



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 23 March 2025 – Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: Year C

Dear Parishioners

Years ago I found a book in a charity shop that caught my eye. It had a picture of St Thomas Aquinas, the greatest of Catholic thinkers, on the front, and when I opened it, the opening paragraph struck me and has stayed with me ever since: "Once upon a time there was a little boy with a large solid head and a tiresome habit of asking questions nobody could answer. His name was Thomas and he belonged to the great family of the Counts of Aquin...he was always asking this question: What is God? But what IS God? But WHAT is God? When he grew older and found no one answered his questions properly he stopped asking them and began to think instead." What a brilliant introduction to a simple story for children about the life and works of this most stellar but humble man of God, who asked that question and tried to answer it not only for himself but for everyone else. It is reckoned that Thomas Aquinas wrote or dictated over 8,000,000 words...and he died at 49!

Today's readings give us an insight into that question. At the burning bush the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob reveals Himself: "I am who I am." Thomas would define this as "Esse ipse subsistens" God exists in and for Himself not dependent on any other agencies: "eternal, uncreated, necessary, absolute existence". Yet He seeks to form a relationship with His Creation...a covenant...which He does time and again through the pages of the Old Testament...and each time it is man who breaks the terms of the agreement through sinfulness and wilfulness.

In the Gospel, we are depicted as the fig tree, barren of fruitfulness, and God the vineyard owner is nearing the end of His tether. But the Vine dresser begs mercy for a little while longer...and that Vine dresser is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who pleads with the Father through His blood shed on Calvary. If we could stop and think about that wonderful act, the self-giving in love on the Cross, the Lamb of God offered up for the sins of the world and on our altars every time the Divine Holocaust of the Mass is made. Soon Holy Week and we will walk with Him along the Royal Road of His Passion.

God bless everyone Fr Clive

Parish Notices

Masses next week Holy Trinity: 9:15am Monday, Tuesday (Solemnity of The Annunciation of the Lord. Another Feast Day) and Thursday. Rosary for Peace on Friday

Masses at St Teresa's, 9:15am Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

Classes as usual this week.

Our second collection this weekend will be for SPUC for the protection of the unborn. Please give generously.

Next weekend our lead Missioner, Fr Royston will be preaching and telling us a little about the parishes Mission he will be leading for us in July. Very exciting! See below.

Remember: Stations of the Cross after Mass on a Wednesday at St Teresa's and Thursday at Holy Trinity. This wonderful Catholic devotion is a feature of Lent across the world and I heartily commend it to all. Try to make it a staple of your Lenten experience this year!

In March we pray with Pope Francis Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes. In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.



PARISH MISSION

CHIPPING NORTON
& CHARLBURY

LED BY
FR ROYSTON PRICE CSSR
& **FR JOHN HEMER MHM**

14TH-18TH JULY

MONDAY: FAITH

**TUESDAY: DEATH AND
ETERNAL LIFE**

WEDNESDAY: OUR LADY

**THURSDAY: THE HOLY
EUCHARIST**

**FRIDAY: THE LOVE OF
GOD**

7pm Service each night,
lasting around an hour.

Masses and time for
confession during the day

Save the date now and
come along, as your
attendance will make all the
difference!

