

# St. Thomas of Canterbury, Grays

The Presbytery, 16 East Thurrock Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SR.

Tel: (01375) 372306 Charity Number: 234092

Email: [grays@brcdt.org](mailto:grays@brcdt.org)



**Parish Priest**

**Fr. Stephen Myers MA, BSc, BA, PGCE. Cert Theo.**

*Episcopal Vicar for Education*

**Deacon Matúš Meleg**

Reconciliation: Sat. 4:15-4:45pm

Baptisms and Weddings by appointment

## 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ezekiel 33: 7-9

Romans 13:8-10

Matthew 18:15-20

*We need to be always watchful for those things that can divide us and split us as a community. We are to be sentries for the body of Christ, looking for trouble and defending the unity of the Church. For those who injure the body are to be shown how they may repair the damage caused. For the loss of one part of the body affects the whole and injures the whole.*

Dear Friends

The month of September starts with not one but two great Marian feasts. On 8<sup>th</sup> September we celebrated the birthday of Mary and on 15<sup>th</sup> September we will remember Our Lady of Sorrows. These two Marian feasts surround and point to another great feast – the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Cross – the stumbling block for the Jews and the folly for the Gentiles – is the prime example of how much we are loved by our God. He so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Jesus gave us an opportunity not to just live but an opportunity to live to the fullest.

Yes, it is this fact that we Christians exalt the cross that confuses so many. Why would someone exalt an instrument of torture? However, what we do is we rejoice that this instrument of torture, and a sign of human evil and malice, was transformed by God to a means of our redemption. At the same time, the cross is a great reminder to us of how real all this is. This historical fact makes us certain that God truly entered the world. The Son of God was walking the same earth we walk. He became human so that we might know that we are loved and that our God is not an observer from distance but a personal God who cares for us and wants us to be happy.

In Mary we see the greatest example of how to react and how to live knowing these great acts of God. She showed us the perfect response of humanity to God. The one who was redeemed first so that she could show us that that only by following the will of God our true humanity comes

out. It is sin that makes us less of who we truly are. It is sin that corrupts our true nature. Mary showed us the true beauty of humanity. During the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows we are reminded of that prophecy of Simeon who told Mary that a sword would pierce her heart. This was to show us the Way, because the same way she walked the path from Nazareth to Calvary, so the Church must get from the water springs of baptism all the way to the Cross, where she dies with her Spouse. Mary helps us to understand what it means to participate in suffering and redemption. She helps us to understand what God has done for us. It is in the suffering of Mary that the Church can understand her own mission.

One's own participation, what is it? Von Balthasar asked this question, 'In the sacrifice of the Mass, what are you offering in the name of the Church, what are you renouncing?' No matter what is brought to the table what does it actually do? Is not Christ alone the sacrifice? It is in the actions of Mary where we can find the answer. Mary is present at the Calvary as a self-gift, consenting to the will of the Father by offering her Son. 'She would prefer a thousand times over to be tortured in his place. But this is not what is demanded of her; she has only to consent to it.' Therefore, let us also search for that will of the Father in our lives. What is it that God wants me to do? Everyone's mission is unique and thus it is up to us individually to find ours. What is the plan of God in my life? Perhaps the best way to go about it is to offer everything we do to our Father in heaven and start every day with that question – what do You want me to do today?

**Yours in Christ,  
Deacon Matúš**



### **Sanctuary Lamps**

St. Thomas' – Vera Quinn R.I.P

*St. Peter's – Bishop Michael OFM R.I.P*

## Collection for the Catholic Education Service

Our collection for the Catholic Education Service will be taking place in all Masses this weekend, 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September. Please be as generous as you can on this Education Sunday.

## Sick List

Please let us know if you or a family member would like to be added to the sick list or removed if no longer required.

