

TIMES	MEMORIAL OR FEAST	INTENTIONS
SAT	5.30pm Vigil Mass: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	
SUN	10.30am Eucharistic Service: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	
FRI	9.00am Stations of the Cross	
	9.30am Mass: Friday of 3 <sup>rd</sup> week in Lent	
SAT	5.30pm Vigil Mass: 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	
SUN	10.30am Mass: 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	



**ST. THOMAS R.C. CHURCH, KEITH**  
**DIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE BIRTHPLACE OF ST JOHN OGILVIE**



**8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent (A II) Psalter Week 3**

**THE ANNOUNCER!**

As we continue our Lenten journey, today's readings draw us to reflect on the human experience of thirst. Beyond physical thirst, it represents a necessity of life to be satisfied. The Scriptures speak of thirst as a longing/yearning, and our greatest thirst is for God.

In the first reading, the Israelites, journeying through the desert, cried out in frustration and fear. They were thirsty, tired, and uncertain, and they began to question God's presence among them. Their complaint revealed a crisis of trust, but God's mercy was upon them, and He made water flow from the rock for them. God showed Himself as a faithful God even when the people lost their confidence in Him. God does not abandon us in our dryness; He meets us there and quenches our thirst.

In the second reading, St Paul assures us of God's faithfulness and love. He tells us that we are justified by faith and now stand in God's grace. The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. This love is revealed most powerfully in Christ, who died for us while we were still sinners. Even in our weakness and thirst, God moves toward us with saving love.

The Gospel presented us the story of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Jesus met her at a well, asked her for water, but the ethnic and social tension between Jews and Samaritans was an obstacle to the woman being open to relating with Jesus. But Jesus drew her away from such divisive care to focus on the deeper thirst in her heart, which He alone can quench – her past wounds, her longing for dignity, her hunger for truth and God. Jesus is the one who can give this living water.

Ask yourself: What is it that I am thirsty for? The psalmist gives us an answer, "My soul is thirsting for God. When shall I see Him face to face" (Psalm 42:2). Too often, we try to quench our thirst with things that do not satisfy – in worldly successes, possessions, approvals, or distractions. But what we need is God, and Jesus, the Son of God, invites us to come to him and drink from the well of grace and mercy, love and peace.

**Last week**      Collection: £ 301.90      Att: 69

MINISTRIES	8/3/2026	15/3/2026
Church Cleaning	Grant & Moir	-
Counters	Smith	Mitchell
Welcome	Gray/Coull	Cruickshank/Danby
Hall keeper	K Gray	K James
Sat Reader	B Schouwenaars-Harms	T Brennan
Sat EMoHC	R Hendry	M Collins
Sun Reader	T Coull, I Grant	E Danby, M Le Mero
Sun EMoHC	-	M Moir, C Moir
Flowers	None	None
Teas	Kevin	Michele & Louis

**Useful contacts:**

Parish Priest:	Fr Kingsley Chigbo	01542 780208
	email	cilk@rcda.scot
Assistant priest:	Fr Peter Ezekoka	01542 780208
	email	poe@rcda.scot
Permanent Deacon:	Dcn Graeme Morrison	07387008498
	email	deacon.graeme@rcda.scot
PPC Chair:	Dcn Graeme Morrison	07387008498
Parish Safeguarding Co-ord:	Elizabeth Danby	<a href="mailto:stthomasPSC@rcd-abdn.org">stthomasPSC@rcd-abdn.org</a>
Health & Safety:	Keith Gray	01542 886242
Newsletter:	Margaret Farrell	01542 882116
	or	<a href="mailto:mcfarrell@btinternet.com">mcfarrell@btinternet.com</a>
Hospital Chaplains:	Elgin	Dcn Graeme Morrison
	Aberdeen	Fr Emmet O'Dowd
		01224 482657
		or
		ARI@rcda.scot

Facebook: St Thomas' RC Church, Keith  
 Email: [chapelstthomas@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chapelstthomas@yahoo.co.uk)

YouTube: St Margaret's RC Church, Huntly  
 Website: [www.stthomaskeith.com](http://www.stthomaskeith.com)

*Fr. Kingsley*

**Welcome:** to all our visitors, feel free to look around our beautiful church, particularly the St John Ogilvie Chapel & Exhibition.

**Hospital Chaplain:** Deacon Graeme is very happy to visit parishioners in hospital, but he needs to know if you or a loved one is in that position. Hospitals are not allowed to pass on that information, so please just give him a ring.

**Lent:** During Lent, Exposition on Fridays will be replaced with Stations of the Cross. **Chrism Mass** in St Peter's, Buckie on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm.

**Sung Lenten Vespers:** Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm in St Margaret's, Huntly. Hymns, psalms, readings and prayers. All welcome.

**Holy Week Ecumenical Services** will be in St Thomas's on Monday 30<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30pm

**SCIAF WEE Boxes** SUPPORT SCIAF THIS LENT Across Ethiopia, families are facing the impacts of drought, conflict, and the growing water crisis. With your support, SCIAF can help communities access clean water, restore livelihoods, and build a future free from poverty. To learn more about how your generosity is changing lives this Lent, please visit [sciaf.org.uk/weebox](http://sciaf.org.uk/weebox) If you don't yet have your WEE BOX, please pick one up today.

**Second collections in March:** 14/15 SCIAF; 21/22 Easter Flowers

**Lenten Retreat:** we will host the annual retreat for the 4 parishes here on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 10am-1pm, ending with lunch. All welcome – not restricted to parishioners. See posters in church porch

**Roman Catholic Diocese of Aberdeen Youth Events:** Just to let you know that our diocesan youth have many opportunities to come together in Christian fellowship. Listed below are just some of the upcoming events.

8-12 June – Mary's Meals Generation Hope Camp for S1 to age 15 cost £382.50, deposit of £100 due on registration

For more information or to register please contact Sr. Angela Marie at [op@rcda.scot](mailto:op@rcda.scot) or telephone 07938729895

**Prayer Group:** Monday evenings, 7pm in the hall. Contact: Elizabeth Danby

**Tea & coffee** in the hall, after Sunday Mass. All welcome.

**The Light of the North:** the diocesan magazine is now published on line only - accessible via the diocesan website. There are many very interesting articles, some written by our own parishioners.

**Communications:** on the diocesan website ([rcda.scot](http://rcda.scot)), if you click Contact on the drop down menu, and scroll down, you will find a pro forma to sign up for the Diocesan newsletter, and to opt in to other communications.

**Pope's Prayer Intention: March: For disarmament and peace:** Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**Safeguarding:** The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is Elizabeth Danby, and she can be contacted as shown overleaf. The diocesan Safeguarding page can be found at [Safeguarding – Roman Catholic Diocese of Aberdeen \(rcda.scot\)](http://Safeguarding – Roman Catholic Diocese of Aberdeen (rcda.scot)) and the text of **In God's Image (V2)** is accessed through the Bishops Conference website.

Diary Dates	
Chrism Mass St Peter's Buckie	Thur 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar 6pm
Parish Lenten Retreat	Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar 10am
Ecumenical Services in Holy week	M-W 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar-1 <sup>st</sup> Apr
Fabric & Finance Committee	Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm
PPC	Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm



**St Thomas' Church** is open each day from **10am to 3pm** for private prayer. Please note, the church may not be open on weekdays in the event of severe weather.

A parish of the R.C. Diocese of Aberdeen Charitable Trust  
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