

St Thomas à Becket Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Father Alex McAllister SDS
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 Parish Office: 9.30-14.30 Monday to Friday



Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3rd March 2019

Take the plank out of your own eye first

Mass Times

2nd Sat Feria	9.30 Eileen Sliman + 10.00 Confessions 17.30 Jim Quigley +
3rd Sun Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00 Thanksgiving 15.00 (Royal Hospital) <i>People of the Parish</i>
4th Mon Feria	9.30 Patrick Dolan +
5th Tue Feria	9.30
6th Wed Ash Wednesday	9.30 19.00
7th Thu Feria	9.30
8th Fri Feria	9.30 Antonio Delos Santos + 10.00 Stations of the Cross
9th Sat Feria	9.30 10.00 Confessions 17.30
10th Sun First Sunday of Lent	10.00 Peter McGinley + Pat McGinley (Br. Boniface) + 15.00 (Royal Hospital) <i>People of the Parish</i>

Confessions:

Saturday 10.15-11.00 and at call

Sunday Readings: Year C **Weekday Readings:** Year 1

Cycle of Prayer, Lent:

Candidates for the Sacraments, The Needy and Hungry of the World, Women's World Day of Prayer, Survivors of Sexual Abuse

Next Week's Liturgy Group: Mark

Baptisms & Marriages: Please contact the Parish Priest



The Blind Leading the Blind, Pieter Bruegel the Elder 1568

Lent

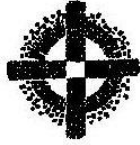
Lent comes around once again and we are invited to spend a few weeks in fasting and prayer as we prepare for the celebration of the Easter liturgy.

Surrounded as we are in the modern world with all kinds of opportunities to indulge ourselves it is not so easy to engage in fasting. I often visit Romania where the Orthodox Church is still comparatively strong. There in every restaurant the menu always has a section called *Menu de Post* which is for those who are fasting, and it is comprised mostly of vegan dishes. It is clear that the people there take fasting both in Advent and Lent much more seriously than we do in the West.

But with a bit of effort and self-discipline we can carry out our obligation to fast. Maybe we can omit a pudding or refrain from putting sugar in our tea, it could be that we take more seriously the abstinence from meat on Fridays or giving up confectionery for Lent. There are lots of different things we can do for Lent but the important thing is to do something.

Fasting is not dieting, even though it might have the same effect and help us to lose a couple of pounds. The difference between fasting and dieting is that fasting has a spiritual motive. We undertake fasting in order to identify with the Lord in his own time of fasting in the desert and also to feel the effects in our body of our commitment to Christ and our solidarity with him in his suffering and death. What better motive for keeping a good Lent could there possibly be.

Father Alex



Ash Wednesday

Mass times at St Thomas à Becket
on Ash Wednesday, 6th March: 9.30 & 19.00
with the distribution of Ashes.

**The right to life
is the first among human rights**

Pope Francis

Penitential Service

There will be a joint Penitential Service with East Hill Parish at St Mary Magdalen Church at 19.00 on Wednesday of Holy Week, 17th April. Several priests available for confessions.

The Stations of the Cross



Saturdays of Lent at 17.00

Sheets and booklets are available
so you can make the Stations at any time

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world*

Tea and Coffee

Tea and Coffee will be in the Corry Hall after 10.00 mass this Sunday. All welcome.

**The Gospel is not a fire insurance
policy for the next world, but a life
assurance policy for this world**

Richard Rohr

Forthcoming Dates

Parish Council	12th March
First Confession	17th March
Penitential Service (East Hill)	17th April
Confirmation	28th April
First Communion	12th May
Parish Council	21st May



Lent Fast Day

CAFOD invite us to fast on Friday 15th March and contribute the money saved to support their projects in the developing world. There will be a second collection for this purpose on Sunday, 17th March. Envelopes for this purpose are available at the back of the Church.

**We must be silent before we can listen.
We must listen before we can learn.
We must learn before we can prepare.
We must prepare before we can serve.
We must serve before we can lead**

William Arthur Ward



There will be a movie show called "Now Voyager" on **Wednesday 13th March at 10.00** in the Parish Hall. It is organised by David Davies. Seniors and any others are most welcome.

Last Week's Finances

Parish Collection £ 439 Bankers Orders £384

Upcoming Second Collections

Today 3rd March Poor Parishes, 17th March CAFOD
Lent Fast Day, 24th March The Passage

Rotas

Sunday Welcome & Coffee: F Azevado, M Figueiredo n/w E Chavez. R Martella

Readers: Sat: C Wilkins, E De Souza, H Pall Sun: G Fayers, C McCarthy, n/w Sat: R & S Jackson

M Slade Sun: A Burnett, T Greetham, A Kane Blanes

Eucharistic Ministers: Sat: D McGavin, K Dolan Sun: G Donaldson, S Palmer, R Kuleke, D Lyons n/w Sat: M & S Lee Sun: G D'Monte, V Chima, A Kilcawley, R McMullan

Little Church: A Kane Blanes, C Webb n/w A Kilcawley, M Harrison, A Stacey

Tiny Church: J. Bronicka Anderson n/w E Lueth

Flowers: L Northeast n/w A Robbin

Royal Hospital: Sr Pauline n/w C Kawesi

Maintenance Team: 11.00 Saturday 9th March
13th April