

TIMES	MEMORIAL OR FEAST	INTENTIONS
SAT	6.30pm Vigil Mass: 5 th Sunday in Lent Yr B	
SUN	10.30am Mass: 5 th Sunday in Lent Yr B	
TUES	7.00pm Station Mass at St Sylvester's, Elgin	
THURS	9.00am Stations of the Cross	
	9.30am Mass: Thurs of 5 th week in Lent	
SAT	6.30pm Vigil Mass: Palm Sunday Yr B	
SUN	10.30am Mass: Palm Sunday Yr B – gather in hall	
Collection	Last week: £292.50 SCIAF £73	Attendance 62
MINISTRIES	17/3/2024	24/3/2024
Church Cleaning	Danby & Harvey	-
Counters	Smith	Reid
Welcome	Gray/Harvey	Farrell/Coull
Hall keeper	K James	R Hendry
Sat Reader	K Schouwenaars-Harms	L Collins
Sat EME	M Collins	K Schouwenaars-Harms
Sun Reader	J Munro, A Mitchell	T Coull, M Le Mero
Sun EME	E Danby, I Grant	L Le Mero, R Harvey
Flowers	Lent – no flowers	Lent – no flowers

Useful contacts:

Parish Priest:	Fr Kingsley Chigbo	01542 832196
	email cilk@rcda.scot	
Assistant priest:	Fr Peter Ezekoka	01542 832196
	email poe@rcda.scot	
Permanent Deacon:	Dcn Graeme Morrison	07387008498
		Deacon.graeme@rcda.scot
PPC Chair:	Dcn Graeme Morrison	07387008498
Parish Safeguarding Co-ord:	Elizabeth Danby	stthomasPSC@rcd-abdn.org
Health & Safety:	Keith Gray	01542 886242
Newsletter:	Margaret Farrell	01542 882116
	or	mcfarrell@btinternet.com
Hospital Chaplains:	Elgin Dcn Graeme Morrison	07387008498
	Aberdeen Fr Emmet O'Dowd	01224 482657
	or	ARI@rcda.scot
Facebook: St Thomas' RC Church, Keith	YouTube: St Margaret's RC Church, Huntly	
Email: chapelstthomas@yahoo.co.uk	Website: www.stthomaskeith.org	

St Thomas' Church is open each day from 9am to 3pm for private prayer.



ST. THOMAS R.C. CHURCH, KEITH
DIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE BIRTHPLACE OF ST JOHN OGILVIE
17th March 2024
5th Sunday in Lent (B II) Psalter Week 1



THE ANNOUNCER!

What time do you think it is? We hear the concept of time in all the readings. What time is it for us, fellow Christian pilgrim?

In the first reading, God, through Jeremiah, speaks of the coming days and the time when He will establish a new covenant with His people—a covenant not written on tablets of stone but on the human heart. This covenant is not bound by external rituals, but it is an intimate, personal relationship with God. Therefore, the covenant will promote the knowledge of God by all and lead to the forgiveness of their sins.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews talks about the days of Jesus' life on earth, a life which was distinguished by prayer, and obedience to the Father's will and work of salvation. During his time on earth, Jesus offered prayers to God, He "learnt" obedience through his suffering, and He became for us a source of salvation.

In the gospel reading, we hear of the days when Greek visitors came to the Holy Land seeking to see Jesus and have some time with Him. We hear Jesus calling this moment, the hour when the son of man is to be glorified. He will be glorified through his suffering, death, and resurrection. He will be glorified when, like a single wheat grain, He falls on the ground and dies and then yields a rich harvest for the whole world.

This is a special moment; we are in the days when we especially seek Jesus. When we seek Jesus, He points us to the cross because in it is our salvation. On the cross we find the love of God for humanity, the humility of the Son of God to come into the world and die a shameful death in our place, and the obedience of Jesus through His suffering; we see the wisdom that defies our comprehension – the mystery of the cross, that the Godman Jesus Christ died for us.

For us to have a rich spiritual harvest, this is the time to lay ourselves down, allowing ourselves to be sown into the soil of trials in this life, to bear everlasting fruits for God. The time is now!

Fr Kingsley

REFLECT WITH SCIAF: This Lent, your prayers and donations are making a BIG difference to people in Rwanda and around the world. As you prepare for Easter, SCIAF have created several prayers and reflections to use as part of your Lenten worship. Please visit sciaf.org.uk/resources to download your prayer resources today

Sacrament of Reconciliation: available on request.

Station Masses: the final Station Mass of the year is in Elgin on Tuesday evening at 7.00pm. Please note, there will be no 9.30 am Mass in Keith on Tuesday of this week, but Thursday instead, preceded by Stations of the Cross.

SPRING CLEAN: Help is needed from parishioners for a Spring Clean of the Church on Saturday, March 23, from 10am. Just come along with a duster and cloth and lend a hand to keep our beautiful Church looking its best for Easter and the rest of the year.

Chrism Mass: in the cathedral at 6pm on Thursday 21st March. This is a very important Mass, where all the priests of the diocese renew their vows, and when all of the holy oils to be used in sacraments over the next year will be blessed.

Holy Week: this begins next Sunday, with the Palm Sunday liturgy starting in the hall. Times of services are in the diary date. *The washing of the feet will be reinstated at the Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, volunteers are required, so please sign up at the back of the church.* Please also remember the ecumenical services in Holy Trinity all week, St Thomas's will lead the service on Monday 25th March.

RCIA: Please welcome (and keep in your prayers) our elect: Stephanie McPhee, John Mitchell and Keith Cruickshank, who are preparing to become full members of the church at Easter. At Masses on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent the formal process continues with short prayers, called scrutinies.

Second collections in March: 16/17 Maintenance Fund; 23/24 Easter Flowers; 30/31 Holy Places of Jerusalem

Pluscarden Pentecost lectures: "Scottish Catholic Literature and the 'transfiguration of the commonplace'" 4 talks by Dr Linden Bicket. 21st - 23rd May 2024, including the works of George Friel, Muriel Spark, George and Ann Scott-Moncrieff and George Mackay-Brown. No charge, register with Pluscarden Abbey or by emailing guestmaster@pluscardenabbey.org

Prayer Group: Monday evenings, 7pm in the hall. Contact Elizabeth Danby for information.

Tea & coffee in the hall after Sunday Mass. All welcome.



Pope's prayer intention: March: For the martyrs of our day, witnesses to Christ: Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

Diary Dates	
Station Mass in Elgin	Tuesday 19 th March 7pm
Chrism Mass in Aberdeen	Thursday 21 st March 6pm
Ecumenical Services	Holy Week, 7.30pm at Holy Trinity
Holy Thursday 8.30pm	Mass of the Last Supper <i>with washing of feet</i>
Good Friday 3.00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday 9.00pm	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	31 st March 2024
Fabric & Finance	22 nd May 2024 7.00pm in the hall
PPC	29 th May 7.00pm in the hall
Coffee morning with ASO	1 st June in the hall 10-12.30

Safeguarding: The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is Elizabeth Danby, and she can be contacted as shown overleaf. The diocesan Safeguarding page can be found at [Safeguarding – Roman Catholic Diocese of Aberdeen \(rcda.scot\)](http://Safeguarding-Roman Catholic Diocese of Aberdeen (rcda.scot)) and the text of **In God's Image (V2)** is accessed by clicking on <https://www.bcos.org.uk/LinkClick.aspx?link=131&tabid=124&portalid=0&mid=584>



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