend.

Foodbank A new foodbank is opening in Royston based at Royston Evangelical Church. We have been asked to contribute food to this. Our pink collection box is back in the sacristy.

Lent Lunches With regret It has been decided by Churches Together in Royston and District to suspend the Lent Lunches during the present time of health concerns. Thank you to all who have contributed to Christian Fellowship and support of CAFOD and Christian Aid. Sadly it seems wisest to protect vulnerable people by halting them for this Lent: our hope is that they will be back next year.

The House of Prayer will next meet on Thursday 19th March, 10 till 12, at 52 Cherry Drive.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Our parish raised a fantastic £516.76 for CAFOD's Family Fast Day. Your support will help ensure no one is beyond reach of the love and care they need to flourish. Thank you for fasting in solidarity, and please keep our sisters and brothers in our prayers throughout Lent.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2020 Our Lenten Alms this year will go to the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, which – like last year – includes a focus on food poverty. Sadly, more people are turning to foodbanks for help and one new initiative you can support is the opening of school holiday clubs where children can come to prepare and eat a healthy meal. If you have not done so already, please pick up a Cardinal's Lenten Appeal donation leaflet at the back of the Church for more information. Please read and pray for its aims, and if you can, please give generously. Thank you.

Alpha Course The Alpha course is a positive and simple way we can be hospitable to people willing to explore basic faith questions. There is more information, including videos at:

<https://www.alpha.org/catholic-context/> We need people to help (including many practical things such as moving furniture, preparing food, acting as table 'hosts' and being prayerful supporters). If you are interested please let Fr Philip know as soon as possible.. There will be a **training session at 7:30pm on Wednesday April 1st.**

Student Cross Many thanks for the response regarding hospitality for the Pilgrims on Palm Sunday - 5th April. We have now placed 13 of the Pilgrims. So if numbers are similar to previous years we're halfway there!! Please do contact me on 07511 009472 if you can help. Of course, we don't know how things are going to progress with the current Coronavirus situation but any changes will go in the Newsletter.

Red Boxes The time has come again to empty your red *Missio* mission boxes. Envelopes are available at the back of Church. We would be grateful if you could arrange to pick up and return your envelopes as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support.

Planned Giving 2020-21 The boxes of envelopes are being prepared for the next financial year. If you would like to start giving by envelope, switch to or start a standing order, or sign up for Gift Aid, please contact Lawrie Fernee (Lfernee@BTInternet.com, 01763 243395), Stella Faulkner or Sharon in the Parish Office.

Cleaning Rota Monday - Tessie Friday – Juby



Third Sunday of Lent

One of the foundational covenants between God and his people was the Exodus from Egypt and the Moses leading his people out of slavery following the first passover. Yet, as our Old Testament Reading (Exodus 17:3-7) relates, despite God's faithfulness, his liberation from their captors and his gift of manna in the desert, the people still complained. But even to his grumbling people the Lord provided water from the rock. In Exodus 19 we will read of the Covenant on Sinai which marks the true birth of the chosen people of God. God is working for our liberation from sin, he provides us with necessary food and drink in the wilderness of our lives. He invites us into a covenant relationship with him. God chooses us.