

## Blessing

The Lord be with you,  
and also with you.

Bow your heads and pray for God's Blessing

May God who founded the Church upon the apostles  
bless you through the prayers of Saint Thomas  
**Amen!**

May God inspire you  
to follow the example of the apostles  
and give witness to the truth before all men.  
**Amen!**

The teaching of the apostles has strengthened your faith.  
May their prayers lead you  
to your true and eternal home.  
**Amen!**

And may almighty God bless you,  
the +Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen!**

*The people are sent out with these words:*

The mass is ended. Go in the peace of Christ  
**Thanks be to God**

*The clergy and servers depart.*

*Please join us for light refreshments in the Narthex*

Parish of S. Thomas the Apostle  
Elson Road, Gosport



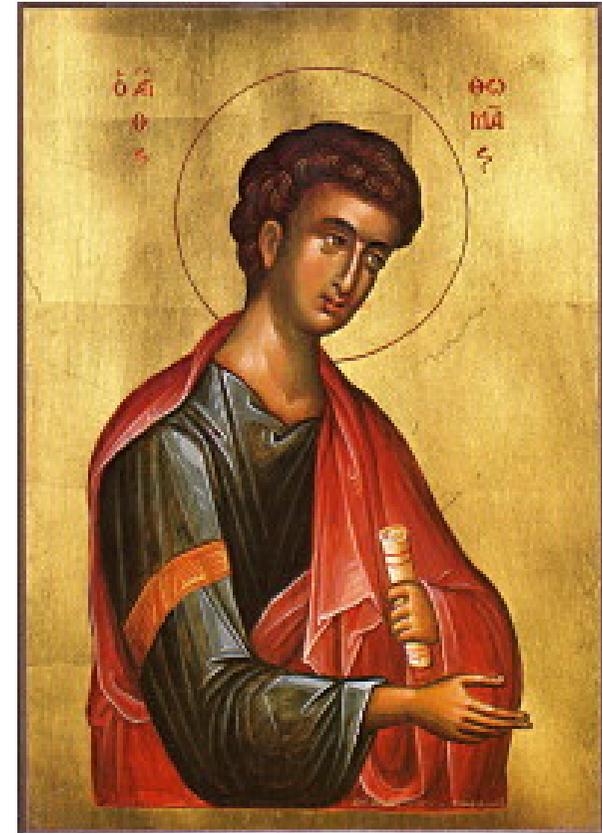
The Parish of S. Thomas the Apostle  
Elson and Hardway, Gosport

## Solemn Mass of S. Thomas

Our Patron Saint

"You are my God: I will give you praise, O my God,  
I will extol you, for you are my Saviour"

Psalm 117:28



## Introduction

We warmly welcome everyone on this important day in the life of this parish.

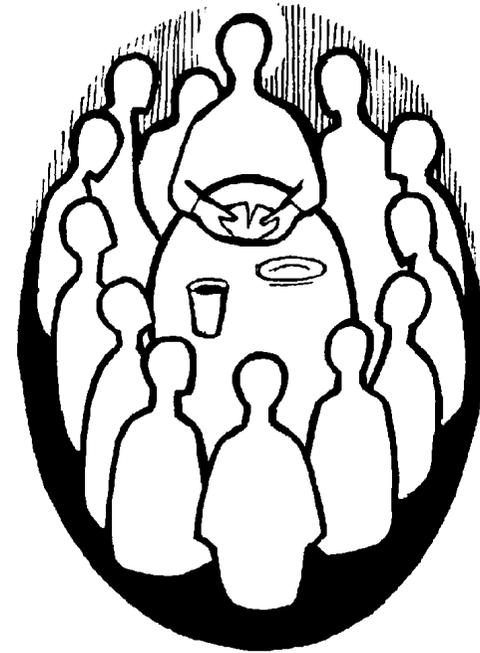
God welcomes all to this altar and to participate in his holy mysteries. If you don't normally receive communion, you are very welcome to come forward for a blessing at the time of Communion. Please carry this booklet to signal that you would like to receive a blessing.

If you are new to this church, please make yourselves known to one of the parish clergy and do join us for coffee and light refreshments after Mass.

**W**as ever another command so obeyed [*as "Do this in Remembrance of me?"*]  
For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable human circumstance, for every conceivable human need from infancy and before it to extreme old age and after it, from the pinnacles of earthly greatness to the refuge of fugitives in the caves and dens of the earth. Men have found no better thing than this to do for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church; for the proclamation of a dogma or for a good crop of wheat; for the wisdom of the Parliament of a mighty nation or for a sick old woman afraid to die; for a schoolboy sitting an examination or for Columbus setting out to discover America; for the famine of whole provinces or for the soul of a dead lover; in thankfulness because a father did not die of pneumonia; for a village headman much tempted to return to fetish because the yams had failed; because the Turk was at the gates of Vienna; for the repentance of someone; for the settlement of a strike; for a son for a barren woman; for Captain so-and-so, wounded and prisoner of war; while the lions roared in the nearby amphitheatre; on the beach at Dunkirk; while the hiss of scythes in the thick June grass came faintly through the windows of the church; tremulously, by an old monk on the fiftieth anniversary of his vows; furtively, by an exiled bishop who had hewn timber all day in a prison camp near Murmansk; gorgeously, for the canonisation of S. Joan of Arc. One could fill many pages with the reasons why people have done this, and not tell a hundredth part of them. And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unflinchingly, across all the parishes of Christendom, the priests have done this just to make the *plebs sancta Dei* - the holy common people of God.

