

**THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF
HEREFORD, WEOBLEY, HR4 8QS AND
ST.BEDE THE VEN. KINGTON, HR5 3DW**

THIRD WEEK OF LENT, 2024



Jesus cleanses the temple – Rev. Robin Hanford - modern

Parish Priest, Fr. Simon McGurk, O.S.B.
St Thomas' Presbytery, Weobley HR4 8QS-
Tel. 01544 318 325. Mob. 07442.075303.
email (Parish & Pers.) sjsmcgurk43@gmail.com (NEW)
Safeguarding Rep. Joanna Helme. 01432.760816
Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Patrick Lobo (Belmont Abbey) on
07568 669 300 or 01684.574658
Parish Councillors: Fr. Simon, Joanna Helme, Karen
Lampitt, Sarah Nichols, Frank McNally, Charles de Rohan,
Tricia Carter. *Hon. Secretary*, Kerry Poole,
Finance Cttee: Joanna Helme, Pat Roberts, Peter Hereford.
Accounts: Keith White.

The Website: www.thomasandbede.com Go to the
website, and click on 'Contact'. Tricia Carter now manages
the website (01568.708723). triciacarter2691@gmail.com

COVID & FLU: Please take all normal precautions,
Weobley Mass will continue to be Zoomed.
Zoom ID: 768 558 1521 and Password: 1rZ7LU

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Sat. Mar. 2 **Mass of Sunday, Kington 6.00**
Sun. 03 **3RD, SUN. of LENT Mass Weob. 10.30Z**
Mon. 04 **Mass, Weob. 10.00Z. feria**
Tues. 05 **Mass, Weob. 10.00Z – feria.**
Wed. 06 **Mass, Kington. 10.30 – feria**
Thur. 07 **LENT STATION MASS, 7.00pm.**
*** at Belmont. Meeting with Archbp. Mark 5.00
Fri. 08 **Mass, Weob. 4.00pm. - feria**
Sat. 09 **Mass of Sun. K'ton. 6.00pm.**
Sun. 10 **4th. SUNDAY OF LENT Laetare**
Mothering Sunday
Mass, Weob 10.30

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLES OF ISRAEL AND GAZA
Pray for lasting peace in the Ukraine and a change of the
Russian mind.

PLEASE PRAY for AFGHANISTAN and IRAN
struggling for humane government and basic rights for
women, especially Afghanis seeking sanctuary in Britain.
For Peace in the Arabian Gulf.

FOR ALL BOAT MIGRANTS that they may have love,
justice and shelter according to their real needs.

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**We pray for those of our parish or known to us who  
are sick or in need of special prayers:** John and  
Vicky Tanner, Graham Vaughan, Melita Denaro,  
Vivian Brooke, Pat Walls, Ashleigh Harley, Louise  
Wright, Sheila Mundy, Catherine Williams, Claire  
Burrows, Betty Price, Sarah Murkin, Diane Howells,  
**For any parishioners, relatives and friends recently  
dead:** Pat Buckley, Stephen Booth.

**We remember those of our parish whose  
anniversaries occur at this time:** Joseph McGurk  
(S.'85), Dom Wilfrid Chadwick (S.'93), Gladys  
Teasdale (F.'83),

**For King Charles III, at this time of concern over  
his health,** and that he may always set the highest  
standards of leadership for our country. We also pray  
for our government, especially our Prime Minister,  
Rishi Sunak. May they govern with integrity  
following the religious beliefs of our country. And we  
pray for the leaders of all the other countries of the  
world, esp. President Zelenski of Ukraine **and for  
conversion of the Russian leadership.**

**The people and leaders of Gaza, Israel & Yemen.**  
**For the mother of Alexei Navalny and his widow,  
Yulia, that Alexei may rest in peace, and may peace  
and justice arise through his sacrifice.**

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**STILL DON'T HAVE A RED BOX? ASK ANDY**

*Huge thanks to all who set up, donated to or  
purchased at our parish charity shop last week.  
We made a staggering £1,675.35 for Church  
funds, which I think is a record. So well done!*

**CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent appeal:**  
payer. So far £145.00 + £75 + ? so far  
collected. Keep it up!

