

# Saint Thomas the Apostle

The parish church of Longford & Hawkesbury

[www.stthomaslongford.co.uk](http://www.stthomaslongford.co.uk)

*Seeking to maintain and practice the traditional faith of the Church.*

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2010

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)**  
**(Divine Mercy Sunday)**



## Welcome to the Parish Mass

A particularly warm welcome to those who are worshipping with us for the first time today

It is our custom at S. Thomas' to observe a period of silent prayer to prepare ourselves for worship.

For those who have hearing difficulties, please select the "T" switch on your hearing aid.

After the entrance hymn our children gather in front of the altar to begin their Liturgy of the Word.

**Smaller children are welcome to use the children's corner during the service under the supervision of an adult.**

Please join us in the parish hall for refreshments after Mass.

## Parish priest

Father Paul Burch SSC

024 7636 4078 [paulburch5@hotmail.com](mailto:paulburch5@hotmail.com)

**Fr Paul's recreation day is Friday**

## The prayer of the Church

**Morning Prayer:** Mon-Thurs 9.10am; Sat 9.30am

**Evening Prayer:** Mon-Thurs 6.30pm  
Sat 6pm (of Sunday)

**All very welcome**

## Mass times this week

Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	Easter weekday 7pm Mass <i>(The newly-baptised)</i>
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	Easter weekday 7pm Eucharistic service (NB <u>not</u> Mass)
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Easter weekday 6.30am Mass (followed by breakfast) <i>(Church schools)</i>
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	Easter weekday 9.30am Mass (followed by refreshments) <i>(Unborn children)</i>
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	Easter weekday 10.30am Mass at S. Nicholas' Radford
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	Easter weekday 10am Mass (followed by Coffee Morning) <i>(The Additional Curates Society)</i>

## NEXT SUNDAY

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

**10am PARISH MASS with Children's Liturgy**

(immediately followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

## On duty next week...

**Servers:** (Ac), (Cr), (new serving rota coming soon!)  
(Th), (B), (MC)

**Reader:** Barbara      **Prayers:** Ian

**Eucharistic ministers:**

**Welcomers:** Vanessa, Fiona

**Coffee:** Mary, Jennifer

Please do remember that if you are unable to carry out any of your responsibilities on the rota you should find a replacement *and inform one of the churchwardens*

## Father Paul writes...

## May the sixth it is

Last week Gordon Brown popped in to see her majesty to ask her to dissolve the present parliament, which she dutifully did, and he then announced that a General Election would take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Oh joy! If, like me, you're already fed up with the media's over-the-top election build-up, you're in for a very long month. But as Christians we should actually take our democratic system and process seriously, and thank God for the freedoms we have (accepting that it's not a perfect system, nor are the people within it). Who we send to Westminster to represent us, and what they stand for, are not trivial matters. The vote we cast as Christians should be informed by our Christian beliefs. Will those who stand for election in the constituencies where we live support the trend to sideline religion in our society and advance secularism even further? Will they work to strengthen the traditional family unit as an essential building block of a healthy society? Will they be concerned for the weakest, the poorest and the most vulnerable in our communities? Will they uphold the dignity of all human life from its very beginning to its very end? These are questions we can put to the candidates for the main political parties in this constituency at an **Election Hustings at Walsgrave Baptist church on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April** (the week before the election date).

## Please include in your prayers...

**The sick:** Elda Cunningham, Connie Jefferies, Hannah Murray, Jane Cartmell, Penny Blight, Barbra Manley, Connie Jackson, Olive Coffel, Katie Hanson, Freda Hibberd, Paul Newton, Chris Wright, Audrey Brickell, Brian Hopley, Ron Stew, Patrick Lanaghan, Elizabeth Shaw, Mont Cleaver, John Todd, Rebecca Mistry, Marion Haworth, Jacqueline, Samuel Kangethe, John Clarke, Rosemary Parslow, Fr John Philips, Barbara Hyde, Lynn Howe, Bren Hellier, Alexis Wallington.

**The recently departed:** James Brown (priest), Kit Carris

**Anniversaries of death:** Agnes Gayle (12<sup>th</sup>); Enid Gardner, Luke Brooks (14<sup>th</sup>); William Favell (priest) (15<sup>th</sup>); Norman Lewis (16<sup>th</sup>); Reginald Gardner (17<sup>th</sup>)

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** is available on Saturdays at 5.30pm or by arrangement at other times.

The **Sacrament of Anointing** is available for the sick or prior to an operation. Please ask Fr Paul.

Please contact Fr Paul if you require **Holy Communion at home** due to sickness or incapacity.

## The Saint Thomas lamp

burns this week for  
the repose of the soul of

**Enid Gardner**

**Saint Thomas, pray for us.**

**Please take this news sheet home for  
your use.**

## Noticeboard

**Junior Confirmation preparation** on Saturday at 11am.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting** This takes place immediately after the Parish Mass **NEXT SUNDAY**. Nomination forms for churchwardens and Parochial Church Council members are still in church. If you are nominating or seconding someone for a position, please make sure they are willing to stand. I encourage everyone to stay for this fairly short meeting.

### Gift Aid

With the arrival of the new tax year this month the rules for Gift Aid have been changed slightly. It is a good time therefore to remind ourselves of what does and does not qualify for gift aid here St Thomas'. Gift aiding donations of cash (either in sterling or by cheque or direct debit) means the church can benefit by around an extra 25p in the pound. For example if your regular giving is £50 per month, St Thomas' receive an extra £12.50 per month from Revenue and Customs provided the donor is a UK registered tax payer. However **only pure donations can be gift aided**. You can not gift aid money if you are receiving goods or services for the money or a suggested or minimum donation is asked for. Therefore the following items do not qualify for gift aid: flowers, candles, coffee, parking spaces, raffle tickets, entrance fees. All monies for which gift aid is claimed must be clearly shown as having been received in our PCC accounts. If you are in any doubt, please ask our Gift Aid secretary, Rosemary Panther, or one of the churchwardens. The financial consequences of an illegitimate claim are serious both for the donor and the beneficiary. Please continue to support Saint Thomas' through Gift Aid where it is possible to do so.

**Church allotment** Spring has sprung, the ground is warming, the sap is rising, and Roger is itching to get started on our newly-acquired church allotment in Grange Road. Can you help him? If you're interested, please see Roger ASAP.

**Brean Children's Eucharistic Festival** Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June. If you'd like to go, see Ian or Fr Paul ASAP.