



THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF *St Thomas More* and *St Joseph the Worker*

working in partnership with the Catholic Chaplaincy of Warwick University



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both parishes are part of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg Charity No 234216

13th April 2025

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Psalter Week: 1
Weekday Cycle: Year 1
Sunday Year: C

Saturday 12 th	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	
Sunday 13 th		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Patrick Maguire (3 rd Anniv)
		9.00am	STM	Mass	Andrew Robinson (Anniv)
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Eileen Connolly (4 th Anniv)
		6.00pm	STM	Holy Week Reflections	
Monday 14 th	Monday of Holy Week	5.00pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Tuesday 15 th	Tuesday of Holy Week	6.45am	STM	Mass	Jim Power (RIP)
		10.00am	SJW	Mass followed by Stations of the Cross	Martin Lynch (RIP)
		5.00pm	SJW	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Wednesday 16 th	Spy Wednesday	8.00am	STM	Mass	Kenny family (Ints)
		5.00pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		7.00pm	STM	Penitential Service	
Thursday 17 th	Thursday of Holy Week	10.30am	STM	Requiem Mass for Jim Etheridge (RIP)	
THE SACRED TRIDUUM					
Thursday 17 th	Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	STM	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Watching at the Altar of Repose	
		11.45pm	STM	Compline	
Friday 18 th	Good Friday	10.30am	STM	Children's Stations of the Cross	
		3.00pm	STM	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	
		7.00pm	SJW	Maria Desolata Devotions	
Saturday 19 th	Holy Saturday	8.30pm	STM	Mass	Thomas and Rose Clarke (Anniv)
Sunday 20 th	EASTER SUNDAY	9.00am	STM	Mass	Helena Shanley (12 th Anniv)
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Alan Brotherhood (RIP)

Welcome to Mass today. We extend a special welcome to anybody joining us for the first time.

Please introduce yourself, and if you are able, stay for refreshments after the Mass.

As we enter our final week in our journey towards Easter, we are reminded that the glory of the resurrection of Jesus is preceded by his excruciating suffering and death by crucifixion on a cross. However, it is through his sacrificial suffering and death lifted up on a cross that he brings glory to the Father by drawing all people to himself.

As we meditate on the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross this Holy Week, we are reminded that God shows his love for us in that that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us so that we might be reconciled to God and saved by his life (Romans 5: 8-10). Let us give thanks to God for his amazing grace and love revealed in the suffering, death, and glorious resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth which we anticipate and celebrate on Easter Sunday!

This is the Paschal Mystery which we are called to enter fully into as we journey with Jesus through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection this Holy Week and Easter. Let us also remember that we are called to share in the sufferings of Christ in this world so that we might also be able to share in the glory of his resurrection in the world to come.

May the Lord grant us all the courage and strength to watch and pray with him in his hour of trial that we might not fall into temptation but find strength to stay awake and to stand before the Son of Man.

STM and SJW Website: stmcov.org/wp/

Facebook: Catholic Parishes of St Thomas More and St Joseph the Worker

Livestream webcam: <https://www.youtube.com/@stmandsjtw-cov>

Coventry Catholic Deanery: www.coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk

OFFERTORIES AND COLLECTIONS

STM: £866.00 | **SJW:** £303.00

Thank you for your continued generosity

IF YOU ARE A VISITOR to our Masses and not a Catholic, or a Catholic unable to receive, you are very welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. As you approach, please have your arm crossed over your chest, so that the minister knows to give a blessing. If you require a celiac host, please let us know before Mass.

ORDER OF MASS CARDS: If you require a card with the Order of Mass text, please ask one of the welcomers for a copy. The readings for Sunday Mass can be found on the back of this newsletter. Please do take them home with you for private prayer and reflection.

WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF James McEwan, Jim Etheridge Kevin Shakespeare, Jim Power, Val Blaxall and Adela Carter together with all who have died recently. We pray for them and their families at this time. May they rest in peace.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND UNWELL: Angie Browne, Judith Cunningham, Peter Cunningham, Frank Cunningham, Elaine Fossett, Margaret Eason, Madge Ward, Heather Walton, Jay Veeman, Pat Farr, Phil Sands, Margaret Kelly, Joanna MacKinnon, Hilary Hanson, Debbie Colby, Monika Tokarska-Hosoi, Joan Theaker, Veronica Hammond, Alice Rowland, John Walker, Pauline Cullinane, Beatrice Upham, Peter Carvell, Sheila Jenkins, Lillian Chapman, Irena Bienek, Josie McElroy, Georgina Brannigan-Smith, Ann Kenny, Rose Warburton, Keelin Treharne, David O'Grady, Joan O'Leary, Thomas Weatherstone, Clare Oliver, Romina Mendieta, Jennifer Bell, Tony Smith and Donal Heffernan.

