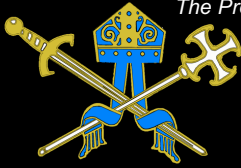


St. Thomas of Canterbury, Grays

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

Tel: (01375) 372306 Charity Number: 234092

Email: grays@brcdt.org



Parish Priest

Canon Stephen Myers MA, BSc, BA, PGCE.

Episcopal Vicar for Education

Fr. Matúš Meleg

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

Baptisms and Weddings by appointment

4th and 5th May 6th Sunday of Easter (B)

Acts 10: 25-26, 34-5, 44-8

1 John 4: 7-10

John 15: 9-17

The commandment of love. The love which God has shown us in Christ is above all else a practical love - it translates itself into action. Just as it broadens the scope of the Church, making it universal or 'catholic', it must enable us who profess to belong to that Church to reach out to everyone with the intensity of the love of Christ himself.

What has happened to Sin?

This is the title of an article that I read by an eminent psychologist regarding the attitude of people which makes them think that they have done nothing wrong in life when in fact they really know that exactly the opposite is the truth. My reflection on this attitude goes something like this;

- Due to the fact that so many people think that they do no wrong they are able to convince themselves that all their actions are right and justified.
- Following on from this can be the attitude that the actions of others are judged and condemned all too easily and thus these others are attacked and rejected.
- This judgement can take many forms but it is my opinion that it is most often seen in the way that people gossip about others. I am certain that at the heart of gossip is judgment and thus condemnation and let there be no doubt about this all are open to gossip men and women alike. What ever it may be called, what every form it takes or whenever it is done it is still judgement.

'Blind fools!' to use the Lord's term. When we stand in judgement of others we have simply got it the wrong way round. If we are able to start from a position of realising that we do, in fact, far too often take the selfish path and sin, then we are able to make a start. For if we understand that we are sinners then we understand not only our need for forgiveness and healing but also the need in others. We can see those who do wrong not as those to be judged but as fellow travellers who, like ourselves, have fallen and may be able get up again. In others words we see them as people needing help not condemnation. This is I feel what the Lord meant when he told his followers to take the plank out of their eye before addressing the splinter in the eye

of another. This can be hard to do because it needs to start from the position of our recognition of our own sinfulness, which it seems fewer and fewer are able to do. I feel that this is the point of the article that I mentioned at the beginning of my reflections, which points out that if more people were willing to admit their faults, then people would be much better and happier in life. It is in the end of the day up to each one of us to examine our own conscience and to see how much we are living up to the Gospel. In other words, I feel that the only person that we should be judging is ourselves.

It is also our duty to inform our conscience and thus to judge ourselves according to the teaching of the Lord and the Church. This is, I suppose where the ministers of the Church come in. For among our duties is the expectation that we will inform the conscience of those to whom we minister. For it is not simple enough to think that we are free to do as we will, we must understand the call of the Lord to act in his way in all that we do.

In addition to all that I have written above is a wonderful truth that should lift us up when we are weighed down with our own sinfulness and be given as a help to others in a similar place. This truth is that we are forgiven and that it will never be too late to turn back to the Lord. Look at the story of the tax collector Zacchaeus, someone who in the eyes of Jesus' fellows was the ultimate sinner in that not only was he a collaborator with the hated Romans but he was also a thief. It was well known that tax collectors would extort much more than was due from those under his restriction so as to make themselves rich. So when Zacchaeus says that he would give back fourfold to anyone that he has cheated you can be assured that there would have been quite a long line of people wanting to get their due share of the bounty. Such a promise lets him receive from the Lord the assurance that salvation has come his way. This is our real future and our real hope. Thus, when we are ready to admit that we have sinned then we are one step closer to salvation.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Stephen

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 McGivney	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	Patricia Lake
Attracta McManus	Teresa Taylor	Dorothy Mudiriza	Stasius Rubezius	Jo Hughes
Julie Cox	Ian Ballard	Tandiwe Nyathi	Kathleen Doherty	Dottie Rees
Ursula Duda-Paulisz	Tom McDonagh	Barry Clarke	Arthur Faye	Betty Collins
Ruairi Appleton	Margaret Larkin	Hunter Garrod	Brendan Pettit	Jack Hornett
Elizabeth Fernando	Francesca Siddell	Anne Kennedy	Des & Eileen Rowan	Vivian Ojeh
Jack Hornett.	Donna Corrigan.	R. Lenkevicius.		

