

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, LUCKS HILL, WEST MALLING

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**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)
A "CORONAVIRUS" HOLY WEEK OF PRAYER AND LOVE FOR EVERYONE
5th April 2020**

My Dearest Parishioners,

Every Holy Week is important to us but this Holy Week is even more so. Through this week the Lord wants to bring the Love, Healing, Strength, Light and Life He brought us in the first Holy Week into our lives and the challenges, darkness and pain of these coronavirus days. So let us help each other to walk this week in the following ways :-

LET US WALK TOGETHER

I would like to walk this week very much with you but miss your presence. I saw a picture on the T.V. of a Church in Italy where the priest had photos of his parishioners put on the benches of the Church. I would like to do the same in the room in the house where I'm celebrating Mass so would be grateful if you could email me a photo of you and your family which I can then put on the walls of the room and so have you more with me. Thanks for this and let us help each other as families at home, and with those who are isolated on their own, to walk this week together.

LET US SING TOGETHER

Let us as priest and people sing together with the following Holy Week hymns :-

1. **(Solo)** Brother, Sister, let me serve you/ let me be as Christ to you/ pray that I may have the grace to/ let you be my servant to.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey/ fellow trav'lers on the road/ we are here to help each other/ walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christlight for you/ in the night-time of your fear/ I will hold my hand out to you/ speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping/ when you laugh, I'll laugh with you/ I will share your joy and sorrow/ 'til we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God at Easter/ we shall find such harmony/ born of all we've known together/ of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, Sister, let me serve you/ let me be as Christ to you/ pray that I may have the grace to/ let you be my servant too.

Give us love in our hearts to walk with you; give us love in our hearts we pray.
Give us love in our hearts to walk with you; as we journey to this Easter Day.
Sing Hosanna; sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna to the King of Kings,
Sing Hosanna; sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna to the King.

AND LET US PRAY TOGETHER using the following Prayers -:

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

I think of the wounds in your sacred hands with love so deep and true,
May every act of my hands this day be an act of love for you.
I think of the wounds in your sacred feet with love so deep and true,
May every step that I take this day be an act of love for you.
I think of the wounds in your sacred head with love so deep and true,
May every thought of mine this day be an act of love for you.
I think of the wounds in your sacred side with love so deep and true,
May every beat of my heart this day be an act of love for you.

COVENANT PRAYER

Jesus our King, we gather in your presence as one people, one family and one body, young and old. We recognise our differences and we acknowledge our need for each other and for you. We journey together as your covenant people and Parish family committed to open ourselves and our hearts to you and each other through 'prayer', 'love' and 'service' in this Holy Week. We ask you to grant us Faith and Love, Patience and Wisdom and Enthusiasm and Hope, so that together we may make your 'Resurrection' and 'Life' real in our lives for ourselves and others this Easter. Amen.

CHILDREN'S WORD AND SONG

WORD: 'Prayer' – Pray for Jesus' help to love and give this week.

SONG: Pray well, Pray well, all you little children; live in love, live in love.
Pray well, Pray well, all you little children; live in love, live in love.

LEGION OF MARY (MOTTINGHAM PARISH) At 3pm every day we are praying for all people in the world suffering as a result of the coronavirus and for the frontline and key workers who are doing a wonderful job in these difficult times. Please join in if you can:

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be to the Father.

Our Lady Help of Christians - pray for us.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart - pray for us.

St. Thomas More - pray for us.

St. Thomas of Canterbury - pray for us.

OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER

Palm Sunday – 5th April

We celebrate Jesus's entry into Jerusalem to begin the first Holy Week. We enter this Holy Week uniting ourselves, with Him and each other, to walk it fully in prayer and love.

I will be at prayer with you from 5 to 5.30pm on Saturday (4th) and from 10 to 10.30am and 5.30 to 6pm on Sunday. I will also celebrate the Palm Sunday Mass, offering it for all Parishioners, and will bless the Palms which will be kept here until we meet again when the restrictions are over.

Monday to Wednesday – 6th to 8th April

On these days Jesus rested at Bethany making himself ready for the "Great 3 Days" that would end the first Holy Week. We "rest" and "retreat" with Him and prepare ourselves to relive the "Great 3 Days" of this Holy Week with Him and each other.

On these days I will be at prayer with you from 9.30 to 10am and will offer Mass in the house for the following intentions:-

Monday 6 th	-	Lynda Pitt (Betty Hatton's daughter) – welfare
Tuesday 7 th	-	Paddy Griffin R.I.P. (Margaret Stone)
Wednesday 8 th	-	Lindsay Corette, Trevor Lingham and Beverley Heasman R.I.P.

