

TIMES	MEMORIAL OR FEAST	INTENTIONS
SAT	6.30pm Vigil Mass: 7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
SUN	10.30am Eucharistic Service : 7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
FRI	9.00am Exposition	
	9.30am Mass: Thursday of week 7 in Ordinary Time	
SAT	6.30pm Vigil Eucharistic Service : 8 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
SUN	10.30am Mass: 8 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	



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



23rd February 2025
7th Ordinary Sunday of the Year (C I) Psalter Week 3

THE ANNOUNCER!

Last week	Collection: £334	Attendance: 60
MINISTRIES	23/2/2025	2/3/2025
Church Cleaning	Danby & Harvey	-
Counters	Mitchell	Collins
Welcome	Collins/Harvey	Farrell/James
Hall keeper	R Hendry	M Collins
Sat Reader	K Schouwenaars-Harms	R Smith
Sat EME	M Collins	-
Sun Reader	M Le Mero, T Coull	M Farrell, E Danby
Sun EME	-	I Grant, L Le Mero
Flowers	Artificial	Artificial (None after Tuesday)
Teas	Michele & Louis	Liz & Ron

The word of God invites us to reflect on love, mercy and restraint in times of temptation to vengeance. It is the love that holds no grudge, refrains from revenge and pardons iniquity. Isn't that the type of love the world needs especially in our time? We have an invitation today to assume that new love self, which is different from a vengeful self.

In the first reading, we heard the story of David and Saul. It was a tale of mercy, which transcends every feeling of revenge. King Saul had sought to kill David for a long time. Ordinarily, the principle that people would apply would be self-defence and an eye for an eye. But when David had the opportunity to strike down King Saul, he chose not to harm him - the Lord's anointed. He applied restraint and trusted in God's justice rather than taking laws into his hands.

In the second reading, St. Paul expounds on the contrast between the first Adam (who was earthly and brought death) and Christ the "last Adam" (who is heavenly and life-giving). He reminds us as followers of Christ, that we have been given a new nature through His resurrection. We are no longer merely of the earth but heavenly after the image of Christ. This message reminds us also that we are called to assume Christ's nature and love. The love that forgives sin and hurts against us.

In the gospel reading, Jesus teaches us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, to bless those who curse us, and to give without expecting anything in return. This is not an easy calling—it goes against our human instincts. However, that is why Jesus took flesh – to teach us that it is possible to love in that way. That is why on the cross, He prayed for His enemies. His love is not conditional or transactional; it is selfless.

This radical and selfless love and mercy is essential for a lasting peace on earth. David tried to live by it in his experience with King Saul. Jesus did the same to those who crucified Him when He asked the Father to forgive them. When we have the urge to revenge, let us learn the virtue of restraint, mercy and love.

Useful contacts:

Parish Priest:	Fr Kingsley Chigbo	01542 832196
	email	cilk@rcda.scot
Assistant priest:	Fr Peter Ezekoka	01542 832196
	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	stthomasPSC@rcd-abdn.org
Health & Safety:	Keith Gray	01542 886242
Newsletter:	Margaret Farrell	01542 882116
	or	mcfarrell@btinternet.com
Hospital Chaplains:	Elgin Dcn Graeme Morrison	07387008498
	Aberdeen Fr Emmet O'Dowd	01224 482657
	or	ARI@rcda.scot

Facebook: St Thomas' RC Church, Keith YouTube: St Margaret's RC Church, Huntly
 Email: chapelstthomas@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.stthomaskeith.org

Fr Kingsley

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

Apologies: the next PPC meeting is WEDNESDAY 26th, not Thursday 27th as had been previously noted.

Ash Wednesday: Mass in Keith 9.30am, Buckie 11am, Fochabers 5pm, Buckie 6.30pm. This marks the beginning of Lent and is a day of Fasting and Abstinence.

St John Ogilvie Mass: the annual celebration of the Feast of St John Ogilvie will be here on March 8th, with Mass at 2pm, followed by refreshments in the hall. We will be joined by the Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage group who will be fresh/exhausted from the Fishwives walk!

Fundraisers: a Quiz Night at Keith Golf Club is being planned on **Friday 11th April**. Help will be needed on the night, plus donations of raffle prizes. Please speak to Kathleen Foote if you can help at all. We also have the postponed Whisky Tasting to look forward to, AND Fr Kingsley is considering a musical evening, inviting his brother priests to join him for a Fundraising Concert – look out for details!

Finances: please consider when you last increased your contributions to the church, have you kept your donations in line with inflation? Many thanks to all those who are so generous, and especially to the Hall who have made donations to help out, but it is up to each of us individually to consider if we are contributing as fully as we can to our church community, in all aspects, including financially.

Conditions for Obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence During the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, all the faithful, who are truly repentant and free from any affection for sin who are moved by a spirit of charity and who, during the Holy Year, purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, (this prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the individual, but an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" are suggested), will be able to obtain from the treasury of the church a plenary indulgence, with remission and forgiveness of all their sins, if they also undertake a pious pilgrimage or a pious visit to any sacred jubilee site. This Jubilee Plenary Indulgence can be also applied in suffrage to the souls in Purgatory.

Weekday Mass: The weekday Mass will be on Fridays at 9.30am in the house, preceded by Exposition and Confessions.

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

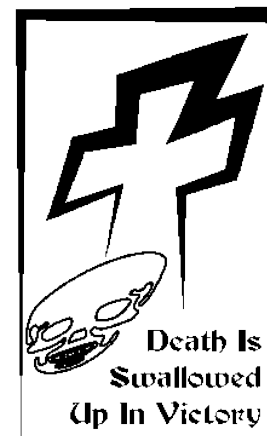
Tea & coffee in the hall after Sunday Mass

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.

Pope's prayer intention: February 2025: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life: Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

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 \(rcda.scot\)](https://www.rcda.scot) and the text of **In God's Image (V2)** is accessed by clicking on <https://www.bcos.org.uk/LinkClick.aspx?link=131&tabid=124&portalid=0&mid=584>

Diary Dates	
Fabric & Finance	20 th February 2025 7pm
PPC	26 th February 2025 7pm
Ash Wednesday	5 th March 2025
St John Ogilvie Mass	8 th March 2025 2pm
Quiz Night	11 th April, Keith Golf Club
Easter Sunday	20 th April 2025



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