

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



Parish Priest of THE COMBINED STEVENAGE PARISHES: **Fr Michael Doherty, SDS**,  
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**Web address: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stevenagetransfiguration>**  
**Lister Hospital: The Catholic Chaplain can be contacted on 01438 285138**  
**(24/7 urgent need 01438 314333) via text message 0788 418 7463**  
Archbishop's Safeguarding Service Co-ordinator: Confidential phone numbers:  
01582 712245 or 07814 879129  
Parish Safeguarding Representative: John Sloan 01438 226857 / 0790 013 8371 and  
email address [john@sloan.me.uk](mailto:john@sloan.me.uk).

## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Divine Psalter: Week 1  
7<sup>th</sup> April 2019

- 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday**  
4.30-4.45: Confessions  
5.00: John Culling RIP
- 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday: 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**  
9.00: Mary Ryan RIP
- 8<sup>th</sup> Monday: Lent feria**  
9.30: Anne Kavanagh (ill)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Lent feria**  
**9.30am Service of the Word**
- 12<sup>th</sup> Friday: Lent feria**  
9.30: Mass  
**Stations of the Cross following Mass**
- 13<sup>th</sup> Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday**  
4.30-4.45: Confessions  
5.00: Mass
- 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday: PALM SUNDAY**  
9.00: Mass

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**Sunday Reading Cycle: Year C**

**Weekday Readings: 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lenten Season**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
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**WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN HOSPITAL,  
THOSE UNDERGOING TREATMENT, OR CONVALESCING:**  
*Alex Simmonds, Emer Leonard, Clarence Cotte, Mary McGee,  
Peter Stones, Joe Coughlin, Noel Holton, Eileen Greasby,  
Jane Earl, Betty Cox, Christopher Skipper, Monica Brown  
& Kathy Dickenson.*

*May the Lord grant them healing and strength.*  
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**Parish Secretary in the office next week**

**Tuesday 8:45-11.30am & Friday 8:45am-1:00pm**

**If your enquiry is urgent please email the Secretary**

**[stevenageoldtown@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stevenageoldtown@rcdow.org.uk)**

**(email accessed daily)**

**Fr Brian writes...**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent. Background on the Gospel Reading.**  
*Today's Gospel begins by reporting that Jesus is teaching the crowds in the vicinity of the Temple. The scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case. The Pharisees state clearly that according to the Law of Moses, those caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death. Jesus suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. We can easily imagine the scene as the Pharisees and the elders disperse, one by one. Jesus has eluded the trap they had prepared. Left alone with the woman, Jesus asks where the accusers have gone. With no one remaining to condemn the woman, Jesus sends the woman on her way, refusing to pass judgment on her and exhorting her to avoid future sin. Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness.*

*As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the one without sin and thus our judge, offers us who are sinners his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.*

*What are we doing this Lent to avoid sin?*

### **NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**

*Are now ready for collection from the wall beside the Tabernacle.*

*If you would like to join the Planned Giving Scheme or set up a Standing Order please email or telephone the Parish Office.*

## HOLY WEEK LEAFLET

Please take a copy of the special leaflet which gives full details of Confessions and Holy Week Services for the 3 Stevenage Parishes.

### SACRISTANS:-

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> : Mary Smithers & Philiphia Paulus  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> : Sue & Peter Coy  
Cleaning Rota : Lisette Humphris, Bessie Dias,  
Evita Fajardo & Emilio

Please see Cleaning Instructions on cleaning cupboard door  
Linen for April : Steve & Emma Hogan

### WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S NEXT WEEK

Wednesday 7:00pm & Thursday & Friday 9:15am

### WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST HILDA'S NEXT WEEK

Monday 9:30am & Thursday 8:00pm

**The Fifth Sunday of Lent marks the beginning of Passiontide, and, according to the ancient practice of the Church, all crosses and statues are veiled. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and statues until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.**



**Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week.**

### DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE, FRIDAY 12 APRIL 2019

The Cardinal has written to priests asking that Friday 12th April be kept as a Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse. He writes that the pain of those who have suffered abuse, and its lasting corrosive impact, are brought more fully into the light through the focus this day affords. The pain of the betrayal of trust is all the more profound when abuse took place within the community of the Catholic Church. We also see so clearly the failures in leadership in the Church that have made worse the sufferings of those who have been abused. **We will remember victims at the 9:30am Mass on Friday.** The Cardinal will keep the day with extra simplicity and self-denial and will celebrate the 5.30pm Mass in the Cathedral for Survivors of Abuse.

### SAFEGUARDING

Parishioners will be aware from the secular and Catholic media and press that Pope Francis has been holding a summit on child protection and clerical abuse and has called on Catholics around the world to work together to erase "this abominable crime from the face of the earth". The Catholic Church in England and Wales has established systems and training for both priests and lay people to try and ensure that children and vulnerable adults are now safe within our communities and that the sort of abuses which have happened in the past cannot happen again. Every parish has at least one Parish Safeguarding Representative. Ours is John Sloan whose contact details are on a SG poster on the notice board. The National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) also provides advice for anyone who has suffered abuse, and information leaflets are available or by contacting the PSR. If you wish to know more please contact the Parish Safeguarding Representative at [stevenageoldtownsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stevenageoldtownsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

## HOLY WEEK ROTA

For Readers and Eucharistic Ministers available from the wall beside the tabernacle.

### IRISH NETWORK, STEVENAGE SOCIAL 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Please see the poster on the notice board for details.

### SCIMP NEWS

New Project to be announced at the weekend Masses on the 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> April.

Ever Popular **SCIMP Cream Tea on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May** at St Joseph's Church Hall Bedwell at 1:15pm.

**All welcome.**

### NEW CLEANING ROTA NOW AVAILABLE

Please take a copy from the envelope in the Sacristy.

### CONTACTING THE CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN AT LISTER HOSPITAL

If you are admitted to hospital please let the staff know if you would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain. The Chaplain and volunteers offer a friendly face, a listening ear, and a chance to talk through thoughts and concerns and to offer prayer, religious care and to arrange the celebration sacraments in Hospital. **The Catholic Chaplain can be contacted on 01438 285138 (24/7 urgent need 01438 314333) via text message 0788 418 7463**

### EASTER FLOWERS

Lists are available at the back of the church. Please print the names of your deceased relatives and friends and return to the presbytery with any donation you would like to make.

### CURRENT VACANCIES AT ST MARGARET CLITHEROW

The Governing Body of this outstanding school are looking for a full time class teacher, a part time Nursery teacher (afternoons from September 2019) and a full time 1:1 SEN Teaching Assistant to join our wonderful school. Please contact Maria Streeter in the school office (01438 352863) or visit [teachinherts.com](http://teachinherts.com) SEN closes 29th April. Full time teacher and Nursery Part time teacher closes 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

### ST JOSEPH'S DRAMA GROUP PROUDLY PRESENTS "THE WIZARD OF OZ"

In St Joseph's Church on Thursday 2nd May @ 7.30pm; Friday 3rd May @ 7.30pm; Saturday 4th May @ 2.00pm and 7.30pm. Tickets are £5.00 adult; £3.00 child (Years 7-13 inclusive) and all primary school children free. Please contact David on 07775 911548 or Margaret on 07875 245094 to reserve tickets.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY AND MASS REGISTRATION

**Children's Liturgy** for children from Reception to Year 6. All children from **Pre-School Age to Year 6** should sign in for Mass. **The sign-in sheets can be found on top of the organ.** It is **IMPORTANT** that you write your child's name on the sheet each time you attend Mass with your child. **Please only sign if your child is with you at Mass.** **The sign-in sheets can be found on top of the organ.**