

Catholic Parish of Crowthorne and Sandhurst
Holy Ghost and the Immaculate Conception Churches
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Newsletter – Sunday 24th March 2024
Palm Sunday
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Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 6.00pm (IC) Ken Rapley RIP

Sunday 9.00am (IC) Finbarr & Lil Murphy RIP
11.00am (HG) The People of the Parish

Monday 9.30am (HG) Tony Bennett RIP

Tuesday **No public Mass today**

Wednesday 9.30am (IC) Sandy Vaccari RIP
7.00pm (IC) **Stations of the Cross**

Thursday 8.00pm (IC) **Mass of the Lord's Supper** (Private Intention)
Followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until 11.00pm

Friday 10.00am (HG) **Stations of the Cross**
3.00pm (IC) **Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion**

Saturday 5.00pm (IC) Blessing of Easter Food (Święconka)
8.15pm (IC) **The Easter Vigil Mass** (Intention: the People of the Parish)

Sunday 9.00am (IC) Margaret Rapley RIP
(31/3) 11.00am (HG) Freddy Green RIP

This Sunday we will use the Preface of the Passion of the Lord & Eucharistic Prayer 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) –

Church of the Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst: Saturday 5.15pm – 5.45pm

Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowthorne: Saturday 10.30am; Sunday after 11.00am Mass

The sacrament is also available by appointment.

In accordance with the ancient custom of the Church, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will not be available in this parish during the Easter Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday). Consequently, the last chance for people to go to Confession before Easter will be this weekend (23rd/24th March).

Anniversaries – The following people's anniversaries will occur during the coming week: Archie De Monte, Dorothy Cotty and Len Nelmes, . May they rest in peace.

Good Friday – Good Friday is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence when Catholics aged 14 and over should abstain from eating meat in any form. Catholics aged 18 to 60 should fast by eating only one main meal and a collation (a small snack). People who are Vegetarians should choose another form of penance and people with Diabetes should exercise proper care about fasting.

The 'Churches Together in Crowthorne' Good Friday Service, 29th March, will take place at the Methodist Church at 10.00am and will be followed by a Walk of Witness. This will stop at various points in the village finishing at St John's Church for Hot Cross buns, hot drinks and a chat. All are welcome.

Blessing of Easter Food – The ceremony for blessing the food to be eaten at breakfast on Easter Sunday, a beloved custom for people from some parts of Central Europe, will be held at 5.00pm on Holy Saturday (30th March) in the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

Collection for the Christians of the Holy Land – After the 3.00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday we are asked to have a Second Collection to support the Christians in the Holy Land. Should you wish to make a contribution, please place it in the box in the church porch.

Easter Offering – The kind donations people give in the collection at Mass on Easter Sunday no longer go to the Parish Priest in our parish but, as on all other Sundays, go into our parish funds.

Refreshments after Sunday Mass - Refreshments are available after the 9.00am Mass on Sundays so please join us in the Hall at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The refreshments will be available on a fortnightly basis today, then 7 April, and so on. The refreshments schedule is posted on the notice board.

Refreshments are also served in the Parish Room at the Church of the Holy Ghost each Sunday after the 11.00am Mass.

Gift Aid – TIME IS RUNNING OUT! PLEASE HELP! Because of a change to the Diocese's charity name, HMRC has insisted that all those enrolled in our Gift Aid Scheme now sign a new declaration. Gift Aid cannot continue to be claimed unless a new declaration has been signed, and that would leave us significantly out of pocket. Many of you have responded by completing the new declaration, for which we thank you. Could those who have yet to do so please complete the new Gift Aid Declaration form, copies of which can be found with the newsletters in the church porch.

St. Patrick's Day – A huge thank you to our Social Committee and to all who helped plan and run last Sunday's Tea Party in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. As usual, it was a very enjoyable occasion.

Coach Trip to Littlehampton – The Social Committee will be collecting names, contact phone numbers and deposits after weekend Masses for our summer coach trip to Littlehampton. All costs will be covered by the legacy of the late Father Kevin Jones and we want to make sure as many parishioners as possible participate across all age ranges. The planned date is now Saturday 22nd June, departing by 8.30am and returning by 7.00pm. We have provisionally booked two coaches and made a reservation for lunch. We will have some upfront, non-refundable, deposits to pay and it is therefore crucial that we can gauge planned numbers by the middle of March. We will be collecting names at each of the Masses over the next few weeks. We will then be asking for a **returnable** £5 deposit per person so that we can be sure of a firm commitment. Please join us if you can for what we are sure will be a happy, fun, day. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the Social Committee, who are organising this event. The final weekend for giving your name to take part in the trip will be 6th/7th April.

Mission Today Booklets – There are some spare booklets in the IC church porch – please help yourself if you would like one, particularly if you are a new red box holder. We haven't had the list of new names yet so can't hand you one individually!