## We pray for the members of our parish community who are ill or unable to come to Mass especially:

Joe McGivvney	Jean Reynolds	Adrian Felix	Bob Marsh	Ellen Judge
Marie Curran	Eileen English	Helen McManus	Ernest Ozor	Pat Camp
Solomon Alexis	Grace Mullender	Stephen Wright	Carole Hewing	Len Taylor
Attracta McManus	Teresa Taylor	Dorothy Mudiriza	Stasius Rubezius	Jo Hughes
Margaret Himsworth	Fr John McKeon	Tandiwe Nyathi	Kathleen Doherty	Dottie Rees
Ursula Duda-Paulisz	Tom McDonagh	Barry Clarke	Arthur Faye	Betty Collins
Ruairi Appleton	Margaret Larkin	Hunter Garrod	Margaret Brannigan	Jack Hornett
Elizabeth Fernando	Francesca Siddell	Anne Kennedy	Des & Eileen Rowan	Vivian Ojeh

Raimondas Lenkevicius

## Farewell from our Parish Secretary

Thank you to everyone for the wonderful messages, cards and gifts I have received over the last few weeks. I am completely overwhelmed by your kindness. It has been an absolute pleasure to have worked with you all for the last 16 years and I have so many lovely memories of my time in the parish. Grays is a very special parish, not just a community but a family too. Please give Anthony your usual warm welcome and ongoing support to help him settle into the parish. I leave you all in very safe hands. God bless you all. Karen

## Second Collection – Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

The Third Sunday in September, formerly called Home Mission Sunday, is now *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday, named after Pope Francis' first (solo) Apostolic Exhortation on the Joy of the Gospel. There will be a Second Collection at all Masses for 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> September, please give generously.

## Baptism Course

**Help Needed:** We are still looking for a new leader (or more) for the Baptism course. Pip will be here in September to give any training needed. The course runs on two Monday evenings every other month. Please contact the parish office or Fr Stephen for more information.

**BAPTISM COURSE:** Second session **11<sup>th</sup> September** in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm. If you need more information call the parish office on 01375 372306 or email [grays@brcdt.org](mailto:grays@brcdt.org)

## **Save the Date! Christmas Bazaar**

This year's Christmas Bazaar will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 12 Noon. The Bazaar Group will meet on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in the Parish Room to start organising this annual Parish event. New faces welcome. We will be requesting donations soon so please be as generous as you can. Thank you for your support.

## **Catechists Required**

The parish is in need of more catechists to run the various sacramental preparations. If you were involved with any sacramental preparation before and you are able to continue the service, or if you are able to be part of the group to lead the preparations, please let Fr. Stephen know.

## **The Dedication of a Church**

The next Gidea Park Faith Talk is due to take place at 7 pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September in the hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Parish priest and liturgical scholar, Fr David Manson, will be speaking about 'the Dedication of a Church', explaining how this rare ceremony takes place, and pointing to its deeper significance. All are welcome. Tea and coffee will be available from 6.30 pm. To view online go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

## **CALIYP programme 2023/4**

Following the initial session on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, CALIYP children only will again meet on Weds 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 5.30pm – 7pm in the Small Hall.

## **R.C.I.A. Application forms**

Application forms for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) will be available to collect after all Masses at the back of both churches.

## **Gift Aid - TAX LETTER 2022/23**

Please contact the parish office if you need a letter for the Tax office for last year.

## **Thurrock Foodbank donations**

Help us to continue to support Thurrock Foodbank, your donations really make a difference. Items needed include Mashed potato, custard, cooking sauces, tinned soups, jams/spreads, sponge puddings, Angel Delight, jelly, packet rice, long-life milk (red & blue), Biscuits and other tinned and bottled foods. There are boxes at the back of church for you to leave your donations.

## **Last Week's Collections**

Collection - include weekly donations and bank standing orders: £1,581.12  
Restoration Fund September - inc. bank etc: £ 864.00

Thank you for your generosity for the above collections.

