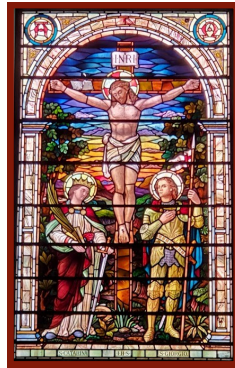




**Church
Garden
In
Bloom!**



OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

stgeorgeschurchtaormina@gmail.com

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Dear All,

The celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, Easter Day, marks the beginning of a 50-day season culminating in the celebration of the Feast of Pentecost, marked as the birthday of the Church. The season takes on new and enhanced joy when we have fully prepared for it. That is done in the observance of a holy Lent and full participation in the walk of Holy Week. God's glorious action in raising his Son from the dead, is truly appreciated as we reflect on the sacrifice that was paid to procure it.

Our Easter at St. George's was a beautiful one. The day was bright, following on so many dreary ones. The Church was full and the music, thanks to Alistair, Elisa and a robust singing congregation, was uplifting. Again, it

Message from Fr. Shawn

was lovely to see so many from so many places and of all ages. On these days we see the breadth of what the Church is and can be.

We are always looking to the future, and we do it in the brightness of Easter joy. As we gather for our Annual Meeting, it is my prayer that we will allow the promises of Easter to inspire us even more fully to carry out our Gospel work. May we, in the words of the Epistle for Easter, seek and set our minds on things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, and not on earthly things (Colossians 3:1-4).

*Easter Blessings,
Shawn †*



**ALLELUIA.
CHRIST IS
RISEN.
HE IS RISEN
INDEED.
ALLELUIA.**



We will follow the Church Representation Rules (CRR) at our Annual Meeting. The Chaplaincy Chair and Council oversee church operations to ensure compliance with CRR and Diocesan rules. Under the governing provisions, only individuals on the Electoral Roll are eligible to attend the meeting and vote

Everyone on the Electoral Roll has received the 2025 financial documents by email, as required by the CRR. The material also includes two resolutions and the draft Church Constitution, ensuring

NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT
St. George's Anglo-American Church:
ANNUAL MEETING
Date: 19 April 2026
Location: St. George's Anglo-American Church
Via Luigi Pirandello, 24, 98039 Taormina ME, Italy
Time: 1:00 PM (13:00)
Fr. Shawn Denney, Chaplaincy Council Chair

compliance with both the CRR and Diocese requirements.

Advance nominations by two qualified nominators help streamline elections and meet CRR requirements; forms are available from the Church Secretary. For questions about the 2026 Annual Meeting or other matters, contact Fr. Shawn for a private consultation.

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for our members to review church life, ministry updates, and 2025 accounts. Please read the 22-page PDF

Prayers for our Annual Meeting

As we gather for the annual meeting, we humbly seek wisdom and guidance in planning the course for our church's future. May our hearts be open to Your Spirit, that we may be open to inspired ideas, discern Your will and act with unity and purpose. Help us to listen to each other with respect, value diverse perspectives, and to work together harmoniously as one body in Christ. May all our

decisions and actions positively impact us in glorifying Your name and advancing Your kingdom. We ask this in Jesus' name, **AMEN**

Dear God, we are thankful for Your blessings upon our church throughout the past year. We acknowledge the moments of joy and challenges, appreciating Your guidance and giving you praise for leading us. **AMEN**



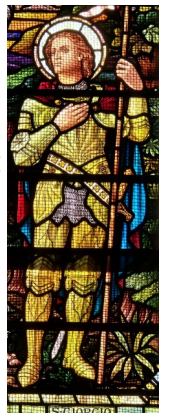
Feast Day - St. George Our Patron Saint

Join us on St. George's Day, **Thursday, 23 April at 11 am**, for the Holy Eucharist. The Study Group will meet immediately afterward. **All are welcome.**



Have you seen this icon in our church (shown here to the left)? St. George is depicted as a gallant knight on a white horse slaying a dragon to save a princess, a tale famously detailed in the 13th-century Golden Legend. This image symbolizes triumph, faith, and virtue.

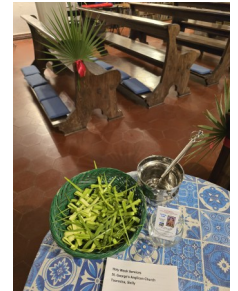
St. George, our Patron, appears at the lower right of the church's beautiful stained-glass window, below our Lord on the Cross. Photo to the right.



PALM SUNDAY



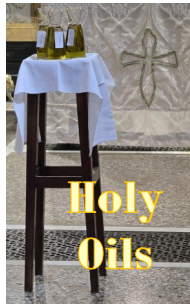
2026 Palm Sunday attendance was **52%** higher attendance than in 2025.
Thanks be to God!