TODAY begins the most important and sacred week of the year – Holy Week. Our Masses for Palm Sunday begin with the commemoration of the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem. As we process, we carry blessed palm branches into church, symbolizing the crowd's welcoming gesture. The Gospel readings recount the story of Jesus' death and Passion, evoking reflection on His sacrificial love and the profound significance of Holy Week.

HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS on Sunday evening at 6.00pm in STM. A chance to reflect on the week ahead through word and music. During this service Luke will reflect on the upcoming Holy Week. There will be musical reflections sung by Hannah, his sister-in-law. The service will conclude with solemn Benediction. Light 'Lenten' refreshments will be available in the MRR afterwards.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE on Wednesday 16th April at 7.00pm in STM. During this service, there will be several priests available for Confession, so please do come along. In readying ourselves for the final coming of the Lord, the Church encourages us to make our Confession during Lent. Do give some thought to going to Confession—especially if it has been some time since you last came. After all, Confession is a celebration of God's mercy. If it has been a while, don't be afraid, the priests will guide you through it all.

MASS ON WEDNESDAY will be at 8.00am in STM. This is due to the Chrism Mass taking place at St Chad's Cathedral that morning. This Mass symbolises the unity of the Presbyterate as the Bishops, Priests and Deacons gather around the Archbishop. During this Mass the Bishops and Priests renew their Priestly Promises taken at Ordination. The Holy Oil for the Sick and Catechumens are blessed; and the Oil of Chrism is consecrated for use in the Sacraments throughout the following year. The Chrism Mass will be available to watch on Cathedral Livestream starting at 11.00am.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMEENT on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week at 5.00pm – 7.00pm. A chance to come before the Lord in quiet prayer and reflection as we reflect on the drama and the events that unfold in this next week.

LUKE THEOBALD will be completing his placement with us on Easter Day and will move onto the next stage of his Extended Placement. His time with us has certainly flown by, but it has certainly been a rich and rewarding time. The 'Holy Week Reflections' Service on Palm Sunday will be a chance to say farewell to him.

EASTER CARDS with all the Holy Week, Triduum and Easter times are available to distribute to family, friends and neighbours.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM begins on **Maundy Thursday** with The Mass of the Lord's Supper, where the Church relives the institution of the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, as well as the institution of the priesthood, which took place the evening before Jesus was crucified. At the end we accompany the Lord into the Garden of Gethsemane to watch and wait.

On **Good Friday** we gather for the Solemn Liturgy, but not a Mass—it is the only day of the year on which no Masses are offered. The liturgy takes place at the hour that Jesus breathed his last on the cross, with Veneration of the Cross at the heart of the liturgy.

On **Holy Saturday**, we await in silence. It is still a day of fasting and sorrow before the Easter Vigil begins that evening. We recall, with Mary and the disciples, that Jesus died and was separated from them for the first time as He lay in the tomb. In the Apostles Creed we pray 'He descended into hell' (translated *hades*, that is, the temporary abode of the dead—not the eternal lake of fire) which describes what Jesus did in the time between his burial and Resurrection. He descended to the realm of the dead to save the righteous souls—the Old Testament patriarchs, for example—who died before his crucifixion.

Finally, **Easter Sunday** is what we've all been waiting for! The forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent was in preparation for this day, when our hearts and souls can drink in deeply the culmination of the Paschal mystery: the Resurrection.

EASTER FLOWERS: If you would like to give a donation towards the flowers at Easter in memory of a loved one, there are baskets at the back of STM and SJW. Please print the names of loved ones, in capital letters, on the separate sheet.

EASTER CLEANING PARTY on Tuesday 15th April from 2.00pm – 4.00pm in STM. A chance to make everything sparkle ready for Easter. If you are able to lend a hand, please do come along. Dusters, mops etc will be provided, but please bring your own if you have them.

LIFTS TO THE LITURGIES: If you are a parishioner at SJW and will be driving to STM for the liturgies, it would be good to know if you have spare seats that could be offered to those struggling with transport. If you can help, please sign the sheet at the back of SJW.

HOLY THURSDAY MANDATUM: Nine volunteers are needed to have their feet washed as part of the Maundy Thursday Mass. If you are willing, please sign the sheets at the back of both SJW and STM.

WATCHING AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE will continue through the evening until Midnight. It is important that there is always a minimum of two people present with the Lord. At the back of both STM and SJW there is a sign up for people to choose a half an hour slot to sit with the Lord. You are welcome to stay for longer, but it would be good to know that the whole time is covered by people watching with the Lord.

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS will take place at 10.30am on Good Friday in STM. In previous years, it has been lovely to see so many families attending, and to be lead in prayer and meditation by our younger parishioners. Please do come along.

GOOD FRIDAY RETIRING COLLECTION: Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic Churches to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them from this worldwide collection. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility to care for the Holy Places as well for the "Living Stones," the Christians living there. It is vital that we support Christians living in the Holy Land, to maintain a Christian presence in the very land made holy by the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. Baskets will be available at the end of the Solemn Liturgy on Good Friday.

