

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Address: Holy Rosary Presbytery, 2 Grosmont Drive, Billingham, TS23 2EP

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5th SUNDAY OF LENT
Week Beginning: 17th March 2024
Prayer Week: 1

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Sunday 17th March <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary
Monday 18th March	10:00am	Richard Cornforth	Holy Rosary
Tuesday 19th March <i>(St Joseph)</i>	10.00am	Stephen & Barabara Herring	St Joseph's school
Wednesday 20th March <i>(St Cuthbert)</i>	7.00pm	Sick Child (IS)	Holy Rosary
Thursday 21st March	10.00am	Sally Paczynski	Holy Rosary
Friday 22nd March	10.00am	NO MASS	St John's
Saturday 23rd March <i>Palm Sunday (Vigil)</i>	5.00pm	Robert Dalton	St John's
Sunday 24th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary

Please pray for the sick and everyone who is ill:

Rev. Dan Mckie, Sarah McAllister, Max Simpson, Carol Brownlee, Gracé Ollie, Judy Houchen, Peter Smith, Cai Rive, Avril Wordsworth, Lily Ward-Thurlbeck, Rose Wall, Christine Rooney, Brian Kane, Margaret Hitchinson, Helen Webb, Jim Hodgson, Fr Stephen Dye, Judith Sowerby, Kate Williams, Faustina Morgan, Maureen Maddren, Maureen Braithwaite, Baby Cassian, Sheila Allen, Sheila Holmes, Michael Bickers,
Lately Dead- May Hutchinson

St Michael's Academy-

invites parishioners to their Holy Week Liturgy taking place on Tuesday 26th March, 5.30-6.30pm. in the main school hall.

The liturgy will have live music, videos and reflections about the key events of Holy week and will be a highly spiritual experience for all. To allow us to confirm numbers, please telephone the school office for how many seats you require. 01642 870003

Next weekend palms will be blessed and distributed at each Mass.

Ushaw 20th March, 12 noon-

annual St Cuthbert's Day Mass to celebrate the feast of the College and Diocesan patron saint. All welcome but please contact if you wish to stay for light lunch www.org/whatson/st-cuthberts-day

Cafod coffee morning in The Medway 7th April after Mass.

GIFT AID

A reminder to all currently signed up to the Gift Aid scheme- Please check you are paying sufficient income tax to cover the amount we claim from HMRC. Please advise us of any change of name or address. Anyone wishing to join the scheme can contact the number below. Forms for anyone wishing to start donating to the Parish by bank standing order are available at the back of church. New planned giving envelopes will be available in March, however if you wish to change over to standing order please make contact ASAP. All contributions made by each method are gratefully received and details are treated with utmost confidentiality. For more information, please contact Caroline Kelly 07899788760

Friendship Group- Pie & Pea Supper. Monday March 25th, 6.30pm
Catholic Club. Tickets (£5) available after Mass

The Northern Cross- MARCH- on sale £1.50p

Stations of the Cross and Exposition- Sunday, Holy Rosary, 4pm

Confessions Saturday, St John's, 10.30-11am

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

THE COLLECT

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

31: 31-34

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 50: 3-4. 12-15 R. v12

R) A pure heart create for me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. (R)

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R)

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you. (R)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 12:26

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me;
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me,
my Father will honour him.
Now my soul is troubled.
What shall I say:
Father, save me from this hour?
But it was for this very reason
that I have come to this hour.
Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.
And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Hear us, almighty God,
and, having instilled in your servants
the teachings of the Christian faith,
graciously purify them
by the working of this sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 12:24

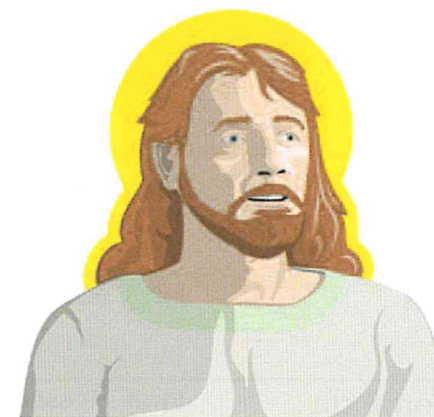
Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain.
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray, almighty God,
that we may always be counted among the members of
Christ,
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



In this passage from John's Gospel Jesus speaks more clearly than ever of his impending death. He asks if he should ask the Father to save him from 'this hour' and then says that it was for this very reason that he came on earth: to give his life for us and

thereby also glorify the Father's name. The image Jesus uses, of the grain of wheat, is a powerful one. The grain of wheat is buried in the darkness of the earth and has to die, in order to come out into the light and produce a rich harvest. He also makes it clear that whoever wishes to follow him must, in some way, lose his or her life, in order to produce a rich harvest. Our natural reaction to any suffering, whether physical or spiritual, is to want to be rid of it as quickly as possible. But for the Christian, every suffering is also an opportunity to carry the cross and to let Jesus transform it into love and make a contribution towards the building of the kingdom of heaven.

The most extreme examples of this way of living one's faith are the martyrs, but very few of are asked literally to give our lives in that way. All of us, however, experience illness, or disappointment, failure or tragedy during our earthly lives. Each of these can be an opportunity to grow in our love for God and be partakers with him in the building of his Kingdom.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)INTERNATIONAL
POWER

171. I would also insist that "to give to each his own - to cite the classic definition of justice - means that no human individual or group can consider itself absolute, entitled to bypass the dignity and the rights of other individuals or their social groupings. The effective distribution of power (especially political, economic, defence-related and technological power) among a plurality of subjects, and the creation of a juridical system for regulating claims and interests, are one concrete way of limiting power. Yet today's world presents us with many false rights and - at the same time - broad sectors which are vulnerable, victims of power badly exercised". 148

[148] Address to the Members of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization, New York (25 September 2015): AAS 107 (2015), 1037.

The Fire of Love*
HOW RICHARD CAME TO
THE FIRE OF LOVE (1)

My life was that of a usual boy until God's grace curbed my youthful passions and transformed my earthly longings into a longing for God, who wanted me to follow the solitary life. Rejecting all flattery from others, I gave myself completely to Christ with all my powers.

From then on I continually sought quiet, going from one place to another in my search, even though others criticised me for moving around. Yet I never gave up on the things that helped my soul, such as study. And in the course of time I was granted true spiritual joy.

It took four years before I really began to feel in my heart the warmth of eternal love. It came about like this: One day I was sitting in a certain chapel delighting in the sweetness of prayer and meditation when I suddenly felt an unusually pleasant heat. Not knowing where the heat came from, I soon realised that it came from the Creator himself and was something more fervent and pleasant than I had ever known.

*The Fire of Love by Richard Rolle Published by Aeterna Press