

St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey e-Bulletin 15 March 2026



Dear Friends,

Is your Lent stalling a bit in these final days? A missed fasting day, a forgotten 'sacrifice', or a moment of 'oh-I shouldn't have thought/ said that'? Do you feel guilty or a bit of a failure? If you do grow weary during Lent, it's confirmation of real sacrifice. And remember Lent doesn't last forever.

Regardless, there's still enough Lent remaining to shift into higher gear. Passiontide — the last two weeks of Lent — is all about diving deeper and turning our thoughts to the suffering and the crucifixion of our Lord. In some Anglican churches, crosses and statues are veiled in cloth (often red or unbleached linen) to symbolise the hiding of Christ's glory and his impending death. It is it a bit like a 'fast for the eyes' by covering possible visual distractions.

In 1969 Pope Paul VI formally abolished Passion Sunday, removing the distinction between Passiontide and the season of Lent. So, in most liturgical calendars today is simply known as the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Maybe the problem with Passion Sunday is that we live in an anaesthetic age which has a pill for every problem and a plethora of less worrying names for illness and death. Politicians of every party tell us that good times are just around the corner – and we long to believe them. Too many feel an emptiness in their lives and use things like drink, drugs, food, materialism to try to make it go away.

Let's remember that during Passiontide, Jesus experienced many momentous events, including:

- His visit with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in Bethany.
- Entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday while riding on a young donkey.
- Teaching daily in the Temple until He was arrested.
- His crucifixion.

Through these events, we become aware of Jesus' incredible love for us. He not only endured physical torture but also fought the spiritual battle against

evil. Personally, I'm not sure how he coped with the dread, sorrow, anguish, betrayal and loneliness but he did it for us.

Jesus' compassion and miracles touched all people, including the rich and poor, the Jews, the Samaritans, the Romans, and others. He even prayed for the forgiveness of those who crucified Him. However, His focus was not to impress people with miracles, but to provide the way to eternal life. As we journey through the two weeks of Passiontide, we are given a twofold calling. Firstly, we are asked to give time and thought to our relationship with Christ, acknowledging His love for us and how it impacts our lives today and for all eternity. Secondly, we are called to show His love to others, that they may also be touched by His sacrifice and feel His love in their lives.

The good news is that Passiontide does not have the last say, and this sombre period of preparation ends quickly so that our hearts can rejoice in the beauty of Christ's resurrection. Amen! Amen! and Amen! *Shân*

Sunday Services:

March 22 10.30am Worship Together

March 29 10.30am Palm Sunday

April 5 (See list for Holy Week)

Services for Holy Week

Monday 30 March

7.30pm Ecumenical service for Holy Week

8.45pm Compline

Tuesday 31 March

7.30pm - service at Ramsey Methodist Church

8.45pm Compline

Wednesday 1 April

7.30pm - Service at Sacred Heart Catholic Church

8.45pm Compline

Thursday 2 April

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

Friday 3 April

10.30am Service on Abbey Green following the Walk of Witness
2.00pm At the Foot of the Cross, Ramsey St Mary's Church
7.30pm Taize Service

Sunday 5 April

6am Easter Sunrise Service at Ramsey Rural Museum
10.30am Parish Communion
7.30pm Songs of Praise

APCM and Electoral Roll Revision 2026:

APCM in church Monday 27th April 7.30pm.

Electoral Roll: if you are not already on the Church Electoral Roll, now is the time to sign up by **Monday 30th March**. Forms in the blue folder at the back of the church.

Reports for APCM: Ahead of the meeting, Jackie will be compiling reports from the different groups in church along with the statutory reports. Please submit to Jackie by **Monday 6th April**
jackie@ramseysandupwood.org

Walk of Witness: Kay Rawlinson is organising the Walk of Witness on the morning of Good Friday, 3rd April. She needs four more volunteers to help steward the walk. She also needs a volunteer to collect the cross to take to the Rainbow carpark and to deliver it back again. Please contact Kay on 01487 815528 if you are able to help. Thank you, Kay.

Eater Holiday Club: Easter happened – what happens next? Easter Holiday Club on Friday 10th April 9.15am to 3.15pm for primary-aged children. Please bring your own packed lunch.
Please book a place with Hayley: Hayley@ramseysandupwood.org 07935 549947.

Jackie on annual leave: please note that Jackie will be on annual leave from Sunday 22nd March to Friday 27th March. Please send Bulletin

submissions as normal, but you may not get your Bulletin until Saturday 28th!

We are hosting two concerts:

Ramsey Choral Society Saturday 21 March 7pm Mozart Coronation Mass. Further details from Jackie or Adam Southwell.

Peterborough Opera: Saturday 28 March 4.30pm If Music be the Food of Love. Further details from Martin Muir.

Cakes: just a reminder we are asking for volunteers to make cakes for after Sunday services. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

Clergy days off: as a general rule, Joe's day off is a Saturday.

Regular Activities:

Mondays: Toddlers 9.30am – 10.30am
3 in 1 (primary-aged) 3.30pm – 5pm (Scout Hut)

Tuesdays: Bellringing 7.30pm
Craft Group 2nd Tuesday of month 7.30pm

Wednesdays: Youth Space 3.15pm – 4.30pm
Becket seniors 3rd Wednesday of the month 12.30pm

Friday: Choir practice 6.45pm

Saturday: Men's Breakfast first Saturday of each month.

Becket Flower Group meet throughout the year for events and to decorate the church for festivals.

For more information about the above activities, contact:

jackie@ramseysandupwood.org.

Bulletin items: please send all items for the Bulletin to jackie@ramseysandupwood.org by noon Wednesday.

Pastoral Needs: if you have any pastoral needs or would like someone to pray with you, please contact Val Molloy: 01487 710583 or email valmolloy@hotmail.com

Online Prayer meeting:

Monday to Friday at 8.30am. To join [simply click here](#) Download zoom and join in. Meeting ID: 837 2798 9081 Passcode: 702720

Prayer list:

Please pray for: Dilys; Doug and Maureen; Julie; Ian; Kay; Juliet and Philip; Janet; Vicki; Oonagh and her parents Matthew and Jade; Alan; Jill; Pauline Cook, Glen Dawkins, Neville Palmer, Colin and Yvonne, Julia Hayes and June Edwards

Names can be added to the list by notifying Jan Bowd 01487 822418
janbowd298@btinternet.com