Church of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in Old Town, Stevenage

Priest: Fr Auson Kamugisha, SDS, Old Town Presbytery: 01438 226857
Parish Priest of THE COMBINED STEVENAGE PARISHES: Fr Michael Doherty, SDS, Resident at St Hilda's, Shephall. Tel: 01438 352182
Lister Hospital: Jacqueline Humphreys Tel: 01438 285518 Mobile: 07884187463
Archbishop's Safeguarding Service Co-ordinator Mgr. Harry Turner: Confidential phone numbers: 01582 712245 or 07814 879129
Parish Safeguarding Representative: John Sloan 01438 226857 / 01438 220855 and email address john@sloan.me.uk.
Church of the Transfiguration, Grove Road, Old Town.
Postal Address: 4, Basils Road, Stevenage, SG1 3PX
Phone: 01438 226857
Email: stevenageoldtown@rcdow.org.uk Web address: www.stevenage-rc.org.uk

Fourth Sunday of Lent A, ***Divine Office week 4*** **30th March, 2014**

"He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see!"

29th	**Sat**	**No Mass in the morning**
	18.00:	Jean Thompson+
30th	**Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)**	
	11.00:	All the People on the missing air - liner
31st	**Mon**	**No Mass**
1st	**Tues**	**Feria of Lent**
	09.30:	
2nd	**Wed**	**Feria of Lent**
	09.30:	
3rd	**Thu**	**Feria of Lent**
	09.30:	
4th	**Fri**	**Feria of Lent**
	09.30:	
5th	**Sat**	**No Mass in the morning**
	18.00:	Gemma Lee+
6th	**Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)**	
	11:00:	People of the Parish

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat at 5.15pm – 5.45pm

Rosary: Every day before morning Mass

Divine Mercy: Every Friday morning after Mass

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: 4th Week of Lenten season

Holy Father's Prayer intention for April: **Universal: That governments may foster the protection of creation and the just distribution of natural resources.**

For Evangelization: That the Risen Lord may fill with hope the hearts of those who are being tested by pain and sickness.

Sunday Readings: Year A **Weekday Readings:** 4th Week of Lent

Today's Sunday	1Sm16:1,6-7,10-13 Eph5:8-14 Jn9:1-41	**Thursday**	Ex32:7-14 Jn5:31-47
Monday	Is65:17-21 jn4:43-54	**Friday**	Wis2:1,12-22 Jn7:1-2,10,25-30
Tuesday	Ez47:1-9,12 Jn5:1-3, 5-16	**Saturday**	Jr11:18-20 Jn7:40-52
Wednesday	Is49:8-15 Jn5:17-30	**Next Sunday**	Ez37:12-14 Rm8:8-11 Jn11:1-45

Mothering Sunday

I think it is a good idea to pick a day each year on which we can say a special '*thank you*' to mothers. We have a mother's day for a mother's life. The life of a mother is by and large a record of sacrifice and service. She is the one who is always present to us, the one on whose love we can rely, the one to whom we can entrust our secrets and confide our fears, the one to whom we can always give out and who will keep on calling us in the morning when the rest of the world would let us sleep. Fathers have their virtues too, of course, and so have others who aren't mothers at all, but today is Mother's Day and nobody will begrudge them the recognition and celebration that is their due. So I pray God's mercy on all our mothers who have died. I wish all mothers a very joyful day.

One other important point to remember today is that Mother's Day owes its origin to Mother Church. On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, every year, on what we call '*Laetare or Rejoicing Sunday*', the Church celebrates her motherhood, as mother of many nations and many peoples. This is the time of year for catechumens, that is, for people who are preparing for baptism. The Church rejoices, as all the people around the world who are preparing for baptism come to new life in the womb of the Church. The Church is not an impersonal institution. She is a universal mother. And like any other good mother she serves her children with life, with truth, with faith, with love, with forgiveness.

So a word of advice that the mother Church has for us today is a word that is common to the second reading and the Gospel. '*Behave as children of light*' (Ep 5: 8). '*Don't be spiritually blind*'. The Scriptures today want us to have our eyes examined – so that we can see the Lord more clearly and the outlines of his challenge! We pray that in some important respect, we will all be cured of our blindness. One prayer we will have on our lips is '*Lord that I may see*!'

Parish Office open on Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12-6pm

Please pray for all parishioners who are sick:
Avril Bruce, Kathy Dickenson, Hazel Kegg, Monica Brown, Marisa Jackson, Willie Thompson, Anne Blagden, Karen, John McDonald, Caroline Cowen, John Goss, Frank, Jerzy.

Sacristans:
Saturday 5th April Mary Canavan
Sunday 6th Sheila Murphy & Jackie Peddie

Cleaning Rota: Becky & Eamonn Walsh
Linen for April: Barbara Segadelli

Forthcoming Dates:
Palm Sunday 13th April
Easter Vigil 19th April
Easter Sunday 20th April
First Holy Communion 14th & 21st June
Confirmation 22nd June
PPC Meeting: Monday 14th April

Children's Liturgy: In the presbytery at 11am Sunday. Please arrive by 10.50am.

First Holy Communion First Confessions
Saturday 29th at 9.30am

Confirmation Meeting
Monday 31st at 4.30pm

There will be tea and coffee available after the 11.00am Mass on Sunday April 6th. If this proves popular we will look to make it a regular monthly event.

There will be a programme of Lenten Reflection and Evening Prayer on Wednesdays during Lent at 7.30pm, in the church. All invited.

Easter Lilies
Lists are available at the back of the church. Please print the names of your deceased relatives and friends and return to the presbytery. Donations welcome.

Prayer is the Oxygen of the soul!
-Padre Pio-

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers:
The rota for April is now available.

Diocesan Holy Land Pilgrimage 2014: Cardinal Vincent Nichols invites us to join him on the 4th Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land on 17th – 25th November 2014. For further details and a booking form contact Gerald Daly at the Diocesan Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173 email geralddaly@rcdow.org.uk or Gill Didino at Tangney Tours on 01732 886666.

Young Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November 2014:
The Westminster Youth Ministry will lead a Young Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November 2014 in parallel with the main Diocesan Pilgrimage. For further information please contact 0207387 1971 or email youth@rcdow.org.uk

St. Vincent de Paul Society
St. John Bosco Children's Camp 2014
Boys' camp 26th July–2nd August & 2nd–9th August
Girls' camp 9th – 16th August
Please see the notice board for more details.

Summer Accommodation in London
Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea offer comfortable rooms in central London in July and August. Beautiful gardens and chapel. Rooms from £50 per night (including breakfast).
Website : www.allenhall.org.uk
Email : allenhall@rcdow.org.uk
Telephone : 020 7349 5600 (option 0)

To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart!

Easter Confessions & Penitential Services 2014
St Hilda's
Thursday 10th April 7-8pm
Friday 11th April 10-10.50am
Saturday 12th April 10-11am
Transfiguration
Wednesday 9th April 10-11am
St Joseph's
Friday 11th April Penitential Service

Last Week's Offertory Collection
Last Sunday's collection was Envelopes £384.60 Loose £271.69 S/O £521.50.
Many thanks for your continued support.

Religion is a way of walking, not a way of talking.

New Offertory Envelopes are now ready for collection.

Recently Deceased: We pray for those who have died, particularly for the recently deceased and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.
May they rest in peace!