

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

MARCH 2026



www.stmatthewsnorthampton.org.uk

Services at the Parish Church of St Matthew

Sundays

10.15am	The Parish Mass (sung)
5.30pm	Evensong — according to The Book of Common Prayer

First Sunday in the month

10.15am	All Age Mass for the Parish Family
5.30pm	Choral Evensong

*When the choir is on holiday (coinciding with school holidays and half terms)
Choral Evensong is replaced with Congregational Evensong*

Second Sunday in the month

10.15am	Laying on of hands and Sacrament of Anointing is offered in the Lady Chapel
5.30pm	Congregational Evensong

Third Sunday in the month

5.30pm	Choral Evensong and Benediction
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Fourth and Fifth Sundays in the month

5.30pm	Congregational Evensong
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Weekdays *(during winter months of November to March, may be held in the Parish Centre)*

Morning and Evening Prayer are said publicly at 9.00am and 5.30pm daily

Monday	7.00pm Mass (on Bank Holidays at 9.30am) (Healing Mass and Devotions on the first Monday in the month)
Tuesday	Currently suspended
Wednesday	12 noon Mass
Thursday	12 noon Mass
Friday	12 noon Mass
Saturday	9.30am Mass (Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham followed by a Cell Meeting on the second Saturday of the month)

Major Feast-Days Procession and Sung Mass at 7.30pm

(Always held in church. The morning Mass may be cancelled — refer to literature in church and on website)

Sacrament of Reconciliation, commonly known as Confession, is celebrated in the Lady Chapel by appointment with the clergy. They are also available for advice and guidance on any matter of concern.

All aspects of the sacrament are in confidence.

Worship Calendar for March

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	Our Lenten pilgrimage
2	Feria	The ministry of healing
3	Feria	The importance of service and humility
4	Feria	The dangers of ambition
5	Feria	Our Lent Course
6	Monthly Requiem	The ecumenical Stations of the Cross
7	Ss Perpetua and Felicity, Ms	Those who are persecuted
8	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	Our Lenten pilgrimage
9	Feria	Being alive to the sacred in life
10	Feria	To be forgiven and forgiving
11	Feria	God staying with us despite our mistakes
12	Of OLW	The Shrine, Society, and our Cell
13	Feria	The faithful departed
14	Feria	For good leadership
15	MOTHERING SUNDAY	Our Lenten pilgrimage
16	Feria	My response to those in need
17	S Patrick	The people of Ireland, North and South
18	S Cyril of Jerusalem, B, Dr	For the Middle East
19	S Joseph, Husband of the BVM	For single parents
20	S Cuthbert, B	The House of Bishops
21	Feria	The dangers of biblical Fundamentalism
22	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	Our Lenten pilgrimage
23	Feria	The sacrament of reconciliation
24	Feria	The Holy Spirit in our lives
25	ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Saying yes to God
26	Feria	Knowing ourselves and our value to God
27	Feria	Dedicating ourselves to God anew
28	Feria	Ways in which Christ divides opinion
HOLY WEEK		
29	PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION	Our journey through Holy Week
30	Monday in Holy Week	Keeping company with Christ)
31	Tuesday in Holy Week	in Jerusalem)

*The Church prays for the community daily.
Please include these topics in your daily prayers.*

March Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Walking the Way of the Cross Together

Dear Friends,

As we enter the latter part of Lent, the Church draws us ever more closely into the heart of our faith. The days ahead are not simply dates on a calendar or familiar ceremonies we observe each year. They are an invitation to step into the saving events at the end of the earthly life of Jesus Christ – events through which our hope was born and our redemption won.

If our Easter joy is to be deep and genuine, we must first be willing to stand at the foot of the Cross. We must allow ourselves to see, to feel, and to contemplate the love for which Christ died. Holy Week is the Church's great school of love, and its lessons are not learned from a distance. They are learned by entering in – heart and soul.

Our journey begins with palms in our hands and praise on our lips as we accompany the Lord into Jerusalem. The blessing and procession draw us into the excitement and expectation of the crowd. Yet that joy quickly gives way to the solemn proclamation of the Passion, this year from the Gospel according to Gospel of Matthew. In that dramatic reading we are not just listeners; we find ourselves in the story – among the disciples who promise fidelity, the crowds who waver, and those who turn away. From the very beginning of the week, we are reminded that this is not someone else's drama. It is ours.

As the week unfolds, a quieter, more watchful mood settles over us. We keep company with a tense and waiting Jerusalem. The opposition to Jesus hardens, betrayal draws closer, and the shadow of the Cross lengthens. The Church's liturgy in these days is rich and restrained, helping us slow down and notice what is happening within our own hearts as well as in the Gospel story.