**LENT DISCUSSIONS: Churches Together in  
Weobley. Wednesdays March 6, 13 & 20<sup>th</sup>. 2.30 in  
St. Thomas' parish room, led by Fr. Simon. Theme:  
"Be holy for I the Lord your God am holy" (Lev.19),**

**KINGTON. Nick and Margaret's group's  
first meeting will be on Monday 19<sup>th</sup>  
February at 10-00am to 11-30am**

**STAR ATTRACTION**

**This Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. 2.30. here: Very  
special visit and talk to our parish by  
Pope's biographer and member of the  
Synod, Austen Ivereigh. Don't miss!!!**

## SERMONETTE – 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

### **FIRST READING from the Book of Exodus** (*Ch.20 from vv.1-7*)

The Church's lectionary is so arranged that during Lent and other key seasons the readings are specially chosen for our instruction. It is surely most appropriate that near the start of Lent we be reminded of the ten commandments. Legally and historically these represent the Semitic contribution to a whole evolution of legal cultures in the middle east: the Egyptian, the Babylonian, the Sumerian and others. They represented a move by stable or self-identifying societies to establish law and order. Usually they were theocratic, that is they were seen as coming directly from whoever the god was, and administered by his earthly rulers. The Jewish law measures up to these conditions except that their law (the Torah) was seen as not only coming from Yahweh but it was tailored to a wandering people gathered around a variety of successive authorities: Moses, Joshua, the judges, the kings, the Persian satraps, the Maccabean resistance leaders, leading to the Sanhedrin. Foreign and secular leaders like the Romans were excluded. They had their own laws which they imposed.

### **SECOND READING from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.** (*Ch.1, v.21-22*)

This excerpt is typical of Paul's brilliance in placing Christ in His position of primacy among the surrounding nations and religions. In the face of brilliance of Greek wisdom and philosophy and the wonders of the Old Law, we present to you, people of Corinth of various races and backgrounds, a weak, condemned and crucified Christ with whom those other cultures could not compare in divine wisdom or divine strength.

### **GOSPEL from John** (*Ch.2, vv.13-25*)

Today, we revert to John's gospel to a dramatic event which does occur in the other gospel in the course of the lead-up to Jesus' arrest but here John places it right near the beginning. Whereas the synoptic gospels follow a broadly chronological order, John's order is largely symbolic. He places the story at the beginning to indicate how Jesus' whole mission from the beginning is to overturn the rituals and customs of the Old Law. The event is so dramatic that we may wonder that Jesus did not get arrested immediately. This could have been the end. In the other gospels it is. In John it is a politico-religious statement of how it is going to be in the kingdom to come. Jesus is making a statement about Himself and His mission, and of how He is Himself the new temple. On the cross the veil of the temple is rent in two.

### **FURTHER NOTICES:**

**Deanery Advisory Council: 7.00 Our Lady's church, Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**Deanery meeting with Archbishop Mark, 5.00 Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Followed by Lent Station Mass, at Belmont Abbey**

### **HOLY WEEK NOTICE**

This is the week beginning with Palm Sunday, continuing through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday (*The Sacred Triduum*), the Easter Vigil with solemn Mass of Resurrection and ending with Easter Sunday. We know that Easter now belongs to Virgin Airlines, P&O, Tui, the distant relatives and more auspicious temptations than the Lord's passion and resurrection, "which we can get anywhere, including on 'Zoom'", but that is not the mind of the Church. We regard this as the most solemn period of the year, much more so than Christmas which the 'world' has largely taken over, extending backwards to its own 'Black Friday'. The most important event in the Liturgical year is Easter, the "Resurrection". We are the "Resurrection People", and the key event in this celebration is the Easter Vigil in which the beginning of time and all the elements are recorded, the history of God's people is read, the liturgy of our entry to the Church through Baptism is celebrated and finally the Resurrection Christ the Lord is celebrated.

For the last few years we have been struggling to get numbers of this most important Vigil. I think last year was an all-time low with about half a dozen. I would like to invite you change your "Easter strategy". Yes, you can get Mass almost anywhere "on the run", but the Resurrection is the most important communal parish event of the year and 6 people doesn't quite symbolise that. So, please give it some profound thought and planning and let's show God how we are with His Son as a community on that most solemn night, at 9.30.

