

# News from the Catholic Churches of The Holy Child & St Joseph and Our Lady of Ransom

Volume 1 Issue 3

25<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Did you remember the clocks went forward today!

Holy Week Services

St Joseph's:

Thurs

Maudy Mass

8 pm & Watching until Midnight.

Good Friday

3 pm

Solemn Liturgy 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross with Relic Veneration

Holy Saturday:

8.30 pm

Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday

Masses

8.15 am

9.30 am

11 am

6.30 pm

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Our Lady's

Kempston:

Maudy Mass

8 pm

Good Friday

3 pm

Solemn Liturgy

Easter Sunday

Mass

9.30 am

Welcome to the Easter issue of our Quarterly Bulletin



An Easter word from Canon Seamus

This day was made by the Lord, we rejoice and are glad!

Easter signals the death of death.

Death where is your victory? Death where is your sting?

The sting of death has been removed by the

Resurrection of Christ from the dead.

We share with Him that victory. Death, in the sense of oblivion, does not exist. We enter into a new way of being, a new way of living.

Now there is meaning and purpose to life. It is but a preparation for

real life, pure life with God where we shall breath forever the

resurrection air of heaven. Keep this truth and hope before us always

and life will be marked with a joy that nothing can remove,

not even death.

He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

Happy Easter to all!

Canon Seamus & Father Roy

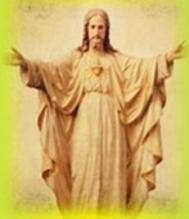


Canon Seamus Keenan



Father Roy Karakkattu

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope.



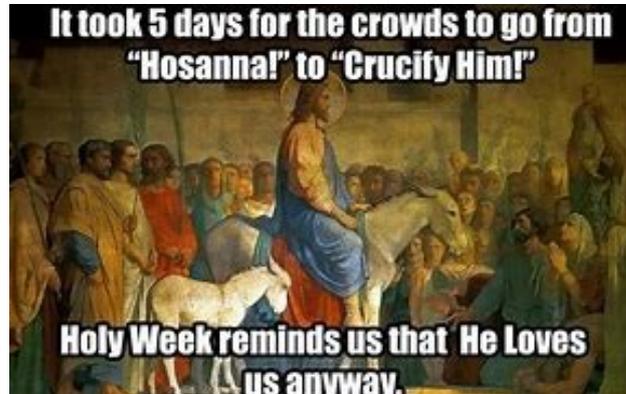
Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, and the time and strength to complete it.



Amen.

### YOUR GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK - PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday the beginning of Holy Week, commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before He was crucified, a week later, Christ would rise from the dead on the first Easter.



Palm Sunday is known as such because we receive palm fronds for use in the participation of the re-enactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the praise of the townspeople who strewed palms or small branches in front of Him as a sign of homage. Palm branches are a widely recognised symbol of peace and victory. After Easter the Blessed palms are incinerated, and they create the ashes that will be used in the following year's Ash Wednesday observance.

**THE SACRED TRIDUUM** - The critical first three days of our Church's Year begin with the Mass of the Lord's Supper and end at the glorious Easter Vigil.

**HOLY THURSDAY EVENING:** Eucharist and foot washing, Jesus washing the feet of the disciples (John 13:1-17) occurred in the upper room, just before the Last Supper and had significance in three ways. For Jesus, it was the display of His humility and His servanthood. For us, washing feet is symbolic of our role in the body of Christ.

**WATCHING WITH JESUS IN HIS AGONY IN THE GARDEN:** If you can, please stay and spend some time at the Altar of Repose, praying with Jesus in His agony in the garden, offering prayers for our sisters and brothers who are currently going through their own period of agony and fear, the Church will be open until midnight.

**GOOD FRIDAY AFTERNOON PASSION SERVICE** This service is timed at 3 pm, to coincide with the traditional time of the death of Jesus. It begins by the priest prostrating himself before the altar and praying silently. Scripture readings follow The fourth Servant Song from Isaiah; and always on this day the Passion according to St John, followed by intercessions. A single large cross is brought to the altar, and the adoration of the cross takes place. There follows a simple Communion Service, and the Passion Service ends in silence. There will be as usual a Good Friday Collection for the care of the Holy Places.

Our final **Stations of the Cross** this Lent will take place at 7.30 pm. It will be followed for those who wish to stay to venerate and kiss a Relic of the True Cross.

**HOLY SATURDAY:** This day is for meditating on Jesus, thinking and feeling how much He went through to save us and how His love for us gave Him the strength to endure extreme torture and humiliation. Spend some time reaching out to Mary and the disciples, how Mary agonised with Him, her Son, her only Son dying before her.