One of the great treasures of Catholic worship during this time is the Vigil Office of Tenebrae. Candle by candle, the light diminishes. The church grows darker. The symbolism is simple yet deeply moving: the Light of the world seems to be fading from sight. The sound, the silence, the encroaching darkness – all engage our senses and draw us into prayer. This is not outward display for its own sake, but a heartfelt and sincere expression of faith that allows us to feel something of the sorrow and confusion of those days.

Then comes Maundy Thursday, with all its profound contrasts. We rejoice in the reception of the holy oils, signs of Christ's healing and strengthening presence in the sacraments. We gather for the Mass of the Lord's Supper and

give thanks for the gift of the Eucharist – Christ’s own Body and Blood, entrusted to the Church on the night before he died. We watch as feet are washed, and we see love made visible in humble service. But the joy is fragile. The mood shifts. The altar is stripped, the tabernacle stands empty, and we move to the place of watching. In Gethsemane, we are invited simply to remain with the Lord in his anguish. Even our restlessness, our tiredness, our struggle to pray become part of our offering, as we try to keep him company in his hour of loneliness.

Good Friday brings us to the stark heart of the week. In the morning, the Stations of the Cross allow young and old alike to walk step by step along the road to Calvary. We move with Christ as he falls, as he meets his mother, as he is stripped and nailed to the wood. These prayers are simple, but they carry immense depth, helping us to unite our own sufferings with his. At the Solemn Liturgy in the afternoon, the church is bare and quiet. We listen once more to the Passion, this time according to John, we pray for the needs of the whole world, and we come forward to venerate the Cross. This is a moment of profound encounter. We stand, in spirit, at the foot of the Cross and look upon the measureless love of Christ. Here, words are few. Gesture, silence, and symbol speak more deeply than explanations ever could.

Throughout these days, the Church places before us the treasures of her liturgy – not to impress us with ceremony, but to draw us into the mystery of salvation through beauty, simplicity, and truth. Sight, sound, movement, silence: all are woven together to help faith reach not only our minds but our hearts. We are meant to be changed by what we see and hear. We cannot walk with Christ through these days and remain untouched.

That is why Holy Week asks something of us. It asks us to set aside other things, to make space, to come and participate as fully as we can. Tired though we may be, distracted though life can feel, if we stay close to the Lord in these sacred liturgies, we will begin – like the first disciples, bleary-eyed and overwhelmed – to glimpse the greatness of what he has done for us and continues to offer.

And beyond the Cross... the Church keeps watch in hope. With every blessing for the remainder of Lent.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

Lent 2026 – ‘Draw Near’

Lent is traditionally a time when Christians take time to reflect what it means to be a follower of Jesus and to prepare for the celebrations of Easter. This year, the Church of England has produced some materials under the heading, ‘Draw Near’, to help us develop some life-giving habits that will help us in our daily lives to draw nearer to Jesus.



Throughout the bible we read of people who encounter Jesus in amazing ways and whose lives are transformed. Often the story ends there, but of course, that is just the start of the journey. As followers of Jesus, we know that the journey continues as we build on our relationship with and understanding of God. Central to the journey lie certain habits that can help us: worshipping together, praying, reading and exploring the bible, sharing communion, offering service to those around us, and sharing the good news we have come to discover.

I wonder, this Lent, what you might focus on to deepen your own discipleship and nurture your spiritual life. As we draw near to God, he draws near to us and we can know his presence with us more fully. As Richard of Chichester prayed: *‘may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day.’*

+ Debbie

The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin
Bishop of Peterborough

Information on Draw Near and related resources can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/2v49arbb> or by scanning the QR code.



Produced by the Diocesan Office,
The Palace, Peterborough PE1 1YB
Tel: 01733 887000

Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Weekday Scripture Readings for March

Our weekday scripture readings, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament, taken from the 'Additional Lectionary' which was constructed by the Church of England principally for use in Cathedrals at weekday Evensong.



