Postal address:

**Christ the King Church**

Trenchard Avenue

TS17 0EG

www.ctkthornaby.co.uk



**St Patrick’s Church**

Westbury Street

TS17 6NW

www.stpatrickschurch.co.uk



Christ the King House

 Trenchard Avenue, Thornaby.

TS17 0EG

T: 01642 750467

Email: thornaby@rcdmidd.org.uk

**PALM SUNDAY (A) April 2nd, 2023**

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES**

Saturday 6.00pm St. Patrick’s church

Sunday 9.30am Christ the King church

Sunday 11.00am St. Patrick’s church **WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES**

 **Tuesday 12 NOON “CHRISM MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL”**

 Wednesday 10.00am St. Patrick’s

 HOLY THURSDAY: 6.00pm Christ the King

 GOOD FRIDAY: 12 NOON Christ the King

 GOOD FRIDAY: 3.00pm St. Patrick’s

 HOLY SATURDAY: 6.00pm St. Patrick’s

**MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED**: Special Intention, Stephen Irish (3rd Anni.), Very Special Intention,

**ANNIVERSARIES: April 2nd – 8th:**

Harold Webber, Eliza Ann Canavan, Pope St. John Paul II, Robert Leyden, Peter Christopher Elston, Norman Guest,

Julietta Webber, Catherine Garthwaite, Ivy Veronica Edmundson (Canavan), Eric Riley, Robert Greenan, John Gregan,

John R. Burrell, John George Stewart, Connie Crossley, Angela Nolan, John Robert Ernest Ward, Leonard James Wright,

Francis Andrew Seymour, Ernest Ward, John Mossop, Thomas Hopkins, David Crofton, Karen Latham.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** in your prayers all our sick and housebound brothers and sisters.

**The word this week**

Isaiah 50:4–7 The Suffering Servant speaks to the wearied.

Psalm 22 ***‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’***

Philippians 2:6–11 Jesus emptied himself, and accepted death on a cross.

Matthew 26:14 – 27:66 They came to a place called Golgotha and crucified Jesus

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n Palm Sunday the long reading of the Passion dominates the celebration, and in a sense its meaning is obvious. Do not allow this, however, to detract from the other readings, which give the vital context necessary for understanding the Passion as more than just a long story. It is our story – the story of how God achieved OUR salvation by the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**AT MASS TODAY WE PRAY** Eucharistic Prayer 2 and Preface for “Christ the King”

In solemn remembrance we have called to mind the passion of the Lord. We now lift our voices in a prayer of endless thanksgiving for the gift of salvation begun upon the cross.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Mrs. Sheila Margaret O’Rourke,** aged 84, from Thornaby. Her Funeral Service will take place at St. Patrick’s church on Tuesday, April 11th, at 1.00pm. **ALSO, Mrs. Marjorie McCarthy,** aged 84, from Thornaby, who died recently. Her Funeral Service will take place at St. Patrick’s church on Wednesday, April 12th, at 10.30am.

**ALSO, Mrs. Angela Mulgrew,** aged 84. Her Funeral Service at Stockton Crematorium on Wednesday, April 12th, 3.30pm

**ALSO, Mrs. Alice Jordan**, aged 94, from Thornaby. Her Funeral Mass will take place at Christ the King church on Friday, April 14th, at 10.30am. May they rest in peace.

**BEREAVEMENT GROUP:** will meet on Wednesday next, 5th April at 7 pm in Christ the King Hall. All welcome.

**EASTER EGG TOMBOLA AT ST. PATRICK’S** this Sunday, April 2nd.

**ST. PATRICK’S OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** **Thank you to all Parishioners who have set up “Standing Orders” or are now using the “Card Reader” in the church porch. These are the most efficient ways of giving your Offering to the Parish. For those who wish to continue using the “Offertory Envelopes”, they are now available from this Sunday.**

**SMARTIE TUBES:** Would everyone who have received smartie tubes be able to return them before Easter please and thank you very much for your kind donations.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION** will be celebrated on Thursday, May 11th, at 7.00pm at St. Therese church, Ingleby Barwick. Any candidates, from Thornaby, choosing to be Confirmed in the Faith of the Church please give me your names.

Candidates must be 14 years or older.

HOLY WEEK LITURGY TIMES IN THORNABY

Holy Thursday April 6th Mass of The Lord’s Supper 6.00pm at Christ the King church

Good Friday April 7th Celebration of The Lord’s Passion 12 Noon at Christ the King church

Good Friday April 7th Celebration of The Lord’s Passion 3.00pm at St. Patrick’s church

Holy Saturday April 8th Celebration of the Easter Vigil 6.00pm at St. Patrick’s church

PALM SUNDAY(A)

**April 2nd, 2023**

 **First reading** **Isaiah 50:4-7**

The Lord has given me a disciple’s tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;

I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults.

So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

 **Second reading**  **Philippians 2:6-11**

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself

to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet,

even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings

in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

 **Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

 **Gospel Reading**  **Matthew Ch. 27: 11 – 54**

Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and the governor put to him this question, ‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ Jesus replied, ‘It is you who say it’. But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all.

Pilate then said to him, ‘Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?’

But to the governor’s complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor’s practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, ‘Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?’

For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

 Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, ‘Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him’.

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, ‘Which of the two do you want me to release for you?’ they said, ‘Barabbas’. ‘But in that case,’ Pilate said to them ‘what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?’ They all said, ‘Let him be crucified!’ ‘Why?’ he asked ‘What harm has he done?’ But they shouted all the louder, ‘Let him be crucified!’

Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood. It is your concern.’

And the people, to a man, shouted back, ‘His blood be on us and on our children!’

Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor’s soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him.

Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’

And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross.

When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: ‘This is Jesus, the King of the Jews’.

At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, ‘So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God’s son, come down from the cross!’ The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way.

‘He saved others;’ they said ‘he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He puts his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, “I am the son of God”.’ Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour[\*e].

And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you deserted me?'

When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, ‘The man is calling on Elijah’, and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar[\*g] and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. ‘Wait!’ said the rest of them ‘and see if Elijah will come to save him.’

But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, ‘In truth this was a son of God.’