

# **The Anglican Church of St Thomas, Kefalas**

## ***Reaching our Community through the Gospel Message***

**Welcome!  
today and throughout April and  
thank you for sharing in worship with us**

### ***Canon Philip writes:***

This month sees the greatest Christian Feast of Easter, but what does it mean in our risky and troubled world? The Bishop of Europe, Robert Innes, provides us with a few thoughts.

### ***Canon Philip***

### **Bishop's Easter Message 2017**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Purity of heart is to will one thing”, said the Danish theologian Soren Kierkegaard. I write these words near the beginning of Lent, a season in which we try even more seriously than usual to order our desires under the overarching desire for God. Since our desires are continually stimulated, manipulated and exploited by powerful forces in the world, Lenten disciplines of even moderate asceticism are strongly counter-cultural and have seldom been more valuable in promoting true spiritual life.

It has been a particular delight for me that the daily lectionary this Lent has us reading through the prophet Jeremiah. Few other biblical characters exemplify such a single-minded longing after God and his purposes. For 40 years, Jeremiah faced the political situation of his day with utter realism. He helped his people navigate their way through one of the most disturbing times in their history – the huge discontinuity and disruption marked by exile in Babylon. Against the false prophets, who disseminated an easy message of ‘business as usual’, Jeremiah is unflinching in proclaiming that God is faithful, but that a very different kind of hope and a so far unimagined future lie on the other side of a painful judgement. “I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “to give you a future and a hope. You will seek me and you will find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jer. 29:11).

Jeremiah provides a suggestive backdrop to Easter. In his book “Outside Eden – Finding Hope in an Imperfect World”, Peter Fisher counters the idea that Easter is an exercise in mere wish fulfilment. We have plenty of evidence to suggest that the disciples who followed Jesus were expecting that, having given up homes, fishing businesses and so on, they would be rewarded with a relatively smooth path to greatness in the kingdom of God. They had, we know, been in the habit of discussing the various positions of honour they could expect. But Jesus’s death seemed to be the unexpected end of their hopes. And Jesus’s resurrection - a new spiritual body - was quite outside the rational categories that had so far been available to them. So the shape of the hope that opens up before the disciples on

Easter Day is quite different from anything they had previously known. And, not surprisingly, the new resurrection order dramatically changes the character and capacities of the disciples too.

For most of us, Easter Sunday morning is epitomised by the reading of St. John's account of Mary Magdalene meeting her risen Lord in the garden. I have been struck, in re-reading this text, by the repeated 'turning' of Mary. She is the first to see the empty tomb. After running away in fright, she returns with Peter and the other unnamed disciple. Having seen the empty tomb, the others depart, but Mary remains, standing weeping outside the tomb. When the gardener engages her in conversation she 'turns around' and sees Jesus, though without recognising him. It is in the face to face conversation between them, and in particular when Jesus speaks her name, 'Mary', that she recognises the risen Lord.

Rowan Williams comments (in 'Resurrection – Interpreting the Easter Gospel'): "She, the one who had turned, again and again, in ever-dwindling hope, now finds that hope answered. Turning, over and again, to the name, the figure, the recollection of Jesus, even when it can only seem abstract and remote, issues at last in knowing with utter clarity that it is still he who calls us into our unique identity." It is in turning, metanoia or conversion (or re-conversion) that we find Jesus and are found by him. Thus Mary finds a new future and a new hope.

Easter 2017 greets an uncertain and fearful European continent. The achievements of the post-war decades are being radically questioned. The story of smooth progress towards an ever-more prosperous, liberal and globalised future is being angrily protested against. Yet we don't know what could replace it. The European Commission has published a White Paper that offers five very different scenarios, and both Protestant and Catholic Churches are holding conferences on 'The Future of Europe'. There is, as yet, little in the way of genuinely convincing and inspiring ways forward. We feel ourselves to be in a kind of 'Holy Saturday', with old hopes having gone and a new vision yet to crystallise.

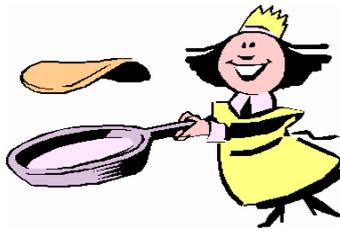
If that is our situation, we can take courage from Jeremiah, who assures his readers of a future and a hope that lie, not in the immediate present, but on the other side of exile. For Christians, faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not yet seen (Hebrews 11:1). And so, in the purposes of God, Easter bursts upon us in unexpected ways with the promise of a future that we cannot yet specify.

Whatever the vagaries of human history, the seasons of the natural world are a tangible reminder of the faithfulness of God. Each year, the flowers grow and the trees blossom. As I write this, my daffodils are just starting to show the first yellow of Spring. I am reminded that amidst the sad Lamentations of Jeremiah (which are traditionally read on Good Friday), the prophet can nonetheless declare: "The Lord's compassions never fail, they are new every morning: Great is your faithfulness!"

In closing, I want to thank all our clergy and lay people who will be involved in the preparation and conduct of worship for Holy Week and Easter. I wish insight and skill especially to those who will be endeavouring to communicate the Easter message in ways that will connect with regular churchgoers and visitors alike. I hope and pray that people will turn to meet the risen Lord in the welcome and worship we offer.

I wish you all a blessed and joyful Easter. **+Robert Gibraltar in Europe**

## **Pancake Party, on Shrove Tuesday (February 28th)**



20 people enjoyed a wonderful feast of pancakes, made and cooked by Diana – 2 at a time and tossed very successfully.

Thanks to all that helped in anyway.

The morning raised 120 euros towards Church funds.

***Val Holmes***

**Thank you** to everyone who has helped in any way with our preparations for Easter.

**Happy Easter to you all!**

***Canon Philip***

## **Lenten Lunch**

In aid of the Social Supermarket, “Feed a Family” Wednesday 5th April 2017 at 12:00 pm.

Please keep this date free and come along to St. Thomas Church in Kefalas.

A light lunch will be provided in return for a donation to “Feed a Family” – perhaps what you would normally pay for a meal out?

Niki Niolaki-Brionaki from Social Services will be our guest speaker.

***Canon Philip***

## **May Newsletter**

Please could you send any notices and/or articles for the  
May Newsletter to Jack by 24 April  
(email: [wynandjack@hotmail.com](mailto:wynandjack@hotmail.com)).

***Jack***

## **Service Schedule for Holy Week and Easter**

**12th April Wednesday** – Holy Communion at **7:30 pm**. Venue to be confirmed.

**13th April Maundy Thursday** – **7:30 pm** Commemoration of the Last Supper, followed by the stripping of the Church and a Vigil in the Chapel until 12 midnight.

**14th April Good Friday** – **The Liturgy of Good Friday 11:00 am** in the Tabernacle. This is a service of reading the Passion gospel, the Reproaches, prayers and consuming the remaining Eucharistic bread from the previous night's service.

**15th April Holy Saturday 10:00 am** – Cleaning and preparing the Church for Easter and gardening around the church, with coffee/tea available.

**16th April Easter Day 11:00 am** – **Easter Day Holy Communion.**

### **Easter Day Service**

On Easter Day we are planning to create our flower cross again as it has been a popular feature of our Easter worship for the past five years. So please remember to bring a flower or sprig of greenery with you to Church for our 11am Easter Day service.

Many thanks.

***Mary & David***

### **Organ and Body Donation**

We have been working hard to find the correct way to go about donating body organs or whole body after death. I wish to donate several organs and my husband wishes to donate his body for educational or research purposes. There is no guidance or procedure for donating a body but we hope the following procedures might help in this respect.

The Hellenic Transplant Organisation (EOM) is based in Athens. They tell us that there is no form to be completed or organ donor cards. They assure us that all we need to do is inform spouse, children and close friends of our wishes. However we do not feel that this guarantees that our wishes will be carried out! So we have completed the following steps in the hope that eventually our bodies may be of use to others.

1. Purchase a form from a kiosk, book shop or KEP office – form 8N.1599/1986 called, I think, a Responsible Declaration, price 20 cents.
2. Complete this, we have done it in English but also got a Greek translation which we attached to the form.
3. Take this to KEP for official stamping.
4. Give copies to our doctor, lawyer and one in our 'important information' file at home.
5. Notified our daughter of our wishes and where she can find the relevant information.

Information about the Hellenic Transplant Organisation can be found at [www.eom.gr](http://www.eom.gr)  
Phone: 2132027000.

***Sue Whitehouse***

**Doctors' Tea Party** held on Tuesday, 14th March at 3:30pm



The Tabernacle was packed on a very rainy afternoon with about 70 people from the Apokoronas area who came to hear a talk by the 2 doctors from the Kalyves Medical Centre. Doctor Ioannis Lampousakis and Doctor Manos Spetsotakis kindly gave up their free time to teach us what we should do when faced with a medical emergency. They also told us about what measures we should all take to keep ourselves healthy, and what diagnostic tests they can offer.

They asked if they might come back to St. Thomas' again later this year, and carry out tests on us all for type 2 Diabetes. This is a disease which is common in the middle aged and elderly, and can lead to serious health problems. **We are very grateful for this offer and you will be notified when we have details.**

I am in the process of compiling a summary of the doctors' talk, and when completed I will leave copies on the Information table at the back of the tabernacle.

Thank you very much to those who contributed to the success of this event by making sandwiches, baking delicious cakes and scones, serving teas and coffees and clearing and washing up. I hope that it was a good advertisement for St. Thomas' and perhaps a few new people might have been encouraged to visit us on a Sunday morning!

**€224,20** was raised for church funds.

***Diana Silk***

**Visit to Recycling Plant (DEDISA)** on Thursday, 23rd March 2017.

A party of 11 of us (7 from St. Thomas' and 4 others from Kalyves, Paleloni and Vamos) had a most enlightening morning at the recycling plant on the Akrotiri. Panagiotis Chazirakis took us on a very comprehensive tour of the site which services the whole area of western Crete as far as Rethymno. We discovered that it is one of the most advanced plants in Europe, and deals with all waste products, not just recyclable material.

All rubbish from green bins, blue bins, and bins for glass bottles and jars are first of all sorted, and then the different kinds of rubbish are dealt with in various ways.

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The non-biodegradable or rubbish is then put into a vast landfill site which is lined with plastic to prevent leakage into the soil which could be toxic. Pipes are inserted into the base of the landfill and some extract bio gas used for electricity, and others drain off water which is sometimes sprayed onto the rubbish to stop it igniting as it can become very hot. After several years when the site becomes full, it is made safe and covered over with plastic to seal it, and then it is covered with soil and transformed into a green area. (Before the opening of DEDISA all rubbish was thrown into the beautiful gorge below the site, and much of this would end up in the sea).

We were shown the huge machines and magnets which sort all the rubbish mechanically, and we saw how “green” waste is shredded and added to organic rubbish (food, fruit and vegetable waste, and even used paper napkins) to make into compost. We saw items of metal, aluminium and plastic rubbish packed into bales to be sent to factories to be used again in some way. We were told that furniture, mattresses, white goods etc are all processed in different ways, and products such as rubber tyres are sent to tyre factories and turned into door mats etc.

We were shown new types of bins which are currently being introduced: large red bins for clothing and fabrics, and brown bins for all food rubbish.

We asked if the employees were paid well for doing such unpleasant work but were not given a direct answer! However we were told that instead of offering better wages they now work a 6½ hour shift instead of 8 hours. (In fact this is now a legal requirement).

We were very pleased to learn that they now have many parties from schools visiting DEDISA, so hopefully future generations will do much more to care for the environment.

We expressed the wish that people would separate their rubbish carefully, put it into the correct bins, and that cartons should be collapsed. Our guide asked us to make sure that we closed the lids on the bins so that the contents do not get wet when it rains. *We were also asked to sort different types of recyclable rubbish into separate bags (i.e. plastics, aluminium, tin, paper / cardboard), and leave the tops of the bags **untied**.* This saves time for the workers.

We were all most impressed by what we saw and learned, and very grateful to Panagiotis for speaking to us in English! I hope that more of you will visit DEDISA.

***Diana Silk***

### **Vintage Rose Second Hand Shop, Chania**

We had rather a lean month in February only realising 14.64 euros. So *PLEASE* if you have any good quality unwanted items remember Vintage Rose (and our church funds!).