Monday	2	1 Chronicles 21.1-17	1 John 2.1-8
Tuesday	3	Zechariah 3	2 Peter 2.1-10a
Wednesday	4	Job 1.1-22	Luke 21.34–22.6
Thursday	5	2 Chronicles 29.1-11	Mark 11.15-19
Friday	6	Exodus 19.1-9a	1 Peter 1.1-9
Saturday	7	Exodus 19.9b-19	Acts 7.44-50
Monday	9	Joshua 4.1-13	Luke 9.1-11
Tuesday	10	Exodus 15.22-27	Hebrews 10.32-end
Wednesday	11	Genesis 9.8-17	1 Peter 3.18-end
Thursday	12	Daniel 12.5-end	Mark 13.21-end
Friday	13	Numbers 20.1-13	1 Corinthians 10.23-end
Saturday	14	Isaiah 43.14-end	Hebrews 3.1-15
Monday	16	2 Kings 24.18–25.7	1 Corinthians 15.20-34
Tuesday	17	Jeremiah 13.12-19	Acts 13.26-35
Wednesday	18	Jeremiah 13.20-27	1 Peter 1.17–2.3
Thursday	19	Genesis 50.22-end	Matthew 2.13-end
Friday	20	Jeremiah 17.1-14	Luke 6.17-26
Saturday	21	Ezra 1	2 Corinthians 1.12-19
Monday	23	Joel 2.12-17	2 John
Tuesday	24	Genesis 3.8-15	Galatians 4.1-5
Wednesday	25	Isaiah 52.1-12	Hebrews 2.5-end
Thursday	26	Jeremiah 9.17-22	Luke 13.31-35
Friday	27	Lamentations 5.1-3,19-22	John 12.20-26
Saturday	28	Job 17.6-end	John 12.27-36
Monday	30	Lamentations 2.8-19	Colossians 1.18-23
Tuesday	31	Lamentations 3.40-51	Galatians 6.11-end

Chippings from the Vicar's Work Bench

The Ministry of Healing

Our monthly Healing Mass with intercessions before the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Monday 2 March at 7.00pm. We intercede for those on our parish prayer board and come as those who know our own need of healing wholeness in our lives. Please do come.

Building a More Generous Church

Over the coming weeks you will receive a handout outlining the financial position of our parish and the very real need to grow our regular income if we are to remain sustainable for the long term. Alongside this, during the Sundays of Lent, Fr Nicholas will be preaching and teaching about the meaning of Christian stewardship. This is about far more than balancing accounts. It is about the shape of a Christian life. What does generosity look like in our time, our gifts, our attention, our hospitality – and yes, in our giving? Each week these themes will connect with the season of Lent and with the Sunday Gospel readings, helping us to see stewardship as a spiritual response to God's grace. The future shape of our life together in God's name depends, in part, on how each of us responds. Please take time to read the material carefully, to pray, and to reflect. A simple question to hold before God might be: "Is it generous?"

We believe in a generous God who pours out his love without measure. A generous life is therefore one of the clearest signs of Christian faith. As generosity grows, so does our likeness to the God we worship. The ministry and mission of St Matthew's are sustained through the faithful generosity of parishioners – thank you for all that is already given, and for all that is prayerfully considered in the weeks ahead.

Lent Course – 'Lentwise – Spiritual essentials for Real Life' by Paula Gooder

Easter comes early this year, and so our Lenten journey begins sooner than usual. Lent is a season not only of self-denial, but of deeper attentiveness to God – a time to strengthen the inner life that carries us through the storms of everyday living. (We've moved from Wednesdays because of room availability – and will be sharing the building with our lively Tea Dance friends!) You are warmly invited to the remaining weekly sessions of our Course, meeting on Thursdays at 2.00pm in the Garden Room at the Parish Centre:

- 5 March
- 12 March
- 19 March
- 26 March

This year we'll be using *Lentwise* by Paula Gooder, a thoughtful and practical course based on St John's Gospel. The course explores five themes that speak directly into real life: direction, nourishment, wisdom, refreshment, and security. These are not abstract ideas, but spiritual essentials for anyone trying to live faithfully amid pressure, uncertainty, and change. Each session includes Bible reflection, discussion, prayer, and practical insight. Whether you are new to exploring faith in a group or have done many Lent courses before, you will be very welcome. If possible, please bring a copy of the book.

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

This Lent we once again share the Stations of the Cross with our friends at St Gregory's Roman Catholic Church. Unfortunately, it seems that St Gregory's Church will not be available for worship until after Easter following the fire. So all sessions will take place at St Matthew's, on Fridays at 7.30pm:

- 6 March – St Matthew's
- 13 March – St Matthew's
- 20 March – St Matthew's
- 27 March – St Matthew's

The Stations of the Cross are a simple but profound devotion that invites us to walk prayerfully with Jesus in the final hours of his earthly life – from his condemnation to his burial. Moving from station to station, we do more than remember events of the past. We are invited to see our own suffering, the pain of the world, and the depth of God's love through the lens of Christ's Passion. The Stations draw us into themes of compassion, endurance, forgiveness, and love given to the very end. Prayed ecumenically, they also become a powerful sign of our shared faith in Christ crucified and risen. Come whenever you can as we journey together toward Holy Week.

