

St Thomas More – Parish Newsletter

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Sunday 2nd April 2023 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (Year A)

Palm Sunday

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem manifested the coming of the kingdom that the King-Messiah was going to accomplish by the Passover of his Death and



Resurrection. It is with the celebration of that entry on Palm Sunday that the Church's liturgy solemnly opens Holy Week.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 560

“Brothers and sisters, in the course of this week, let us cling to the certainty that God can forgive every sin. He forgives everyone. He can bridge every distance, and turn all mourning into dancing (cf. *Ps* 30:12). The certainty that with Jesus there is always a place for everyone. That with Christ things are never over. That with him, it is never too late. *With God, we can always come back to life.* Take courage! Let us journey toward Easter with his forgiveness. For Christ constantly intercedes for us before the Father (cf. *Heb* 7:25). Gazing upon our violent and tormented world, he never tires of repeating: *Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.* Let us now do the same, in silence, in our hearts, and repeat: *Father, forgive*

them for they know not what they do. ”.

Pope Francis Homily Palm Sunday 2022

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Collection for the Holy Places — Good Friday 2023

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic Churches all over the world to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them from this worldwide collection.

The money raised is used to support and improve the Holy Places and shrines in the Holy Land, support educational projects and also various works in favour of the local community. This enables those who live in the Holy Land and those who visit to deepen their faith and their spiritual and cultural connection to salvation history. Social & charitable activities help Christians to remain in the Holy Land, including the poor and young couples and medical assistance is provided for the needy.

Lenten Stations of the Cross

This week Stations of the Cross will take place on Good Friday at 10am

Magnificat — April

The April *Magnificat* (£5) is available to buy. There are still copies of the Holy Week companion (£2) available. Please ask Maggie, or one of the priests for copies.

Gift Aid and Planned Giving

The boxes of envelopes for the next tax year starting on 9th April are available to be

collected. If there has been any change in your situation (new address, change in tax status, change of name), please kindly contact our Finance Officer, Yolaine, at: swisscottagefin@rcdow.org.uk as soon as possible.

If you are a UK Income or Capital Gains Taxpayer, please sign a Gift Aid Declaration and support our parish in this free, easy way (donating either via online transfers to the parish bank account, standing order, weekly envelopes or using the Contactless devices). Gift Aid means our parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you. Thank you!

Young Adults Group

A group of young adults (between 21 and 30 years of age) have started a monthly social meeting with informal discussions about philosophical, anthropological and sociological questions related to the faith. These will generally take place monthly in the Parish Hall after the 6pm Sunday Mass. Please contact Fr Alvaro for further details: (alvaro.tintore@netherhall.org.uk)

The Cardinal's Lenten Appeal

Funds raised this year will be shared between Marriage and Family Life, Youth and Evangelisation, the Education Service and Caritas Westminster, as well as initiatives run by parishes around the diocese. See the poster in the Narthex. We will use the collection box below the candles in the St Thomas More Chapel for this purpose during Lent.

Chrism Mass

- ◆ On Tuesday the Chrism Mass takes place, at 12 noon in the Cathedral. The priests of the Diocese concelebrate Mass with their Bishop signifying the unity of the presbyterate of the Diocese. During the Mass the priests renew their priestly promises and the Bishop blesses the Holy Oils which will be used during the year throughout the Diocese for baptisms, confirmations, ordinations and the anointing of the sick.

The Altar of Repose

After the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday night: *"The Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in a closed tabernacle. The place where the tabernacle is situated must not be made to resemble a tomb, and the expression tomb is to be avoided: for the chapel of repose is not prepared so as to represent the Lord's burial but for the custody of the Eucharistic bread that will be distributed in communion on Good Friday. The faithful should be encouraged to spend a suitable period of time during the night in the church in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament that has been solemnly reserved."*

Lenten Reading

Homily Pope Francis on Palm Sunday back in 2014

This week begins with the festive procession with olive branches: the entire populace welcomes Jesus. The children and young people sing, praising Jesus.

But this week continues in the mystery of Jesus' death and his resurrection. We have just listened to the Passion of our Lord. We might well ask ourselves just one question: Who am I? Who am I, before my Lord? Who am I, before Jesus who enters Jerusalem amid the enthusiasm of the crowd? Am I ready to express my joy, to praise him? Or do I stand back? Who am I, before the suffering Jesus?

We have just heard many, many names. The group of leaders, some priests, the Pharisees, the teachers of the law, who had decided to kill Jesus. They were waiting for the chance to arrest him. Am I like one of them?

