

31 MARCH HOLY SATURDAY: EASTER EVE

The Queen of Feasts! On this night, the great event of the resurrection took place. Christ, having hallowed the grave by His own time in the tomb, bursts forth risen from the dead. The Easter fire is kindled and the Paschal candle blessed and lit leads us into the unlit church. Christ is our light and we follow as His disciples. The great proclamation of Easter is sung by the Deacon.

The readings of the Vigil then tell the story of God's plan of salvation, beginning with Creation.

We remember that by our baptism we are baptised into the death and resurrection of Jesus and so we renew our baptismal promises and are sprinkled with water. It is by baptism that we live the first day of our eternal life.

8.00pm Service of Light, Vigil and First Mass of Easter

Parish Mass Book page 220

1 APRIL EASTER DAY

At Masses today we renew our baptismal vows in place of the usual creed and are sprinkled with Holy Water to remind us of God's life-giving love and mercy poured out upon us.

9.00am and 11am Mass *Parish Mass Book page 255*



May the Risen Christ bless you this Holy Season!

St Thomas More Catholic Church

Knoll Drive, Coventry CV3 5DE

Live web camera: www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-thomas-more-church-coventry/

Website: www.stmcov.org

Twitter: @StThosMore

Phone: 02476 411900



This is our Jubilee Year: 75 years of the parish and 50 years of the church

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Knoll Drive, Coventry CV3 5DE

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



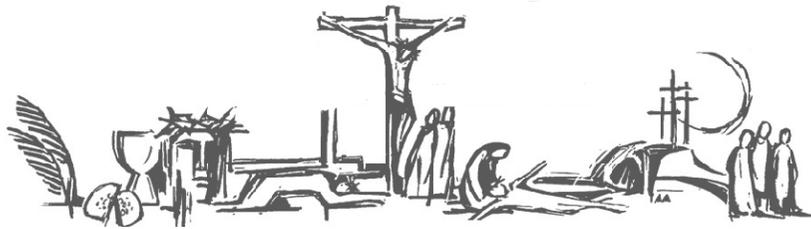
25 March– 1 April 2018

Web: stmcov.org **Twitter:** @StThosMore

HOLY WEEK 2018 AT ST THOMAS MORE

This week is the greatest and most solemn week of the Christian year, dedicated as it is to the suffering and death of Jesus. We come to celebrate the depth of God's love and mercy shown by His ultimate sacrifice. It is by the Cross that Jesus saves the world and opens the gates of heaven. It is by the Cross that He opens wide His arms in total love and invites all humanity into His loving, merciful embrace.

So we answer Christ's call to 'Follow me' in a particular way this week. The Masses and Liturgies exist to help us appreciate the great mystery of God's love for us shown in the pages of the Gospels that tell of the events of the first Holy Week. Jesus. It is only by His death that Jesus is able to rise again. Good Friday had to happen in order to bring us the joy of the resurrection on Easter Day.



25 MARCH, PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

The day of Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem that will lead to His death and resurrection, a triumph rather different to what most people expected...

Today, Holy Week begins and with it the solemn celebration of the Lord's saving Passion and Death. We make a symbolic procession, before which palms are blessed, recalling the Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, fulfilling the prophet's words. But the joyful reception of Jesus into the city is transformed by political machinations and fickle public opinion into a dreadful miscarriage of justice. 'Hosanna!' is replaced by 'Crucify him!'. The innocent One is found guilty that we might be declared innocent.

Mass & Procession 9.00am *Parish Mass Book page p181*

Mass 6.00pm

26 MARCH HOLY MONDAY

Mass 9.15am

27 MARCH HOLY TUESDAY

Confession 6.00-6.45pm

Mass 7.00pm

28 MARCH HOLY WEDNESDAY

Mass 9.15am

29 MARCH MAUNDY THURSDAY

The night of the Last Supper, betrayal and arrest of Jesus.

Today, Jesus arranges to spend a last Passover meal in the Upper Room with His disciples as they celebrate this great feast. He takes water and a bowl and to show His mission is one of love and service, He washes the feet of His followers. They are at first shocked but come to see its meaning. Jesus knows that before the day's end one of His friends will nonetheless betray Him and He will be arrested. So He takes the Apostles with Him to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane as His hour approaches.

The Mass today celebrates the gift of the Mass that Jesus left us at the Last Supper and the gift of service that He came to bring, symbolised by the washing of feet. After Communion, the Blessed Sacrament is taken in procession to the altar of repose where, leaving behind the Upper Room, His followers pray with Him in the garden. The church will be in near darkness and the sanctuary stripped of furnishings, and the altar of repose adorned with light and flowers. Do try to spend a least a moment with watching with Jesus after Mass at the Altar of Repose. *Please keep silence in church after this Mass because the watch of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament will have begun.*

7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, Foot washing and Watch at the Altar of Repose until midnight *Parish Mass Book page 196*



30 MARCH GOOD FRIDAY

Today, after His arrest Jesus has been thrown into prison. His trial moves from the Jewish to the Roman authorities. Jesus's Jewish enemies see that He is at last in their power, yet they do not have authority to put anyone to death. Only the Romans may pass that sentence and after the crowd has been whipped up, Pontius Pilate overcomes his reluctance as it becomes obvious that Jesus will have to die. After cruel scourging Jesus takes up the Cross and thorough His Blood and the nails literally unites Himself to it as they way in which He will sacrifice Himself as the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

We commemorate the Lord's Passion and death with a solemn liturgy in which we come to the Cross in gratitude remembering the terrible events of the first Good Friday. *Please, therefore, keep silence after the liturgy in church.*

3.00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion *Parish Mass Book page 201*
Confession follows the Liturgy
6.00pm Stations of the Cross