Parish Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham

Our Walsingham Cell is a group within the parish with a particular devotion to Our Lady and to the shrine at Walsingham. It offers a gentle rhythm of Mass, prayer, and fellowship, rooted in the mystery of the Incarnation – God coming among us through Mary's faithful "yes". Since its beginning, the Cell has met on the second Saturday of each month at 9.30am. It has become clear that this timing makes it difficult for some to attend, and may prevent new members



from joining us, especially for the monthly Mass of the Holy House. For a trial period, we will vary the day (within the second week of the month) in the hope that this will over time make the Cell more accessible, and then review how this works. In March, the Cell Mass and meeting will be held in the Lady Chapel on Thursday 12 March at 12 noon. If you have been curious but unsure about coming, this would be a lovely time to begin.

Monthly Requiem

We remember the Faithful Departed of March at Mass on Friday 13th at midday, and pray for the repose of their immortal souls. All are welcome, not least those with loved ones who departed this life during the calendar month.

Annunciation of the Lord – 25 March

The Feast of the Annunciation falls on Wednesday 25 March, exactly nine months before Christmas Day. There will be a Parish Mass at 7.30pm, and we will be joined by our Christian brothers and sisters from Hanslope and Castlethorpe. Members of the Walsingham Cell will kindly provide refreshments afterwards.

This feast marks the moment when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would bear God's Son, and Mary answered with her trusting "yes". In that quiet, hidden moment, God's plan for the salvation of the world took flesh. The Annunciation reminds us that God often works not through the dramatic and powerful, but through willing hearts and faithful obedience. As we celebrate, we pray that Christ may also take flesh in us – that our lives, like Mary's, may become places where God's grace is welcomed and made visible in the world.

The Crucifixion by John Stainer

Please make a note in your diaries: our choir will sing *The Crucifixion* by John Stainer on Passion Sunday, 22 March at 4.00pm. First performed in 1887, Stainer's work has long held a cherished place in Lenten devotion. Combining choir, soloists, and well-known congregational hymns, it leads us prayerfully through the story of Christ's Passion. Its music is both accessible and deeply moving, helping us to enter not only with our minds but with our hearts into the mystery of the cross.

Palm Sunday – 29 March

Holy Week is the heart of the Christian year. In these days we do not simply recall past events; through the Church's worship we are drawn into Christ's saving death and resurrection. Holy Week begins with the Palm Liturgy, Procession and Mass of the Passion at 9.30am, starting in the Parish Centre hall. Palm Sunday has a double focus. We begin by recalling Christ's

triumphant entry into Jerusalem, greeted with palms and shouts of praise. Yet the same liturgy leads us swiftly into the solemn proclamation of his Passion. This year we hear St Matthew's account in full. As we process with branches, we do more than re-enact a scene from long ago. We declare Christ as our King – a king whose throne is the cross and whose power is self-giving love. We also express our willingness to follow him, even when the road leads through suffering before it reaches glory.

Service of Penitence and Forgiveness – Palm Sunday at 5.30pm

Among those who cheered Jesus on Palm Sunday were some who later turned away. Holy Week asks us gently but honestly: where do we stand? This quiet and prayerful service offers space to examine our lives, to acknowledge our sins of thought, word, deed and omission, and to receive God's mercy. As we begin the journey through Christ's death to his risen life, we ask for grace to die to sin and to rise with him in newness of life.

Tenebrae – Wednesday 1 April at 7.30pm

Tenebrae (a Latin word meaning 'darkness' or 'shadows') is one of the most atmospheric and prayerful services of Holy Week. Rooted in the ancient monastic night offices, it gathers psalms, readings and music into a single, meditative act of worship that leads us gently but deeply into the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. The service begins in candlelight and gradually moves into darkness as candles are extinguished one by one. This slow fading of light is not theatrical for its own sake – it helps us to feel, as well as to think about, the growing abandonment, sorrow and apparent defeat that mark the Passion of Christ. We wait in the shadows, just as the first disciples did, not yet at Easter, but not without hope. Tenebrae is an especially fitting preparation for the Easter Triduum. It stills us, quiets our distractions, and allows the story of the Passion to sink from our heads into our hearts. By lingering with Christ in the darkness, we become more ready to walk with him through the solemn days of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday – and therefore more able to share fully in the joy of the Resurrection. The service ends in silence, leaving us to carry that prayerful stillness with us into the holiest days of the year. All are warmly invited to come and experience this beautiful and powerful beginning to the sacred Three Days.

Maundy Thursday – 2 April at 7.30pm

On Maundy Thursday we begin the Easter Triduum, the sacred Three Days at the centre of the Christian year. At the Liturgy of the Last Supper we remember three great gifts: Christ's example of humble service, the institution of the Eucharist, and his loving obedience to the Father as he goes out to Gethsemane. During the service, twelve people are invited to

take part in the washing of feet, recalling Jesus kneeling to serve his disciples. If you would like to participate, please add your name to the list in church. All ages are welcome.