Sanctuary Lamps

St. Thomas' – Viviane Malanda Thanksgiving
St. Peter's – Janina Herasim R.I.P.

Next Baptism Course

The next Baptism course will run on May 7th and 14th, 7.30pm after the 7pm Tuesday evening Mass. Please bear in mind that BOTH sessions must be attended. A sign-up sheet is now at the back of St. Thomas' church, please put your details down if you would like to attend.

A Day with Mary

The Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham will be holding a Day with Mary on Sunday 12th May, starting at 12 noon. For more information, visit www.adaywithmary.org or email adwmary@gmail.com

Parish Committees Restarting

Two of our dormant Parish Committees are being revived, and we are looking for as many as possible parish volunteers who are willing to be involved. There will be a meeting in the Parish Room on Wednesday May 22nd at 7.30pm. This meeting will look at the possibility of setting up a replacement to the Parish Advisory Committee. This committee will be involved in shaping the parish for the future and the be part of the parish partnership.

The following week, the Fabric and Maintenance Committee will meet on Wednesday May 29th at 7.30pm in the Parish Room. This committee will look at the condition of the parish properties and consider the recommendations of the recent reports received by the parish.

Please do consider contributing your knowledge and skills to these committees. The parish can only survive if that is the will of the community. By coming along to either of these meetings you help to plan for the future and share the roles that the parish need.

First Holy Communion & Confirmation 2024-25

The sign-up sheets for the next First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes are available at the back of St. Thomas' Church from this weekend. Please bear in mind that this is only possible by attending Mass and signing the sheets that your child can be enrolled for either course - this cannot be done this remotely.

Current FHC & Confirmation Candidates

Current First Holy Communion candidates are reminded that this weekend (May 4th) is the last session. There will be practise sessions on May 10th for May 11th candidates, and another practise session on May 17th for May 18th candidates. The next Confirmation session will be a practice for the celebration at Pentecost and sponsors will need to be present at the practices and the Mass.

New Gift Aid Numbers and Envelopes

Please check the back of St. Thomas' church for your new Gift Aid envelopes. Most of you will have new numbers (to save so many unused envelopes from being ordered) so please dispose of your old envelopes and only use envelopes with your new numbers, to save confusion.

Thurrock Foodbank

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 green crates at the back of church for you to leave your donations. Please only donate non-perishable items, as it can be days or weeks between collections.

Many Thanks for Your Generosity

We have had a wonderful response to the Golden Jubilee collection for Canon Brian O'Shea, and we send our thanks to all contributors for such a generous and fitting response.

Youth Club

St. Thomas' Parish Youth Club are always looking for more members, and membership is open to anyone in school years 5-11. Activities include Nintendo Switch, Football, Table Tennis and much more. Meets in term time on the third Friday of every month, 7.30pm to 9.30pm. £5 to join and £1.50 per session after that. Please fill out a dark green application form on the table at the back of St Thomas' church and hand it to a priest or the parish office.

