



ST. GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Parish Priest: Rev. Father Ted Gannon

Deacon: Rev. Jim Maguire - Tel: 01772 860980

Saturday 24th/Sunday 25th March 2017

Palm Sunday



Holy Week and Easter

Saturday 24th March

6.30 p.m. Blessing of Palms & Mass

Palm Sunday 25th March

10.00 a.m. Blessing of Palms & Mass

Monday 26th March

9.00 a.m. Mass

7.00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 27th March

7.00 p.m. Mass

Wednesday 28th March

9.00 a.m. Service of the Word

7.00 p.m. Stations of the Cross with Exposition
of the Blessed Sacrament until 8.00 p.m.

Holy Thursday 29th March

7.00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

Watching before the Altar of Repose until
Night Prayer at 10.00 p.m.

Good Friday 30th March

10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

3.00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7.00 p.m. Evening Prayer "At the Tomb"

Holy Saturday 31st March

10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8.30 p.m. The Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 1st April

10.00 a.m. Mass

Beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday Evening, we celebrate The Three Days of Easter. These three days - Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday - are the days when Christian communities throughout the world celebrate the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection in a very special way. These are the most special days of the year for us Catholic Christians. Over the Three Days we celebrate one mystery. Lent ends and Easter begins with the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening. The tabernacle is empty; holy water fonts are dry; no votive candles are lit; we do not genuflect entering or leaving the church.

On Holy Thursday the focus is on the Eucharist, the Last Supper, the washing of one another's feet as an expression of humble service, and on the holy oils of Baptism, Chrism and the Sick. On Good Friday we focus on the Passion of the Lord and the Wood of the Cross. On Holy Saturday night we light the Easter Candle from a newly lit fire. We listen to the story of our salvation told by the Word of God. We bless the water of Baptism, renew our own Baptismal Faith and as usual celebrate the Eucharist. These days are not so much holidays as HOLY-days. Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence and it is fitting that Saturday be observed as a day of fasting also.

I invite you to come and to help form the Community of Faith to celebrate Easter here in our Parish Church over the Three Great Days of Easter.

Fr. Ted



TODAY we begin the Drama of Holy Week:

**The Joy of Palm Sunday
The Intimacy of Holy Thursday
The Sorrow of Good Friday
The Glory of Easter**

Let us, during all our Masses and Devotions, follow the Lord, this humble, Holy Man, Jesus, in the Joys and Sorrows of Holy Week.

“Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends.”

This week, Jesus lived out the truth of these words. He took upon Himself our sins and the sins of the world.

“O King of the Friday, whose limbs were stretched upon the cross;

O Lord who did suffer the bruises, the wounds and the loss;

We stretch ourselves beneath the shield of Thy might;

May some fruit of Thy Passion fall on us this night.”

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Monday Isaiah 42 vv 1-7 John 12 vv 1-11
Tuesday Isaiah 49 vv 1-6 John 13 vv 21-33, 36-38
Wednesday Isaiah 50 vv 4-9 Matthew 26 vv 14-25

Holy Thursday

Exodus 12 vv 1-8, 11-14 Paul/Corinthians 11 vv 23-26
John 13 vv 1-15

Good Friday

Isaiah 52 v 13 to 53 v 12 Hebrews 4 vv 14-16; 5 vv 7-9
Passion According to St. John 18 vv 1-19, 42

Holy Saturday - The Easter Vigil

Genesis 1 v 1 to 2 v 2 Exodus 14 v 15 to 15 v 1
Isaiah 55 vv 1-11 Romans 6 vv 3-11 Mark 16 vv 1-7

Sunday - Easter Sunday

Acts of the Apostles 10 vv 34, 37-43
Paul/Colossians 3 vv 1-4 John 20 vv 1-9



YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

For all who are sick; especially Francis Burns, Sam Dowd, Pam Raggett, Betty Whiteside, Eric Grime, Joe Meehan, Peggy Fletcher, Jackie Lyons, Maureen

Hetko, Maria Butterworth, Bernadette Benson, Donald and Ingrid Whiles, Michelle Riley, Fred Griffiths, Raine Tallon, Hughie Gaille, Susan Lavelle, Fr. Joe Maley, Mary Gallagher, Joan Muir, Grace Fernando, May Eccles and Fiona Turnbull.

For the housebound and those in hospital.

For carers and all who are anxious for the health of their loved ones.

For the relief, comfort and solace of all refugees and the homeless.

For missionaries and for all victims of strife and terrorism.

For peace in all the troubled areas of our world.

Our Lady, our Mother, comfort of the afflicted, pray for them.

For all who have died recently and for all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

HOLY THURSDAY - We invite you to bring gifts of food (tinned and processed, not fresh) and present them at the altar at the Offertory for the Homeless in Preston. If you prefer you can put some money in the collection at that time.

GOOD FRIDAY - The Special Collection will be for the upkeep of the “Holy Places”.

MASS INTENTIONS

Gerard Kellett, William Worden (100th Birthday) and Michael Mooney



COLLECTION LAST WEEK (including Buildings Fund): £698.20
SPECIAL COLLECTION: Parish Buildings’ Fund £180.00 (including £100 donation)
SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY: CAFOD
SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: Rwanda Group Trust
PARISH BUILDINGS FUND TOTAL = £13,649 THE TARGET = 15,000
MASS ATTENDANCES: Saturday 6.30 p.m. = 90 Sunday 10.00 a.m. = 172

MASSES TO BE SAID NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 27th March Ladies’ Group
Thursday 29th March Walter & Isabelle Dyke and
Nicholas Paul Oulton
Saturday 31st March The Parishioners
Sunday 1st April Gerard Kellett



LADIES’ GROUP

The Ladies will meet in the Social Centre on Tuesday 28th March following Mass in the Parish House at 7.00 p.m. There will be a talk about Catherine Parr given by “Lucy the Tudor”. All welcome.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

Donations towards the cost of decorating our church with flowers for Easter would be gratefully received. These may be handed to Fr. Ted, Deacon Jim or any of our flower organisers.

PLEASE CONTINUE to bring in clothes/bedding (but no duvets please) for the Rwanda Group Trust charity shop. There is a box in the church porch.