MARIA DESOLATA DEVOTIONS: On the evening of Good Friday, we pause and reflect on the profound events of the day. In these devotions and prayers, we retrace the Way of the Cross from Our Lady's and St John's perspective. These devotions will take place at SJW.

NEXT SATURDAY is Holy Saturday when we celebrate the Vigil and First Mass of Easter. Please note that one Mass for the two parishes will be celebrated in STM at 8.30pm. After the Mass there will be refreshments in the MRR available, to celebrate the resurrection.

EASTER MONDAY MASS in St Osburg's on Monday 20th April at 10.00am. Celebrant and Preacher – Bishop Richard Walker.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS will take place on Sunday 27th April at 2.00pm in St Mary and St Benedict's Church. For more information, please see the poster at the back of church.

KINGDOM OF GOD PRAYER GROUP are not meeting on 21st April (Easter Monday) and will resume on 28th April at 7.00pm. All welcome.

HEADTEACHER VACANCY at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School in Coventry. Please see the School website, the Holy Cross MAC website or MyNewTerm for further details. The closing date for any applications is by midday on 7th May 2025.

'ASSIST US TO LIVE' postcards are available at the back of STM and SJW. Simply write the name of your local MP and your own details on the card, affix a standard letter stamp and the pop in the post box.

COUPLES RETREAT on 6th and 7th May (7.00pm – 9.00pm) in the MRR. A chance to enrich your marriage as you understand God's purpose for your married life. A retreat led by Br Colin Calmiano. £15 per couple. Limited seats so registration is important. Please call 07438 774231 or 07405 889088. Please see poster for more information.

RED BOXES: Would all those at SJW who support the work of the Missio Appeal (Red Boxes), please bring their boxes to the Sacristy by Sunday 27th April.

SEVEN DAY CANDLES can be sponsored in both STM and SJW for a donation of £5 per candle. These are lit on a Sunday and burn for the following week. At STM candles are available for Our Lady, St Joseph, Sacred Heart and St Thomas More and at SJW they are available for Our Lady, Sacred Heart, St Anthony, and St Joseph. Please note only one intention per candle can be booked. To sponsor a candle for a particular intention, please bring your donation to the sacristy.

HOUSE VISITS to the sick and housebound are an important part of the life of the church. Those who would like a visit, are asked to contact Fr Simon or Deacons Leo and David. A visit can be arranged by themselves or by the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

ONLINE GIVING: If you were unable to give at Sunday Mass, you can give online to either parish by scanning this QR code and following the instructions on the website.

GIFT AID GIVING: If you are a UK Taxpayer and would like to increase you weekly giving, at no extra cost to yourself, please consider Gift Aiding your donation. Through this scheme we are able to claim 25p on every £1 donated. More information available from Tony Curristan at STM and June Palmer at SJW.

SAFEGUARDING: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Amanda Kelly and Claire Rutter at STM and Henry Whitney at SJW. They can be contacted using the emails below or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or email safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Parish Administrator and Room Bookings

Amanda Kelly admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk

Safeguarding Representatives

Amanda Kelly and Claire Rutter (STM) sg.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk
Henry Whitney (SJW) sg.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk

Giving and Gift Aid

Tony Curristan (STM) ga.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk
June Palmer (SJW) ga.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk

READINGS FOR PALM SUNDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backwards. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22(21)

R: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 22:14-23:56

When the hour came, Jesus reclined at table, and the Apostles with him. And he said to them, I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes. And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. And likewise, the cup after they had eaten, saying, This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed! And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. Peter said to him, Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death. Jesus said, I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.

And he said to them, When I sent you out with no money bag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything? They said, Nothing. He said to them But now let the one who has a money bag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfilment. And they said, Look, Lord, here are two swords. And he said to them, It is enough.

And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, Pray that you may not enter into temptation. And he

withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done. And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.

While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him, Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss? And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, Lord, shall we strike with the sword? And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, No more of this! And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, This man also was with him. But he denied it, saying, Woman, I do not know him. And a little later someone else saw him and said, You also are one of them. But Peter said, Man, I am not. And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean. But Peter said, Man, I do not know what you are talking about. And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, Prophecy! Who is it that struck you? And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, If you are the Christ, tell us. But he said to them, If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God. So they all said, Are you the Son of God, then? And he said to them, You say that I am. Then they said, What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.

Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king. And Pilate asked him, Are you the King of the Jews? And he answered him, You have said so. Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, I find no guilt in this man. But they were urgent, saying, He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other. Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the

people, and said to them, You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him.

But they all cried out together, Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas. A man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting, Crucify, crucify him! A third time he said to them, Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him. But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us', and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry? Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One! The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself! There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there railed at Jesus, saying, Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us! But the other rebuked him, saying, Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong. And he said, Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. And he said to him, Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, Father, into your hands I commit my spirit! And having said this he breathed his last.

All kneel for a period of silence.

Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, Certainly this man was innocent! And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.