***Trish Hudson***

## Prayernet

The prayernet consists of about 30 people who respond to requests by praying for individuals or families. I receive requests and then pass them on to people in the prayernet, asking them to pray for people, usually for a week or two, but sometimes for longer if needed. I usually receive updates about how our prayers are working, it is lovely to hear of people who appreciate our prayers and experience healing. All this correspondence is conducted by email, and is not very onerous or time consuming.

We currently have members in Crete, UK and USA! It would be wonderful to have more people involved – the more prayers the better. So, if you feel that you could help by adding others to your prayers do please contact me at: [suewhitehouse1808@gmail.com](mailto:suewhitehouse1808@gmail.com) and I will add you to our list.

**Sue**

### Church Services Information for March

<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Collection</b>
March 5th	Holy Communion	22	€ 70,60
March 12th	Holy Communion	12	€ 73,00
March 19th	Holy Communion	18	€ 94,00
March 26th	Holy Communion	25	€ 146,50
		<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 384,10</b>

### Church Finance Information for March

Euro income	€ 792,00
Euro expenses	€1.501,15
Sterling income	£355.00
Sterling expenses	£625.00

## Easter

Just as Lent was 40 Days long – this mystical number for Christians and Jews, so the period after Easter Sunday has 40 days until the Ascension and then concludes after 50 days (Pentecost, the old Greek word for 50). As we celebrate the victory of life over death so the celebratory colour we use is white or gold. Also the church itself “comes to life” as flowers return into it after Lent. Lent is an inner journey of self-examination and Easter is an outward journey of joy and hope, just as the plants put down roots so that now they are bursting with life. It was this new life and a positive contribution to life and especially the poor which has inspired Christian activity from the earliest days.

**Canon Philip**

**Church Charities.** During the coming months there will be a consultation with all Electoral Roll members concerning the charities St Thomas will be supporting.

**Canon Philip**

### Church Service Times

Sunday,	11:00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday	9:00 am	Morning Prayer

### Services and Bible Readings for April

April 2nd 5th Sunday of Lent – Purple	Ezekiel 37. 1-14 Romans 8. 6-11 John 11. 1-45
April 9th Palm Sunday – Red	Matthew 21. 1-11 Philippians 2. 5-11 Matthew 27. 11-54
April 12th      Wednesday in Holy Week – Red	
April 13th Maunday Thursday – White	1 Corinthians 11. 23-26 John 13. 1-17,31b-35
April 14th Good Friday – no hangings	Isaiah 52. 13-end of 53 Hebrews 10. 16-25 John 18. 1-end of 19
Sunday, April 16th Easter Day – White	Acts 10. 34-43 John 20. 1-18
Sunday, April 23rd Easter 2 – White	1 Peter 1. 3-9 John 20. 19-end
Sunday, April 30th Easter 3 – White	1 Peter 1. 17-20 Luke 24.13-35

### THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST THOMAS, KEFALAS LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Priest:** Canon Philip Lambert  
28250 23270

email: cretechaplainphilip@yahoo.co.uk

**Assistant Priest (Retired):** Revd Tony Lane

**Churchwardens:**  
Diana Silk 28250 23374

Jan Lovell 69791 64716

**Deputy Churchwardens:**  
David Hurley 69466 91818  
Peter Worsley

**Church Council Members:**  
Chris Burke, Val Holmes, Trish Hudson, David Hurley,  
Gill Medway, Pat Worsley, Peter Worsley

**Readers & Intercessors Co-ordinator:**  
Diana Silk 28250 23374

**Duty rota co-ordinator:** Diana Silk 28250 23374

**Prayernet co-ordinator:** Sue Whitehouse  
suewhitehouse1808@gmail.com

**Safeguarding ID Checker and ordinand:** Julia Bradshaw 28250 22733

**Safeguarding Officer:** Jo Cheslyn-Hall 6941 552981

**Church Website:** [theanglicanchurchincrete.co.uk](http://theanglicanchurchincrete.co.uk)

**Church email:** [creteanglicans@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:creteanglicans@yahoo.co.uk)

The Newsletter can be downloaded from the Church website.