



## The Parish of St James's Elmers End

29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – 9.15am Parish Mass

### ST PETER AND ST PAUL

#### OPENING HYMN (NEH 76)

Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,  
if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake,  
and humbly follow after me.

Take up thy cross, let not its weight  
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;  
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
and brace thy heart  
and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross,  
nor heed the shame,  
nor let thy foolish pride rebel;  
thy Lord for thee  
the cross endured,  
to save thy soul  
from death and hell.

Take up thy cross  
then in his strength,  
and calmly every danger brave;  
'twill guide thee to a better home,  
And lead to victory o'er the grave.

Take up thy cross and follow Christ,  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only those who bear the cross  
may hope to wear  
the glorious crown.

To thee, great Lord,  
the One in Three,  
all praise forevermore ascend:  
O grant us in our home to see  
the heavenly life that knows no end.

#### THE GREETING

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the  
Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen**

The Lord be with you  
and also with you.

#### PRAYER OF PENITENCE

*The priest invites those present to confess  
their sins*

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done  
and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary  
ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our  
God.

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
Forgive us our sins and bring us to  
everlasting life. **Amen.**

#### THE KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

## THE GLORIA

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of  
the Father: receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.**

## THE COLLECT

O God, who on the Solemnity of the  
Apostles Peter and Paul  
give us the noble and holy joy of this day,  
grant, we pray, that your Church  
may in all things follow the teaching  
of those through whom she received  
the beginnings of right religion.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your  
Son, who lives and reigns with you in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Acts 12:1-11*

In those days: Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, 'Dress yourself and put on your sandals.' And he did so. And he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Ps 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R5*

**R From all my terrors  
the LORD set me free.**

I will bless the LORD at all times,  
praise of him is always in my mouth.  
In the LORD

my soul shall make its boast;  
the humble shall hear and be glad. R

Glorify the LORD with me;  
together let us praise his name.  
I sought the LORD,  
and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. R

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This lowly one called; the LORD heard,  
and rescued him from all his distress. R

The angel of the Lord is encamped  
around those who fear him,  
to rescue them.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Blessed the man  
who seeks refuge in him. R

## SECOND READING

*2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18*

Beloved:  
I am already being poured out as a drink  
offering, and the time of my departure  
has come.

I have fought the good fight, I have  
finished the race, I have kept the faith.  
Henceforth there is laid up for me the  
crown of righteousness, which the Lord,  
the righteous judge, will award to me on  
that day, and not only to me, but also to  
all who have loved his appearing.

The Lord stood by me and strengthened  
me, so that through me the message  
might be fully proclaimed and all the  
Gentiles might hear it.

So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

The Lord will rescue me from every evil  
deed and bring me safely into his  
heavenly kingdom.  
To him be the glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL (STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
You are Peter,  
and on this rock I will build my Church,  
and the gates of hell  
shall not prevail against it.  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time:  
When Jesus came into the district of  
Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,  
'Who do people say that the Son of Man  
is?'

And they said, 'Some say John the  
Baptist, others say Elijah, and others  
Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'  
He said to them, 'But who do you say  
that I am?'

Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ,  
the Son of the living God.'

And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are  
you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and  
blood has not revealed this to you, but  
my Father who is in heaven.

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this  
rock I will build my Church, and the  
gates of hell shall not prevail against it.  
I will give you the keys of the kingdom of  
heaven, and whatever you bind on earth  
shall be bound in heaven, and whatever  
you loose on earth shall be loosed in  
heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## THE SERMON

## THE CREED

I believe in one God  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father  
before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the  
Father, by whom all things were  
made; who for us men and for our  
salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy  
Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man,  
and was crucified also for us  
under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried,  
and the third day he rose again  
according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of the Father.

And he shall come again with glory  
to judge both the quick and the  
dead:  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceedeth from the Father  
and the Son, who with the Father  
and the Son together is worshipped  
and glorified, who spake by the  
prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic  
and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism  
for the remission of sins.

And I look for the resurrection of  
the dead, and the life of the world  
to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

*After each bidding is said:*

Lord, hear us.

**Lord graciously hear us.**

*at the end of the prayers*

Merciful Father.

**accept these prayers for the sake of  
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## OFFERTORY HYMN (NEH 420)

O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me,  
My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If Thou wilt be my Guide.

O, let me hear Thee speaking,  
In accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion,  
The murmurs of self-will;  
O, speak to reassure me,  
To hasten, or control;  
O, speak, and make me listen,  
Thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised  
To all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory  
There shall Thy servant be;  
And Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
O, give me grace to follow,  
My Master and my Friend.

O, let me see Thy footmarks,  
And in them plant mine own;  
My hope to follow duly  
Is in Thy strength alone.  
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,  
Uphold me to the end;  
And then to rest receive me,  
My Saviour and my Friend.

## THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERING

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of his holy Church.**

May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord, accompany the sacrificial gift that we present to your name for consecration, and may their intercession make us devoted to you in celebration of the sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues until:*  
... sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as we acclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your  
glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna  
in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the  
highest..**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues until:*  
The mystery of faith:

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues until:*  
...honour is yours, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

## THE PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you  
always  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## THE AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the  
sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the  
sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God you take away the  
sins of the world, grant us peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of  
the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my  
roof, but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

*The people receive communion. If you wish  
to receive a blessing, please bring this Order  
of Service with you.*

## COMMUNION HYMN (NEH 341)

**Blest are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see our God;  
the secret of the Lord is theirs,  
their soul is Christ's abode.**

**The Lord who left the heavens  
our life and peace to bring,  
to dwell in lowliness with men,  
their pattern and their king.**

**Still to the lowly soul  
he doth himself impart  
and for his dwelling and his throne  
chooseth the pure in heart.**

**Lord, we thy presence seek;  
may ours this blessing be:  
give us a pure and lowly heart,  
a temple meet for thee.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May receiving this Sacrament, O Lord  
our God, bring us health of body and  
soul, as we confess your eternal holy  
Trinity and undivided Unity.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*The congregation* **STAND**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

May almighty God Bless you  
the Father, and the Son, ✠  
and the Holy Spirit, **Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## FINAL HYMN (NEH 478)

**Ye watchers and ye holy ones,  
bright seraphs, cherubim,  
and thrones,  
raise the glad strain,  
Alleluia!  
Cry out, dominions,  
princedoms, powers,  
virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,  
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!`  
Alleluia! alleluia!**

**O higher than the cherubim,  
more glorious than the seraphim,  
lead their praises,  
Alleluia!  
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,  
most gracious, magnify the Lord,  
Alleluia...**

**Respond, ye souls in endless rest,  
ye patriarchs  
and prophets blest,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,  
all saints triumphant,  
raise the song,  
Alleluia...**

**O friends, in gladness let us sing,  
supernal anthems echoing,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Alleluia...**

## THE SALVE REGINA

Hail, Holy Queen enthroned above,  
O Maria,  
Hail, Mother of Mercy and of love  
O Maria,  
Triumph, all ye Cherubim,  
Sing with us, ye Seraphim,  
Heav'n and earth  
resound the hymn  
Salve, Salve, Salve Regina.

Our life, our sweetness here below,  
O Maria.  
Our Mother in sorrow and in woe,  
O Maria.  
Triumph, all ye Cherubim,  
Sing with us, ye Seraphim,  
Heav'n and earth  
resound the hymn  
Salve, Salve, Salve Regina.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,  
that we may be made worthy of the  
promises of Christ.

Let us pray:  
Almighty, everlasting God, who by the  
co-operation of the Holy Spirit didst  
prepare the body and soul of the  
glorious Virgin Mother Mary to become  
a dwelling-place meet for thy Son:  
grant that as we rejoice in her  
commemoration; so by her fervent  
intercession we may be delivered from  
present evils and from everlasting death.  
Through the same Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## PRAYERS

### *For those in need:*

Bill, Roger, Cheryl, Judith, Derek, Pippa,  
Jeanette, Joyce, Baby Lucy, Vercilla,  
Chris, Pauline, John, Carol, Susan,  
Richard, Eileen, Sarah, Geraldine.

### *Recently departed:*

Fay Carrington

### *Anniversaries of death:*

Megan Cockerill, Frank Watkins,  
Gwyneth Norman, Marjorie Shepherd,  
Gladys Davis, May Bostock

## THIS WEEK IN THE BENEFICE

### **Monday**

Fr Russell's rest day

### **Tuesday**

7.00pm Mass (*St James*)

### **Wednesday**

10.00am Mass and Coffee (*St Michael*)

### **Thursday**

10.30am Mass and Coffee (*St James*)

### **Friday**

7.00pm Mass (*St Michael*)

### **Saturday**

9.30am BCP Mass (*St James*)

## LIVING WELL FOODBANK

There is a basket for non-perishable food  
and toiletries for the food bank at the  
back of St. James's Church.

## BARBECUE AT ST. JAMES'S CHURCH GARDEN 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2PM

Your last chance to book for this event.  
Tickets £10 from Jan 07939 088820.  
Please let Jan know latest Tuesday 1st  
July if you would like to come

## FELLOWSHIP GROUP

4th July at 2 pm in the Guild Room, a talk on the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Refreshments afterwards. Please come along, and bring a friend or neighbour.

£2 including a raffle ticket

There will not be a Fellowship meeting in August. Please keep your eyes open for details of the meetings for the next months.

## TOP OF THE PEW

The next round will be held some time in July or August. During the first round of the competition over £300 was raised for the Bromley Homeless charity by way of collections.

## St. James's Patronal Festival 27<sup>th</sup> July at 5 p.m.

Please note there will not be a service at St. James's Church at 9.15 a.m. on 27<sup>th</sup> July, as we shall be celebrating our Patronal Festival with a service at 5 p.m., celebrant Fr. Andrew Davis, one time curate at St. James's Church. This service will be followed by refreshments. Please make a note of this, as we should like as many of our congregation, past and present, to come along.

## CONFIRMATION

The Bishop of Richborough will be joining us for the first time the in Benefice for St Michael's Day (Monday 29th September). During the Mass he will be administering the Rite of Confirmation. If you have not yet been Confirmed and would like to be please have a word with Fr Russell, who will then arrange for suitable instruction to be given.

## RICHBOROUGH FAMILY FESTIVAL

Saturday 16th August: we will come together in Portsmouth Cathedral to celebrate Assumptiontide with a Mass of Stella Maris concelebrated at 12noon followed by a bring your own/bring and share picnic on the beaches here. There will be time for simply enjoying the seaside and the day will conclude with Benediction at Holy Spirit Southsea at 4pm followed by afternoon tea to fortify us for the journey home.

## AYLESFORD PILGRIMAGE

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August  
11.00am Mass  
with Fr Ben Eadon preaching  
*Bring a Picnic Lunch.*

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## BENEFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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