We have also heard another name: Judas. Thirty pieces of silver. Am I like Judas? We have heard other names too: the disciples who understand nothing, who fell asleep while the Lord was suffering. Has my life fallen asleep? Or am I like the disciples, who did not

realise what it was to betray Jesus? Or like that other disciple, who wanted to settle everything with a sword? Am I like them? Am I like Judas, who feigns loved and then kisses the Master in order to hand him over, to betray him? Am I a traitor? Am I like those people in power who hastily summon a tribunal and seek false witnesses: am I like them? And when I do these things, if I do them, do I think that in this way I am saving the people?

Am I like Pilate? When I see that the situation is difficult, do I wash my hands and dodge my responsibility, allowing people to be condemned – or condemning them myself?

Am I like that crowd which was not sure whether they were at a religious meeting, a trial or a circus, and then chose Barabbas? For them it was all the same: it was more entertaining to humiliate Jesus.

Am I like the soldiers who strike the Lord, spit on him, insult him, who find entertainment in humiliating him?

Am I like the Cyrenean, who was returning from work, weary, yet was good enough to help the Lord carry his cross?

Am I like those who walked by the cross and mocked Jesus: "He was so courageous! Let him come down from the cross and then we will believe in him!". Mocking Jesus....

Am I like those fearless women, and like the mother of Jesus, who were there, and who suffered in silence?

Am I like Joseph, the hidden disciple, who lovingly carries the body of Jesus to give it burial?

Am I like the two Marys, who remained at the Tomb, weeping and praying?

Am I like those leaders who went the next day to Pilate and said, "Look, this man said that he was going to rise again. We cannot let another fraud take place!", and who block life, who block the tomb, in order to maintain doctrine,

lest life come forth?

Where is my heart? Which of these persons am I like? May this question remain with us throughout the entire week.

HOLY WEEK 2023

2nd April - Palm Sunday:

Masses: 9.30am, 11am and 6.00pm

6th April - Maundy Thursday:

N.B. There is no 7am or 10am Mass today

8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper. Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament until 10.30pm

7th April - Good Friday:

10.00am Way of the Cross

3.00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

8th April - Holy Saturday:

3.00pm Blessing of Easter Baskets

8.30pm Easter Vigil

9th April - Easter Sunday

9.30am Easter Day Mass

11.00am Easter Day Mass

N.B. There is no 6pm Mass today

10th April - Easter Monday (Bank Holiday)

10.00am Mass

N.B. There will be no 7am Mass from Monday 10th to Friday 14th April

Confessions:

Apart from the usual times:

Good Friday: From 2.30pm

Holy Saturday: 11.30am to 1.00pm

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Palm Sunday

2nd April – 8th April 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388; <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage/>

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 2nd April PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (Readings. Year A)	9.30am Club Lodwar/People of Lodwar 11am Mass Peggy Attlee (RIP anniversary) 6pm Mass People of the Parish	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 3rd April Monday of Holy Week	7am Mass Alice Hancock (RIP) 10am Mass Rita McNally (RIP)	The Church opens at 6.50am (Monday to Wednesday). Enter via car park entrance for 7am weekly Mass.
TUE 4th April Tuesday of Holy Week	7am Mass Helen Birch (RIP) 10am Mass Heidi Ram (intentions)	12 Noon Chrism Mass at Westminster Cathedral
WED 5th April Wednesday of Holy Week	7am Mass Antonio Valdez (RIP) 10am Mass Sheila Valdez (in thanksgiving)	
THU 6th April MAUNDY THURSDAY	<u>No 7am or 10am Mass</u> 8pm Mass of the Lord's Supper for Vocations to the Priesthood	The Church will be open 9.30am to 1pm Church reopens at 7.30pm
FRI 7th April GOOD FRIDAY <i>Fasting & abstinence</i>	<u>No 7am or 10am Mass</u> 3pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	The Church opens at 9.30am 10am Way of the Cross 2.30pm Confessions
SAT 8th April HOLY SATURDAY	<u>No 10am Mass</u> 8.30pm Easter Vigil Mass For all those receiving Baptism	The Church opens at 9.30am 11.30am to 1pm Confessions 3pm Blessing of Easter Baskets Church <u>closed</u> from 3.30pm to 7.45pm

Prayer Intentions:

Recently deceased: Angela Carpos; John Stoppolecamp; Wendy Bellas; Peter Glenn; Joseph Power; Ghislaine Williams; Helen Birch; Alice Hancock; Rita McNally

Anniversary: Sofia Vukusic; Maroun Ramia; Iris Nally; Veronica O'Farrell; Peggy Attlee

Confessions:

Monday to Wednesday (before and after 10am Mass)

Sunday: 10.30am and 5.30pm (before Mass)

Forthcoming Events:

9TH April: EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION