

Martin's Message



SAINTS *alive*

THE CROSS

has always been at the heart of the Christian faith. We have crosses at the front of our churches; we might treasure a necklace with a cross or even have a tattoo of one.

I don't have a tattoo (if I did it would be of a cross), but I do have three small crosses which are special to me.



The first is a crucifix which was given to me by my sister-in-law's family for my 40th birthday. It has an image of Jesus on the cross and it reminds me of the sufferings Christ went through when he died to save me from my sins and reconcile me to God.

Then there is my cross from El Salvador, given to me by someone from my previous church, on my licensing as Priest-in-Charge of Earl Shilton and Elmesthorpe.

It is full of colourful decoration, reminding me that Jesus not only died, but three days later rose again to bring new life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, there is my holding cross, given to me by Bishop Guli, the former Bishop of Loughborough. I hold it as I settle to sleep and it reminds me that forgiveness, eternal life and the gift of the Holy Spirit are mine through Jesus Christ who loves me and gave his life for me.

And that is also yours to receive and experience now as you believe and trust in him.

I hope that you can join us for our Holy Week and Easter celebrations – all are welcome. God bless.

Martin Castle – Priest-in-charge

If you wish to get in touch please contact the church office:

Parish Church Office at St Simon & St Jude Church Hall, High Street. Earl Shilton, Leicestershire. LE9 7DH 01455 843961
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If you would like to contact our church minister his contact details are as follows:

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(Priest-in-charge)
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APRIL SERVICES

Thursday 2nd April – Maundy Thursday

7.30pm – Churches Together Service of Holy Communion at SS&SJ

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday

10.30am – Walk of Witness from SS&SJ

11.00am – Good Friday Service outside the Methodist Church

3.00pm – Stop @3 on Facebook

Saturday 4th April – Holy Saturday

9.00am – Prayers for a hurting world on Facebook

Sunday 5th April – Easter Day

6.30am – Sunrise Service at St Mary's

9.15am – All-age Holy Communion at St Mary's

10.45am – All-age Holy Communion at SS&SJ

6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

Sunday 12th April

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's

10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ

Sunday 19th April

10.45am – Morning Worship at SS&SJ

2.30pm – Afternoon Worship at St Mary's

6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

Sunday 26th April

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's

10.30am – Sunday Club in SS&SJ Parish Hall

10.45am – Short Service of Holy Communion followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting at SS&SJ

6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

Prayers to start the day at 9am as follows:

Monday – St Simon and St Jude's

Tuesday & Thursday – St Mary's

Wednesday – Facebook

There will be NO prayers to start the day during Easter week.



St. Mary's Subscription Club

LUCKY NUMBERS

Lucky membership numbers and prize monies drawn at the February event:

1st **164**(£40), 2nd **11**(£25),
3rd **157**(£15), 4th **180**(£10) and
5th **13**(£10).

If you have given up chocolate for Lent you might want to miss the next Elmesthorpe Friends, Food and Flowers Initiative coffee morning! The reason is the theme of the Early Easter Experience event at the village hall on

Saturday March 28th

from 10am - 11.30am

invites those attending to

'Think chocolate'

However, there will be other delights to tempt you – cobs and home-made cakes plus hot drinks. There will also be a raffle, monthly St Mary's Subscription Club draw, door prizes and other rewards for winning the game that is played or the quiz sheet.

Donations always welcome
for local Food Banks



Holy Week

Services and Events:

Palm Sunday, 29th March – Join us for Holy Communion as we celebrate Jesus, the Great High Priest. 9.15am at St Mary's and 10.45am at SS&SJ.

Prayer Walk, Wednesday 1st April – Meeting at 7pm at LBC Earl Shilton (Baptist church). We'll walk across the road to SS&SJ and pray outside the church, then we'll prayer walk the route of the walk of witness to the Methodist church, carry on from there to the Catholic church, pray outside the Catholic church and then prayer walk back to the Methodist church to pray where the Good Friday service will take place. We will be praying that the walk of witness and Good Friday service will indeed be a good witness to Jesus and all He's done for us, and that passers-by will hear about and respond to God's love for them.

Maundy Thursday Churches Together Service of Holy Communion, 2nd April – 7.30pm at SS&SJ. As Jesus celebrated with his disciples, we come together as Christians in Earl Shilton to remember that meal.

Good Friday, 3rd April –

- **Walk of Witness** - 10.30am starting at SS&SJ and SS Peter & Paul Churches, walking to the Methodist church for the:
- **Churches Together Good Friday Service** – 11am outside the Methodist church. Join us for



this open-air service where we will celebrate God's immense love for us shown through His sacrifice on the cross. Refreshments and hot cross buns will be served in the hall afterwards.

- **Stop @ 3** – 3pm. Join us on the SS&SJ Facebook page for 3pm so that we can stop for a few minutes together, wherever we are, to remember Jesus' death on the cross and the sacrifice he made for us. We will have a short time (5 minutes) of reflection and prayer together. Whether you are at home, or on holiday, please join us.

Holy Saturday Prayers for a Hurting World, 4th April – 9am on the SS&SJ Facebook page. A short service where we particularly pray for those who are experiencing desolation in their lives.

Easter Day, Sunday 5th April –

- **Sunrise Service** – 6.30am at St Mary's. A special open-air service to celebrate the risen Son at sunrise.
- **All-age Holy Communion** - 9.15am at St Mary's and 10.45am at SS&SJ. Join us as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the new life that He offers us!
- **Easter Bring-and-Share Tea** – 3.30pm at SS&SJ Church Hall. Join us for a celebratory bring-and-share tea. The event also includes music, poetry, crafts and a short reflection. All welcome! Please sign up in church by 29th March.