Offer up a prayer for all God's creatures who are dying that they may be enfolded in the loving heart of Jesus, and pray for those who have had a recent bereavement.

**EASTER VIGIL:** THE Service of the Church's year! We begin by light & fresh fire by the Church Door, the Easter Candle is lit and we process into a totally darkened church, following the Paschal Candle, a sign of Jesus, the light of the world. By candlelight, we sing the great Easter Hymn, the Exsultet, a hymn of praise and thanksgiving. Readings and the blessing of holy water follows with the Sacrament of Baptism, or receiving people to full Communion.

**EASTER DAY:** This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! This day completes the memorial of our Lord's dying and rising for us. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**EASTER OCTAVE:** If you have the opportunity to get to daily mass this week, you will hear all the resurrection stories day by day.



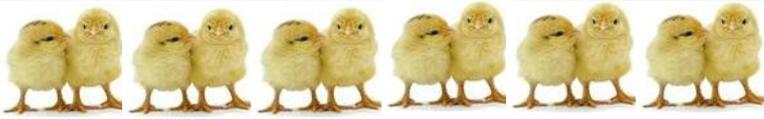
### The Families' Home Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The families home shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a very popular devotion within our parish. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patron of the unborn, families, singles and the clergy. The Shrine spends six days in your own home, a planned programme of prayer and devotion, with the Rosary is at its centre. Families and individuals are enrolled in the devotional group at the Feast Day Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe yearly each 12<sup>th</sup> December. Please place your details in the home shrine diary at each church.

### Reflection

Often people wonder why there is so much suffering and why a merciful God does not intervene. Our faith in the Resurrection means that we believe God brings good out of suffering and evil and that the way to conquer sin is by love. This, of course, is not a popular stance in today's environment where there is so much hatred and violence in our world and, sadly, sometimes in our homes. Just imagine what our lives would be like if every Christian in the world would really live the Commandment of love. There would be less war, hatred and violence. People would ask for and offer forgiveness. No one would be hungry because people would share with one another. The only news to report would be good news. Let's go for it!





### Parish Forum getting things done

Parishioners have contacted members of the forum since the last Quarterly Bulletin raising concerns on these issues:

1. Security at the front of the church for those wishing to pray or sit quietly while the Church is open in the hours of darkness.

*\* A light will be on in the Sacred Heart Altar to illuminate the front area. Lights are routinely left on in the entrance doorway and Calvary Area.*

2. Some incidents of aggressive begging outside the front entrance to the Church.

*\*Guidelines have been issued on suggestions of how to deal with aggressive begging. Members of the Street Community will be asked to move away from the Entrance; please bring this to our attention should this be a continuing problem.*

3. Water and mud are making the area just inside the inner glass front doors slippery.

*\* Two sizeable tread-ware mats have been ordered and will be put down when this problem occurs.*

If you have suggestions or concerns about practical issues related to our Church life and our building, please raise these with a member of the Parish Forum. Contact details on the entrance notice board.

### Maintaining & Improving the Fabric of our Church

The importance of maintenance of our church cannot be overemphasised. There are many good reasons for regular care, it preserves heritage, regular, minimal and small-scale work maintains original features and fabric.

It saves money, when things go wrong they can cost a lot to put right. One of the best ways to avoid major repairs is regular care and ongoing maintenance. Pressing work has recently been carried out in St Josephs and Our Lady 's to deal with damp and water leaks caused by the latest severe weather. Redecoration has been carried out within both churches.

A new lighting scheme for the Sanctuary in St Josephs will soon be installed giving extra light to the darkened areas by and around the Altar and Tabernacle. The entrance doors to Our Lady 's are being repaired and re-varnished.

**Help your Church** - We always need volunteers to help with the daily organisation and preparation to make our church a fitting and beautiful place of worship. Can you offer practical help in any of the following essential activities? **Welcoming** and greeting before and after Mass, **Cleaning, Flower arranging** if you can spare an hour two on a regular basis, please let Canon Seamus know.

**Some of the Groups & organisations in our Parish** please come and join us!

#### Society of St Vincent de Paul [SVP]

volunteer members who reach out to those in need, offering friendship and providing practical help and support. Jim Keane 01234 767551

#### Knights of St Columba [KSC]

our motto is Charity, Unity and Fraternity which we try to live up to through the varied work we carry out. Dermot Horan on 01234 302228

**The Mothers' Prayer Group** meet in the Reconciliation Chapel at St Joseph's on the first Monday of the month, after the 10.45 am Mass.

**The Catenian Association**, its aims are simple, to provide a monthly opportunity for Catholic business and professional men to meet in a cordial atmosphere, to pray together and enjoy a social meal. The association is exclusive to Catholic men. [Ladies nights are held x 3 a year ]