Watch at the Garden of Gethsemane

After the service, we keep watch with Christ in the Garden, responding to his question to the disciples: “Could you not watch with me one hour?” The Watch continues until midnight and resumes again at 6.00am. Please come and go quietly via the north door and sign up for a time slot. For safety, we ask that at least two people are present at any one time.

Church Cleaning for Easter – Holy Saturday (4 April) from 9.30am

After Morning Prayer on Holy Saturday we prepare our church for the joy of Easter. This practical care for our building is also an act of love and devotion. Many hands really do make light work – and refreshments will be provided. Do come if you can help.

Post-Easter Break

Fr Nicholas will be off duty from Monday 6 to Sunday 12 April inclusive. Please keep him in your prayers as he takes a well-earned rest.

Friends of St Matthew’s Music 100+ Club

Congratulations to the lucky winner of £50 in our FEBRUARY draw —

Number **103**, held by **Steve Stringfellow**



You too could win the **single prize of £50** in our monthly draw if you had a number! For just £3.00 a month you’d be in with a chance, whilst also helping pay for our Director of Music’s salary.

For full details and a form, please email jonathan.starmer@yahoo.com

Jonathan Starmer

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Lent Course 2026

**Thursdays 2.00pm till 3.30pm
in the Parish Centre Garden Room**

As we journey through life, we face challenges — both big and small. What spiritual essentials will help us survive life's storms?

Lentwise is a five-session course designed to engage honestly with the demands of real life. Drawing on fresh insights from John's gospel, it explores five vital themes : direction, nourishment, wisdom, refreshment, and security.

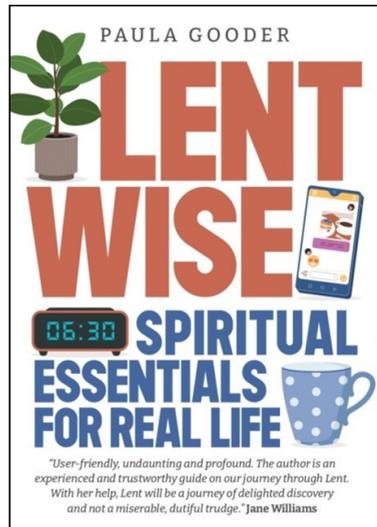
Thursday 26 February

Thursday 5 March

Thursday 12 March

Thursday 19 March

Thursday 26 March



Each participant will need their own copy of the book, price £9.00

**It's not too late to join in — please order a copy asap from Anita in the Parish Office
(please check office hours)**

32ND ST MATTHEW'S
GIRLGUIDING.

Spring

CRAFT MARKET

SATURDAY

14
MARCH
2026

11.00AM -
2.00-PM

St Matthew's Parish Centre,
27a The Drive, Northampton NN1 4RY

CAFE GUIDES WILL BE OPEN!

A wealth of handmade crafts and gifts by local crafters



Girlguiding

32nd St Matthew's Rainbows
Brownies, Guides and Rangers

The poster features a light blue sky background with white clouds and several blue butterflies of various sizes. At the bottom, there is a vibrant field of pink and purple flowers with yellow centers, set against a bright yellow-green background with bokeh light effects. A large, faint dragonfly is visible on the left side of the poster. The text is centered within a white rectangular box with a thin blue border.

Spring

CAFE GUIDES

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026

11.15AM - 12.30PM

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH CENTRE
27A THE DRIVE, NORTHAMPTON NN1 4RY

SERVING HOME COOKED FOOD - JACKET
POTATOES, BACON ROLLS AND SAUSAGE
BAPS

HOME MADE CAKES

FRESH FILTER COFFEE ALONG WITH LATTE'S
AND CAPPUCCINO, A WIDE SELECTION OF
TEAS, YUMMY HOT CHOCOLATE TOO

OUR LUNCHTIME SPECIALS AVAILABLE TOO

Café Guides Recipe for March

Here's an easy, elegant vegetarian main course that feels special enough for Mothering Sunday but is simple to make. It also uses basic ingredients for those observing Lent.

Creamy Spinach & Ricotta Stuffed Shells

Comforting, beautiful, and crowd-pleasing – plus you can prep it ahead so you are not rushed on the day.