CHRISM MASS ROME



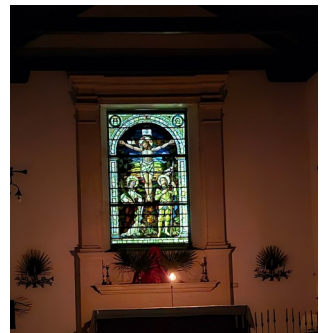
Chrism Eucharist in Rome. This is a special service where the Clergy of the Diocese are invited to reaffirm before a Bishop the promises and commitments they have made in their ministry. At the same time, the oils that are used throughout the year for ministry to the sick, for Christian initiation, and for ordination are set aside. Fr. Shawn and Mary Ann participated in the service and brought the Holy Oils back to Taormina.



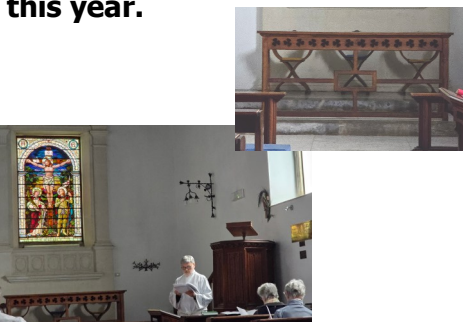
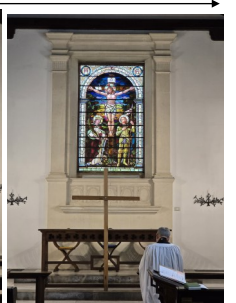
2026 Holy Week at St. George's Church



Tenebrae service, is a reflection on Christ's suffering and death, using darkness and silence to evoke the emotional weight of the events of Holy Week. There were readings and the gradual extinguishing of candles, symbolizing the darkness of Christ's death. **Attendance double from 2025 for the Tenebrae service in 2026.**

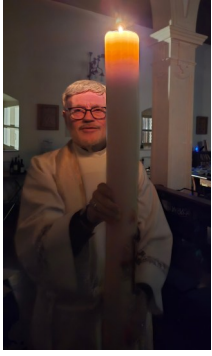


Maundy Thursday service, the commemoration of the Last Supper after which Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. There is also provision for the consecration of the bread and wine for administering Holy Communion from the reserved sacrament on Good Friday. Following this, the altar is stripped and all decorative furnishings are removed from the sanctuary. **We also had the 50% increase in attendance for the service this year.**



Good Friday, focuses on reflecting on Jesus' suffering and crucifixion of Jesus at the hands of the Roman authorities. The liturgy is a moving one in which we read St. John's Passion, proclaim the Cross, read the Solemn Collects and, at the end, receive Communion from the Sacrament reserved from Maundy Thursday. **Another service during 2026 Holy week with an increase from last year.**

Easter Vigil, (Holy Saturday), included:



- ✝ The Service of Light (kindling of new fire, lighting the Paschal candle);
- ✝ The Service of Lessons (readings from the Hebrew Scriptures interspersed with psalms, canticles, and prayers);
- ✝ Christian Initiation (Holy Baptism) or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

Comments from participants included a "very touching service starting in the dark".



Our joyous celebration on Easter included the marking of Fr. Shawn's 75th birthday.

Happy Birthday

We celebrated with prosecco after the service. In addition, a parishioner made the most delicious cheese cake and another friend brought a decorated pistachio cake.

We are very thankful for Fr. Shawn's willingness to shepherd us at St. George's Church in Taormina. A blessing he is to us.



106th Archbishop of Canterbury



For individuals who were unable to attend as we gathered at St. George's or have not yet viewed the installation of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, please click the YouTube link (underlined words "Archbishop's Service") to watch the ceremony. The two-hour service features excellent music. [Archbishop's Service](#)

Follow Us On:



HOLY EUCHARIST

All Sundays in April - 11 am services

Movie Night information will be forthcoming.

Safeguarding Officer:
Norma Wood Mazza
Email: santoeum@tim.it
Phone: +39 0942 24826

Pastoral Care and Administrative Issues

If you would like for us to pray for something in particular, spoken or unspoken, do send a message or call. For pastoral care and church administrative issues, Fr. Shawn is always available for spiritual counsel. Message or email Fr. Shawn: Church +39 094223859 & WhatsApp (+1) 217 720 0798 and email frshawndenney@gmail.com



ELECTRONIC DONATIONS €:

IBAN: IT0920103082250000000669191

BIC/SWIFT: PASCITM1MEL

Name: St George's Anglo American Church

For additional information contact Sylvia:
sylviamoschella43@gmail.com