

Sunday 21st March 2021

Fifth Sunday of Lent/Passion Sunday

Welcome to everyone today both in our church buildings and those who join us from their homes.

This morning's services are **both** live-streamed on St Thomas' Facebook page. We hope that our dial-in will also work. You should be able to listen live, or later, by dialling **01706 599309**.

Some safety reminders now we're back in church:

- Please keep face coverings in place over nose and mouth during the service
- Please remain in your places until invited to move by a steward
- Please don't wander to chat to friends – sorry
- Please take service sheets with you at the end
- Please disperse quickly at the end of the service and **please don't congregate outside to chat**

The Collect

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading *Jeremiah 31.31-34*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,* says the Lord. But this is the

covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Gospel Reading *John 12.20-33*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people* to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

The Week Ahead & Information

Today

is World Down Syndrome Day. We are pleased to give our support to the East Lancs Down's Syndrome Support Group. Are you wearing odd socks?

Monday - Saturday

9am Morning Prayer live on St Thomas' Facebook page

5pm Evening Prayer live on St James' Facebook page (not on Saturday)

Tuesday National Day of Reflection

12pm Short service on the anniversary of the beginning of the first National Lockdown on St Thomas' Facebook page

Wednesday

12pm Lunch Deliveries see note below

Thursday

11.30am Churches Together in Haslingden & Helmshore meeting

2.30pm Lent Course – The Psalms – week 5 see note below

7pm St James' Standing Committee via Zoom

Friday

10.20am Funeral Service for Duncan Johnstone RIP at Accrington Crematorium

Next Sunday (28 March –Palm Sunday)

9.15am Eucharist, St Thomas' and live on their Facebook page

10.45am Eucharist, St James' and live on their Facebook page

Please note that both services will include the Blessing & Distribution of Palms

Lent Course – The Psalms

The final on-line session is this Thursday afternoon, 2.30-3.30pm, on Zoom. Course details have been sent out and the Zoom link is the same as last week. Please email Fr David if you need a new one.

Nation Day of Reflection

Tuesday 23rd March is designated a *National Day of Reflection* one year on from the beginning of the first national lockdown. There will be a short service on-line at 12pm and church bells will ring.

Wednesday Lunches *continued*

Please book one of our homemade lunches with Fr Andrew **by the previous Saturday**. Absolutely **anyone** is eligible. No charge but donations of £5 welcome. Fr Andrew – andrewinhaslingden@gmail.com, 07460 899451

Our frozen main meals are available to order. Please let us know of anyone who might benefit from a delivery. The current menu includes: Lasagne, Cottage Pie, Chicken Korma & Rice, Tuna Pasta Bake, Macaroni Cheese, Chili & Rice

Doorstep Joy

The first part of this new outreach project begins today! At the back of both churches are packs of Easter cards which we invite you to take away and colour/decorate and then send to a neighbour/friend at Easter. Alternatively, you could give one or more of them to someone else who might find some pleasure in creating a card to send. Colouring pens/pencils are available to take if you need some.

Easter craft packs for children/families will be available in the next few days. If you know a family who would enjoy having one, please let Fr David or Fr Andrew know.

Holy Week & Easter

National restrictions do not permit us to keep Holy Week or celebrate in the desired way this year. services will take place both on-line and in-church. Please watch out for details next Sunday. We will decorate our churches for Easter. If you would like to make a donation towards Easter Flowers, please leave these at the back of church in the appropriate place!

Prayers

Please let Fr David know of anyone who should be included on our weekly prayer list. (frdavidstephenson@gmail.com, 07539264279)

For your prayers

For all who worship God through on-line services and resources

For food banks, aid agencies & volunteer organisations throughout the world

For our parishes, for local businesses still facing uncertain futures

For the sick: Ian, Alan, Denzil, Edna, Charley, Rita, Dorothy, Jim, Matthew, Jean, Mary, Mother Enid, Judith, Mandy, Wynne, Mavis, Lizzie, Margaret, Tom

For all who have died in the past week and all whose anniversaries fall in the coming week. *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.*