**Counters Rota: 10.9.23. IS Team 17.09.23 LT Team 24.09.23 KL Team**

**Online Donations <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/donations/stoc>**

## Prayers of the Church

Week 3 - Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri at 8.45am

## Readers for Mass

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> September 5.00pm L. Iyayi & L. Plumb  
Sun 10<sup>th</sup> 8:30am J. Kavanagh & M. Staerck  
*St. Peter's* 9:30am L. Stilve & E. Hoffland  
11:00am U. Odjoh & N. Muoma

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> September 5.00pm B. Navti & F. Garwood  
Sun 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30am I. Scott & M. Walsh  
*St. Peter's* 9:30am A. Francis & H. Ballard  
11:00am V. Malanda & D. Sharp

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> September 5.00pm R. Rayan & S. Merrigan  
Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 8:30am R. Kaszas & F. Konga  
*St. Peter's* 9:30am S. Key & M. Miller  
11:00am D. Fagbebe & P. Meshe

## Ministers for Mass

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> September 5.00pm S. Cummings, T. Fullerton & M. McManus  
Sun 10<sup>th</sup> 8:30am E. Tubman, P. Crilly & H. Lesurf  
*St. Peter's* 9:30am P. Wilson, M. Zindoga & M. Polly  
11:00am S. Adams-Cundick (+ 2) (Choir)

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> September 5.00pm K. McGoldrick, R. Chinnon & A. Abraham  
Sun 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30am R. Kaszas, N. Gill & E. Tubman  
*St. Peter's* 9:30am M. Zindoga, M. Polley & P. Wilson  
11:00am P. Johnson & S-A. Cundick (+1)

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> September 5.00pm F. Garwood, E. Copley & M. McManus  
Sun 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30am E. Tubman, M. Zindoga & P. Wilson  
11:00am. S-A. Cundick, P. Johnson(+1)

## Parish Information

Website: [www.grayscatholic.org](http://www.grayscatholic.org) Facebook: [facebook.com/stthomasofcanterburychurchgrays](https://www.facebook.com/stthomasofcanterburychurchgrays)

Live Stream Mass (Sundays 11am)

<https://www.youtube.com/stthomasofcanterburycchurchgrays>

Safeguarding –Pat Wilson 07939 244236 or 01375 377416

# Mass Intentions

## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) (Education Sunday)

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	4:15pm	Reconciliation until 4.45pm
	5.00pm	Intentions of Jacquie Chinnon (Chinnon family)
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	8:30am	Mrs Mark Antony R.I.P. (Neena Thomas)
<i>St Peter's</i>	9.30am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	11.00am	Diamond Wedding intentions Jacquie & Claude Chinnon

### Feria

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00am	Mary Tubman RIP (Tubman Family)
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### Feria

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	7.30pm	For the CWL Members Past & Present
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## St John Chrysostom, Bp, D. Followed by Adoration until 10:30am

Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00am	Batt Lynch RIP (Maria & family)
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## Exaltation (Triumph) of the Holy Cross Feast

Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	9.00am	Frank Lynch RIP (Lynch family)
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### Our Lady of Sorrows

Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	9.00am	Martin Last anniversary (A and R Last)
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## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) - Evangelli Gaudium Day

Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	4:15pm	Reconciliation until 4.45pm
	5.00pm	Ints. Of Mrs. Antonia Ekwo (Ogundeko family)
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> September.	8:30am	Cecil Harry Oxley RIP (D. Oxley)
<i>St Peter's</i>	9.30am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	11.00am	James Mower RIP (Dexter & Green families)

### Feria

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00am	Connie Luxon R.I.P. (M Sharp)
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### Feria

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	7.30pm	Louis Claude Chinnon Intent. (Chinnon family)
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## St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon Pr. & Paul Chong Ha-sang & Comps. Mm

Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00am	Danielle Claudia Chinnon R.I.P. (Chinnon family)
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## Feast of St Matthew, Ap, Evangelist

Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	9.00am	Holy Souls of Purgatory R.I.P. (G.Terry)
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### Feria

Friday 22nd September	9.00am	William Byrne R.I.P. (C & M Gregory)
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## 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 23rd September	4:15pm	Reconciliation until 4.45pm
	5.00pm	Richie McManus R.I.P. (Mary, Tania and Karen)
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September.	8:30am	People of the Parish
<i>St Peter's</i>	9.30am.	<i>Lawrence Ireknumi Falase R.I.P. (Mr &amp; Mrs O V Falase)</i>
	11.00am	Felix Ojala (65 <sup>th</sup> birthday Intentions)