Mass Intentions

Masses continue to be booked well ahead of time. If you would like a Mass intention for a particular date, please do book well ahead to avoid disappointment. We will do our best to honour your requests for dates and times, but sometimes this won't be possible due to the volume of masses already dedicated.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024

Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Friday 19 – Friday 26 July). To book, please go online: **Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com)** If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please e-mail: Lourdes@brcdt.org

Readers for Sunday Mass

Sat 4 th May	5.00pm	L Plumb, L Lyayi
Sun 5 th	8.30am	F Konga, R Kaszas
St Peter's	9.30am.	M Miller, L Stilve
	11.00am	K Scott, V Malanda

Ministers for Sunday Mass

Sat 4 th May	5.00pm.	M McManus, K McGoldrick
Sun 5 th	8.30am.	E Tubman, H Lesurf
St Peter's	9.30am.	P Wilson, M. Polley
	11.00am	P Johnson, S_A Cundick

Prayers of the Church

Psalter Week 2 - Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri at 8.45am

Last Week's Collection

Offertory Collection: £ 1,223.71

Thank you for your generosity for the above collection

Counters Rota: 05.05.24 IS Team. 12.05.24 LT Team

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

Parish Information

Website: www.grayscatholic.org Facebook: facebook.com/stthomasofcanterburychurchgrays

Live Stream Mass (Sundays 11am)

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

Safeguarding –Pat Wilson 07939 244236 or 01375 377416

St. Peter's RC Church is located at:





2 Whitmore Ave, Grays, RM16 2JA

Please note: St Peter's has no parish office, and all enquiries should be directed to the St Thomas' Parish Office

Donate with Giftaid




giftaid it

Please treat as gift aid donation, all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that, if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Donate £3.00	Donate £5.00	Donate £10.00	Donate £20.00
			

Donate without Giftaid

If you are unable to donate with Giftaid then please use the codes below.

Donate £3.00	Donate £5.00	Donate £10.00	Donate £20.00
			

Mass Intentions

Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)

Saturday 4 th May	4:15pm	Reconciliation until 4.45pm
	5.00pm	Richie McManus R.I.P. (Mary, Tania & Karen)
Sunday 5 th May	8:30am	People of the Parish
<i>St Peter's</i>	9.30am	<i>Janina Herasim (Blint family)</i>
	11.00am	Mary Story R.I.P. (Chinnon family)

St John Payne , Pr, M

Monday 6 th May	9:00am	Souls in Purgatory
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Tuesday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Tuesday 7 th May	7.00pm	Michael Costello Anniv. (Tubman family)
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Wednesday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Wed 8 th May	9:00am	Leonard Adesenwo (M Adesenwo)
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The Ascension of the Lord

Thursday 9 th May	9.00am.	Mrs Fidelma Nkiru Osaji. (C. Osaji)
	7.00pm	Mark Blint (J. Blint)

Friday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Friday 10 th May	9.00am	Stella Maris Onwugbolu R.I.P. (M. Adesenwo)
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Seventh Sunday of Easter (B)

World Communications Sunday

Saturday 11 th May	4:15pm	Reconciliation until 4.45pm
	5.00pm	Bridget Cantwell & Betty Celio R.I.P.
Sunday 12 th May	8:30am	Anne Winslow R.I.P. (V. Winslow)
<i>St Peter's</i>	9.30am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	11.00am	Eufrocina Magallanes R.I.P. (Choir)

St Erconwald, Bp

Monday 13 th May	9:00am	John Power Anniv (Tubman Family)
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St Matthias, Ap

Tuesday 14 th May	7.00pm	Liam Costello Anniv. (Tubman family)
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Wednesday after the 7th Sunday of Easter

Wed 15 th May	9:00am	Holy Family (M Poku)
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Thursday after the 7th Sunday of Easter

Thursday 16 th May	9.00am.	Anne Thacker R.I.P. (C Geraghty)
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Friday after the 7th Sunday of Easter

Friday 17 th May	9.00am	Nellie Bates R.I.P. (M Clerkin)
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Pentecost Sunday

Saturday 18 th May	4:15pm	Reconciliation until 4.45pm
	5.00pm	Thomas Rayan R.I.P. (S Rayan)
Sunday 19 th May	8:30am	People of the Parish
<i>St Peter's</i>	9.30am	<i>Marie Pettit (M Pettit)</i>
	11.00am	Roy Wormald R.I.P. (B Wormald)