Maundy Thursday – 9th April

We begin the "Great 3 Days" with the Lord and each other. On this night Jesus began His Passover Journey by celebrating the Passover and First Mass and ordaining the first Priests and then went out to begin his Passion with the Agony in the Garden and his trial before the Sanhedrin. We join him in rededicating ourselves to the Mass and the Priesthood, with thanks for these great gifts, and then join him in his Agony and Trial and dedicate ourselves to follow him to this Good Friday and Easter.

I will be at Prayer with you at 8pm, celebrating the Mass of the Lord's Supper for all of you and rededicating myself as your priest, and then from 9.30 to 10pm to join with you and the Lord in His Agony and Trial.

Good Friday – 10th April

During this day we walk with Jesus on His Way of Love and Giving. We join Him on the Cross and give ourselves to Him so that we may be filled with Resurrection, Healing, Love, Strength, Light and Life this Easter – in reading and prayer and Veneration of the Cross.

I ask you to join me and our Christian brothers and sisters for a "Spiritual Walk of Witness" (as we can't have a physical one) at 11am and am attaching to this newsletter the readings and hymns for this.

I will be at prayer with you at 3pm celebrating the Liturgy of the Passion and Veneration of the Cross in the house. And in the evening I will be at prayer from 8.00 to 8.30pm and ask you and especially our Youth Group and Young People to join me in prayer at the time we would be celebrating the Youth Group's Passion Play (we hope to have this in the autumn – if possible around the Feast of the Holy Cross in September).

Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday

We wait in hope on Saturday with Jesus in the tomb and prepare to celebrate the new Resurrection, Love, Healing, Light and Life that the Lord wants to bring us in a special way this Easter – repeating his Passover from death to life for us and celebrating the Joy of the Resurrection which is the cornerstone of our faith.

I will celebrate the Easter Vigil in the house at 8.30pm lighting the new Easter Candle and blessing the new Easter Baptismal Water and again we will have a full celebration of this when we are able to gather together again. On Sunday I will be at prayer from 10 to 10.30am and will celebrate the Easter Family Mass with our children specially in mind. (AND ENJOY YOUR EASTER EGGS!)

HOLY WEEK SERVICES ON LINE

Go to Fr. Geoff at catholic-bearsted.org.uk -or Walsingham.org.uk -or the Diocesan Website – www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

FUNERALS AND PRAYERS

Please pray for Mary Wilmot who died during the week and for her daughters and family and many friends in the Parish.

Also for Trevor Lingham who also died during the week and for his family especially David and Jenney and their family.

We continue our prayers for Lindsay Corette and his family as they prepare for his funeral at Tonbridge Cemetery on Tuesday 14th April.

Also Paddy Griffin, his son Joseph and all his family as they prepare for his funeral at Vinters Park Crematorium on Friday 17th April.

And we ask your prayers for Lynda Pitt (Betty Hatton's daughter) who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and pray for Lynda and Betty and their families.

To all of them we offer our love, support and prayers at this time.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Betty Ward; Moira Stevens; Peter and Dee Avery; Fiona Evans; Roy & Heather Lewis; Frank Ostridge; Jacky Seeds; Archie & Arrison Sullivan; Sheila Koster; Caroline Walker; Margaret Edwards; the Orlando Family; Ross, Philip, Niki & Freya; Betty Hatton; John Stevens; Meg Brewer; Natalie Walker; Jean Clifford; Adrian Atmore; James Bryant; Paula Thornton; Lynda Pitt (Betty Hatton's daughter); carers of the sick; our housebound and all at Maidstone Hospital, Hospice and local Nursing Homes. Please pray for all affected by cutbacks, illnesses and other challenges in our country and world.

RECENTLY DEAD: Mary Wilmot; Trevor Lingham; Paddy Griffin; Beverley Heasman; Lindsay Corette; Archbishop Peter Smith; Fr. Henry Reynolds; also Tony Brewer; Carol Blackmore; Bruce Costin; Fr. John Castelli (month's mind). Please keep in your prayers all who have died in conflict throughout the world especially the innocent civilians.

ANNIVERSARIES: Walter Roberts; Teresa Gordon; Geoff McBride; Patrick Kelly; Maria Orlando; Hugh Beatty; Margaret Ingold, Nicola Sbrocchi; Joyce Nowell; Magdalen Lobo; Esther Batt; Gus Isava (birthday); Peter Whinfield; Kevin Cunning (Snr.); Francis Micallef (& Lonza).

Let us now help each other to walk this Holy Week well and find all the new Healing, Love, Strength and Life the Lord wants to bring us through it.

My continued love and prayers to all of you and especially all who are suffering and in difficulty – and God Bless,

Fr. Peter.