Dom Gregory Dix, OSB *The Shape of the Liturgy*

- 2 11 This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Blesséd are those who are called to his supper.  
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.



## Communion Antiphon

Jesus spoke to Thomas: put your hand here and see the place of the nails.  
Doubt no longer but believe (John 20:27)

*All are welcome at this altar, and God welcomes you to participate in his holy sacraments. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward holding this service sheet*

## Prayer after Communion

*After a few moments of silent reflection*

Father,  
In this sacrament we have received the body and blood of Christ.  
With Saint Thomas we acknowledge him to be our Lord and God  
May we show by our lives that our faith is real.  
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

## Our Father

Joining our prayers with the Apostles, the Saints, the Prophets and the Patriarchs, we pray as our Saviour taught us.

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, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory.  
For ever and ever. Amen

## Fraction

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.  
Though we are many, we are one Body, because we all share in one Bread.

## 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.



## 10 3 Introit:

*The Concelebrants and Choir enter the sanctuary, venerate the altar which is then censed.*

## Welcome

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

Grace, Mercy and Peace from God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
And also with you.

## Entrance Antiphon

*We say together*

“You are my God: I will give you praise, O my God,  
I will extol you, for you are my Saviour” (Psalm 117:28)

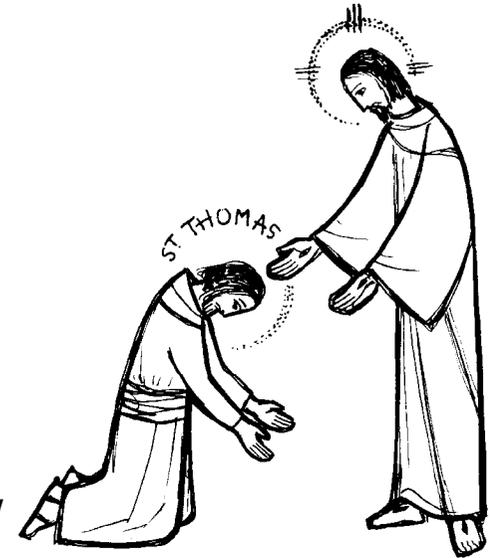
*The principal celebrant introduces the mass*

## Penitential Rite

I confess to Almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; and 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.

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy



*The Priest gives us God's absolution*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,  
+pardon and deliver you from all sin, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

# Gloria

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.

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.

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. Amen.

## Opening Prayer

Let us pray

Almighty Father, as we honour Saint Thomas the apostle, our Patron  
let us always experience the help of his prayers.  
May we have eternal life by believing in Jesus,  
whom Thomas acknowledged as Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

*Ephesians 2.19-22*

<sup>19</sup> You are no longer strangers and aliens,  
but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God,

<sup>20</sup> built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

<sup>21</sup> In him the whole structure is joined together  
and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;

<sup>22</sup> in whom you also are built together spiritually  
into a dwelling-place for God.  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

<sup>4</sup> <sup>9</sup> who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

*The bell is rung and the blessed sacrament is censed*

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

*The bell is rung and the precious blood is censed*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Our Blessed Lady, S. Thomas and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen**

# The Eucharistic Prayer

Lord, we offer you our service and we pray:  
Protect the gifts you have given us  
As we offer this sacrifice of praise  
On the Feast of your apostle, Thomas.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the 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.**

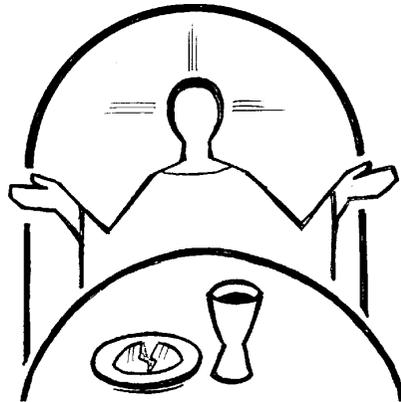
Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere  
to give You thanks.

You are the eternal shepherd Who never leaves His flock untended.  
Through the apostles you watch over us and protect us always.  
You made them shepherds of the flock to share in the work of Your Son,  
and from their place in heaven they guide us still.

And so with all the choirs of angels in heaven  
we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;



## 8 5 Gradual Hymn

*Please remain standing for the Gospel*

## Gospel

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John 20.24-29*

<sup>24</sup> Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve,  
was not with them when Jesus came.

<sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him,  
'We have seen the Lord.'  
But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my  
finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side,  
I will not believe.'

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them.  
Although the doors were shut,  
Jesus came and stood among them and said,  
'Peace be with you.'

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas,  
'Put your finger here and see my hands.  
Reach out your hand and put it in my side.  
Do not doubt but believe.'

<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him,  
'My Lord and my God!'

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed  
because you have seen me?  
Blessed are those who have not seen  
and yet have come to believe.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**



# Sermon

## Profession of Faith

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

*We bow at the words of the incarnates*

*For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

## 6 7 Intercessions

*We respond to each prayer:*

Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*For the departed:*

+Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord  
**And let light perpetual shine upon them**

May they rest in peace  
**And rise in glory**

*We also pray*

Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

## Peace

May the God of peace sanctify you:  
may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness  
that you may be blameless before him  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange a sign of peace.*

## Offertory

*A Collection is made for the mission of this parish. The altar, the gifts, the concelebrants, servers and then the people are censed. When the thurifer bows to you, return the bow.*

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that this our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

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