Ingredients

- 20–24 jumbo pasta shells
- 250g (1 cup) ricotta cheese
- 100g (1 cup packed) fresh spinach, chopped
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella
- ½ cup grated Parmesan
- 1 egg
- 2 cups marinara sauce (store-bought or homemade)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- Fresh basil (optional, for garnish)

Method

1. Cook the pasta shells
Boil in salted water until just al dente. Drain and let cool.
2. Prepare the filling
In a pan, heat olive oil and sauté garlic for 30 seconds.
Add spinach and cook until wilted. Let cool slightly.
In a bowl, mix ricotta, egg, half the mozzarella, Parmesan, spinach mixture, salt, and pepper.
3. Assemble
Spread 1 cup marinara sauce in a baking dish.
Fill each shell with the ricotta mixture and place in the dish.
Spoon remaining sauce over the top and sprinkle with remaining mozzarella.
4. Bake
Cover with foil and bake at 180°C (350°F) for 25 minutes.
Remove foil and bake 10 more minutes until bubbly and lightly golden.
5. Serve
Garnish with fresh basil and extra Parmesan.

Brand New Christians



During the 8 February Parish Mass we celebrated the baptism of Sintija Stepite and Kristine Malinovska. Sintija and Kristine, together with their children, have been worshipping regularly with us, and were supported on their big day by family here in St Matthew's and also in Lithuania via our live stream.

Sintija, fourth from right and Kristine, third from right, are pictured here at the end of the service.

RESERVE A TABLE

ITALIAN CUISINE

NOW OPEN

LA TIELLA

Monday 15:00 - 23:00

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday to Sunday 15:00 - 23:00



Next month's magazine

Contributions to our magazine are always appreciated so let us know what you / your group are up to! If you don't have the confidence to write something yourself, just let us have the details and we'll write it for you.

Please leave paper contributions in the 'P' (for 'Parker') pigeon hole in church or email files to: magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

When attaching photographs to the email address please send no more than 7mb -worth per email, otherwise it jams the system! Thank you.

Deadline for the APRIL magazine is SUNDAY 15 MARCH

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

St Matthew's Ladies Group

Meetings are on Monday afternoons from 2.00pm till 4.00pm in the Parish Centre, on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Meetings in March

9 March	Isabella Robinson –	<i>Northampton's Victorian Philanthropists</i>
23 March	Bob Ward –	<i>Saxophonist</i>

The full Spring/Summer 2026 programme is on our website:

Click on the 3-bar menu, go to News & Events
and then St Matthew's Ladies Group

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Lent 2026



Stations of the Cross

We share the devotions ecumenically with St Gregory's Church. All sessions this year will be at St Matthew's:

Friday 20 February *St Matthew's*

Friday 27 February *St Matthew's*

Friday 6 March *St Matthew's*

Friday 13 March *St Matthew's*

Friday 20 March *St Matthew's*

Friday 27 March *St Matthew's*

All at 7.30pm

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 15 March

MOTHERING SUNDAY

10.15am

**All Age Mass
for the
Parish Family**



5.30pm

Choral Evensong and Benediction

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Wednesday 25 March

ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

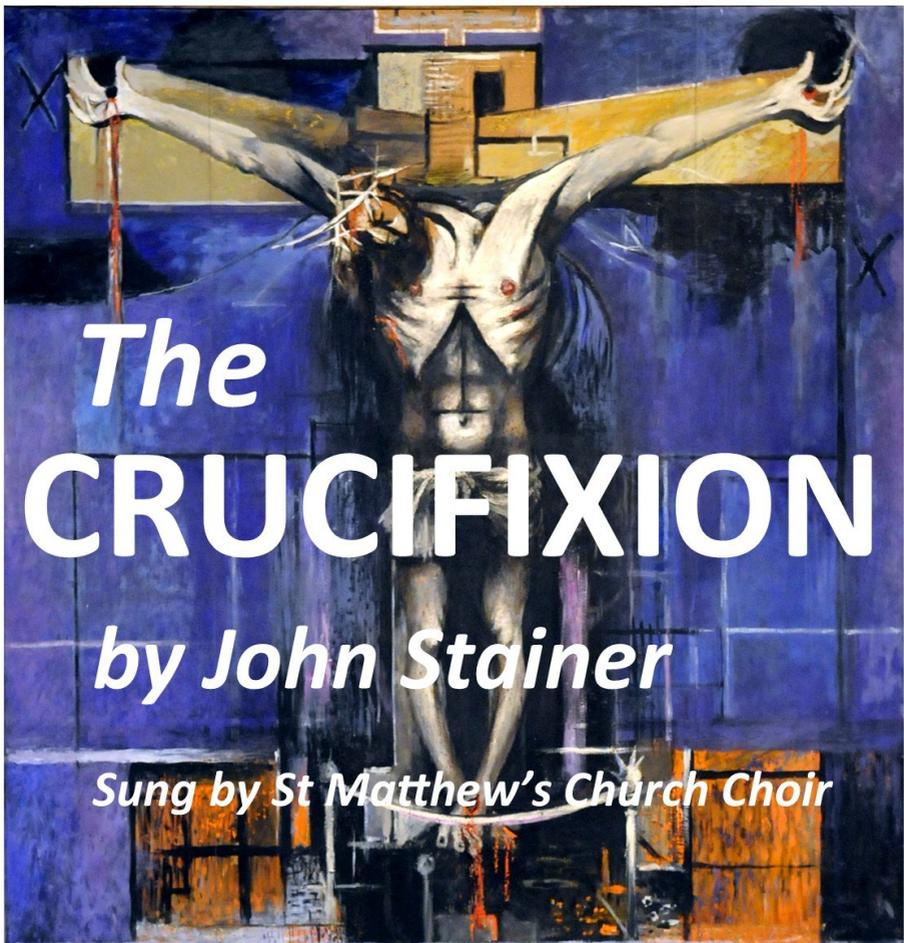
7.30pm The Parish Mass



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Passion Sunday

22 March | 4.00pm



The
CRUCIFIXION

by John Stainer

Sung by St Matthew's Church Choir

The Parish Church of St Matthew

HOLY WEEK

Monday 30 March

7.30pm

Mass with homily

Tuesday 31 March

7.30pm

Mass with homily

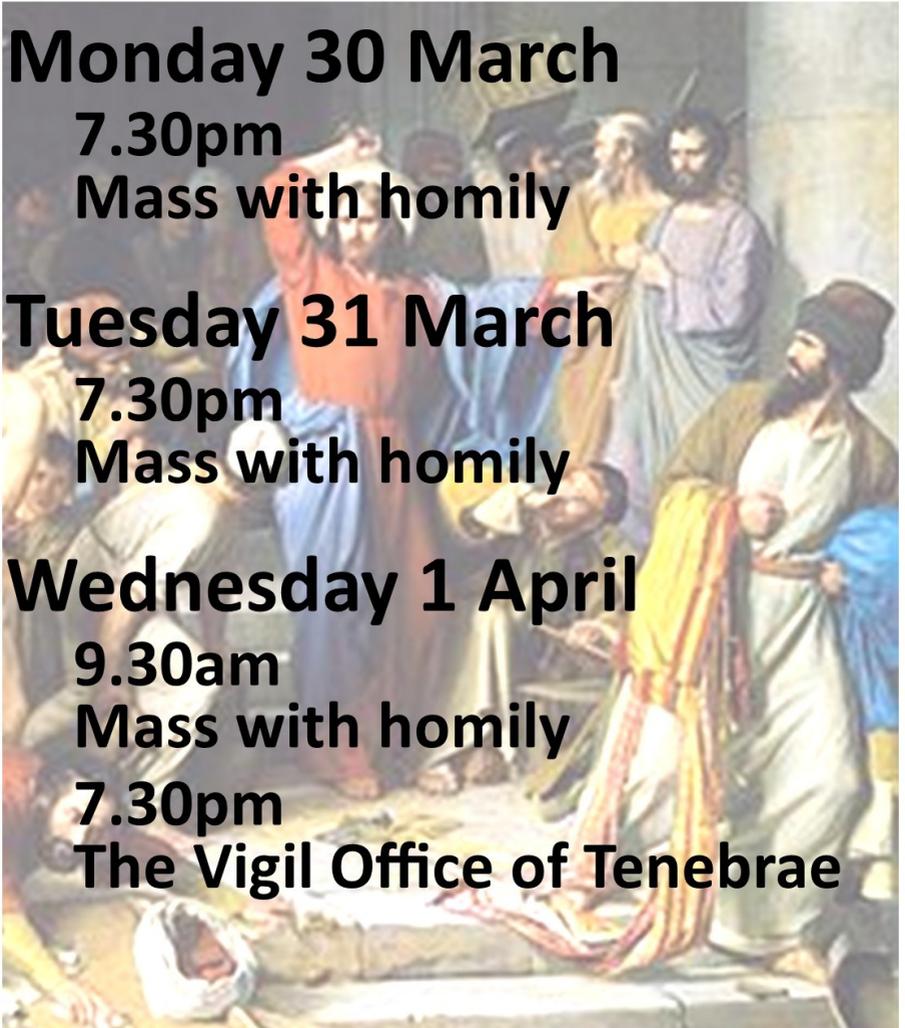
Wednesday 1 April

9.30am

Mass with homily

7.30pm

The Vigil Office of Tenebrae



The Parish Church of St Matthew

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Thursday 2 April

MAUNDY THURSDAY



7.30pm

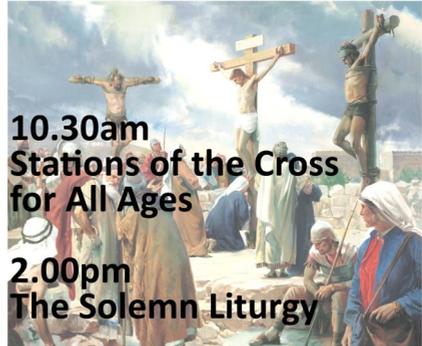
Liturgy of the Last Supper,
Foot Washing,
Stripping of the Altar, and
Watch at the
Garden of Gethsemane

The Parish Church of St Matthew

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Friday 3 April

GOOD FRIDAY



10.30am

Stations of the Cross
for All Ages

2.00pm

The Solemn Liturgy

The Parish Church of St Matthew

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Saturday 4 April

HOLY SATURDAY



8.30pm

The Pascal Vigil and
First Mass of Easter

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 5 April

EASTER DAY

10.15am

Procession and Parish
Mass of the Resurrection



5.30pm

Solemn Choral Evensong

NORTHAMPTON PHILHARMONIC
CHOIR
THE ARMED MAN

Karl Jenkins



SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026 | 7PM

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, THE DRIVE, NORTHAMPTON, NN1 4RY

Nene Sinfonia

Molly Cochrane – Soprano

Directed by Thomas Moore

The programme also features two other works by Jenkins:

Palladio & Cantate Domino

Tickets: £17.50 U16: £6 Available online and on the door



www.northamptonphilharmonicchoir.co.uk

90th
Anniversary



NORTHAMPTON BACH CHOIR

MESSIAH

HANDEL

28

SATURDAY
MARCH 2026

7.00pm Doors open 6.30pm

St Matthew's Church
Kettering Road, Northampton, NN1 4RY

Conductor - Simon Toyne | Northampton Bach Choir | Eboracum Baroque



Soloists: REBECCA BOTTONE soprano MILLIE ROYLE soprano
LAURA TOOMEY contralto THOMAS HAWKEY-SOAR tenor
WILLIAM SWINNERTON baritone



Tickets: £10 - £20 *Early bird discount available until 28.2.26*

Bookings: Scan QR or visit www.trybooking.com/uk/FSCW

Tickets on the door - cash or card *Fees apply* Complementary programme

www.northamptonbachchoir.org.uk

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Open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm

A Christian Workers Co-operative supporting the local community and the wider world.

Parish Giving Scheme

The Parish Giving Scheme exists to allow members of the St Matthew's community to support the life and work of the Parish, and the upkeep of our church, through regular giving. It provides our principal source of income and helps us meet our main financial commitments, including our contribution towards the Diocesan Common Fund (the 'Parish Share') and the costs of our employees.



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MATTHEW • NORTHAMPTON

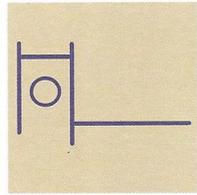
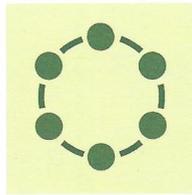
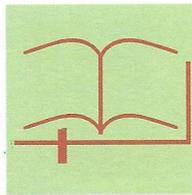
The Scheme is the most tax efficient way of contributing to the church because contributions may be eligible for Gift Aid (raising your donation by 25% at no cost to either you or St Matthew's).

There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

If you are interested in learning more or in joining the Scheme, please speak to our Stewardship Recorder Polly Matthews. She can be contacted via the Parish Office as below.

Polly Matthews

<office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk>



PARISHGIVINGScheme

Parish Office

27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NN1 4RY (*within the Parish Centre*)

Telephone: 01604 791251 Email: office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Anita Speake Office opening hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 9.30am till 12.30pm, 1.00pm till 4.00pm; Wednesdays CLOSED

Ministry Team

Parish Priest The Revd Canon Nicholas Setterfield Tel: 01604 604412
vicar@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Assistant Priest The Revd Canon Nicholas Gandy OGS

Parish Officers

Churchwardens Gary Drinkwater
churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Dave Wilson
churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
PCC Secretary Sarah Oughton
pcc-secretary@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
PCC Treasurer Donald Cran
treasurer@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Stewardship Recorder Polly Matthews

St Matthew's Trust

Ben Drouet
chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Particular Responsibility

Safeguarding Officer Sarah Oughton
(Assistant: Ben Drouet)
safeguarding@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Verger Gary Drinkwater
Head Server Nick Everitt
head-server@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Sacristan Seymour Franklin
sacristan@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Electoral Roll Officer Seymour Franklin
Archives Patrick Rawlinson
Website & Magazine Editor Dorrie Parker
magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Music Department

Director of Music Tom Moore
music@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Parish Organist Jonathan Starmer
Friends of Steve Stringfellow
St Matthew's Music friends@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Walsingham Cell

Cell Secretary Dave Wilson
walsingham@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk