

15th MARCH 2020
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



Dear Parishioners

This week we hear the story of the 'Woman at the well', which reveals a great deal about Jesus' character. During his encounter with the woman at the well, Jesus broke three Jewish customs. Firstly, he spoke to her despite the fact that she was a woman. Second, she was a Samaritan woman, and the Jews traditionally despised Samaritans. And, third, he asked her to get him a drink of water, although using her cup or jar would have made him ceremonially unclean. Jesus' behaviour shocked the woman at the well. But as if that weren't enough, he told the woman he could give her "living water" so that she would never thirst again. Jesus used the words living water to refer to eternal life, the gift that would satisfy her soul's desire only available through him.

Although they had never met before, Jesus revealed that he knew she'd had five husbands and was now living with a man who was not her husband. As Jesus and the woman discussed their views on worship, the woman voiced her belief that the Messiah was coming. Jesus answered, "I who speak to you am He." It's important to understand who the Samaritans were--a mixed race people, who had intermarried with the Assyrians centuries before. They were hated by the Jews because of this cultural mixing and because they had their own version of the Bible and their own temple on Mount Gerizim.

The Samaritan woman Jesus met also faced prejudice from her own community. She came to draw water at the hottest part of the day, instead of the usual morning or evening times, because she was shunned and rejected by the other women of the area for her immorality. Jesus knew her history but still accepted her and ministered to her. By reaching out to the Samaritans, Jesus showed that his mission was to all people, not just the Jews. By his acceptance of the woman, even with her moral history, he taught her about the gift of God's loving mercy. Our human tendency is to judge others because of stereotypes, customs, or prejudices. Jesus treats people as individuals, accepting them with love and compassion. Do we dismiss certain people as lost causes, or do we see them as valuable in their own right, worthy of knowing about the Gospel and receiving our love? (from learnreligions.com)

Fr Martin

Lenten Confessions: The Church encourages us very much to come to the Sacrament of Confession in preparation for the major feasts, especially Easter. In light of this on **Saturday 21st March from 10.00am – 12.30pm** we will have a Penance Service with a visiting priest in attendance and opportunities for Confession. During Holy Week there will also be the Deanery Penance Service at Sacred Heart Church, Ruislip at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th April where there will be all the local priests from the surrounding parishes available for the Sacrament of Confession. As throughout the rest of the year, there are also Confessions available in our own parish every Saturday from 10 - 10.30am.

Hillingdon Deanery Lenten Retreat The theme this year is 'Forgiveness' and we are delighted to have as our speakers Barry and Margaret Mizen, whose son Jimmy was tragically murdered in 2008. As well as their talks, there will be Mass, adoration and an opportunity for confession. Donations are welcome to cover costs and we ask you to bring a packed lunch. The Retreat will take place 10am-3.30pm on Saturday 28th March at Field Heath House School, Field Heath Road, Uxbridge UB8 3NW. To book a place please contact Angela on 01895 233193; angelaatkins@rcdow.org.uk. All are welcome!

Church Services TV was established in 2005 and streams services over the internet helping parishes and other religious organisations expand their reach across the globe well beyond what was traditionally possible. By making services available on PC's, Laptops, Mobile Devices and TV sets anywhere in the world, CSTV helps those confined to home or care facilities, and those living away from home, keep in touch with their parish and continue to be part of the local community. Please see their website for further information <https://www.churchservices.tv/whats-on-now/>

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**St Thomas More Catholic Church
15th MARCH 2020 3rd SUNDAY IN LENT**

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: - www.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote
PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER DIRECT INTO YOUR INBOX!**



*****100 CLUB MEMBERSHIP***
Good luck to all our members!!**

**MASS INTENTIONS
3rd Sunday of Lent**

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2020

6.30PM (SATURDAY VIGIL) TERESA QUIGLEY RIP L/D
9:30 AM PATRICK FOGARTY RIP L/D
11:30AM SHEILA MILES RIP

MONDAY 16TH MARCH

9:30AM INTS OF PATRICK BOLGER

TUESDAY 17TH MARCH

9:30AM LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH HOLY COMMUNION

WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH

9:30AM HOLY SOULS

THURSDAY 19TH MARCH

9:30AM LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH HOLY COMMUNION

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH

9:30AM INTS OF JUDY & ERIC DOKE

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH

9.30AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
10.00AM- 12.30PM PENANCE SERVICE

**Followed by
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions**

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2020

6.30PM (SATURDAY VIGIL) BILL MALONEY RIP LD
9:30AM FREYA EDWARDS RIP A
11.30AM MAUREEN O'CONNELL & NOIRIN O'CONNELL-REILLY RIP A

CORONAVIRUS GUIDNANCE UPDATE: There will be a number of changes implemented to this weekend's services. Please see attached supplement with details of the changes that will take place from immediate effect. This is a rapidly evolving situation and latest updates can be found on the Gov.uk website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
&<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/advice-regarding-coronavirus/>

CAFOD SOUP LUNCH CANCELLED: In light of the Coronavirus update from the Diocese of Westminster, we will be postponing the CAFOD Soup Lunch and we will re-arrange later in the year.

Pilgrimage to Italy in 2020 Fr Martin has sadly had to cancel the Pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady Queen of Love in Schio, Italy, due to the current Coronavirus situation. Pax Travel will be contacting those people that had placed a booking.

Planned Giving Drive 2020 Volunteers will be available in the Narthex after each Mass if you have any questions. 'Week 3' leaflet will be available for you to complete. If you have missed leaflets from week 1 & 2 they will be available. Thank you always for support.

The **Society of African Missions** is an international community of Catholic missionaries who serve the people of Africa. On the **21st /22nd March** we welcome, Rev Henry S Somah will be visiting to talk about his work and mission appeal.

The **ST VINCENT DE PAUL** group will meet on **at 10.45 every other Sunday**. For more information about the work of this group please contact Josien Sarratt on 020 8866 4395.

The **LIFE ASCENDING** group meet on **Wednesday 18th March 2020** at 2.30pm in the Library. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years. Please come along on Wednesday.

Food bank – let's not forget the vulnerable in light of the uncertainty over the Coronavirus; it is understandable that we want to ensure our kitchen cupboards are well stocked. However, we must not forget that this can leave foodbanks struggling. Hundreds of people rely on generous donations from our parishioners. This includes the need for hygiene items, toilet paper, sanitary products etc., as well as sealed packages of dry food, tins, and long-life milk etc. Foodbanks also welcome donations of money - please give what you can. **Food bank**-next collection will be end of March.

Parish Priest: Fr Martin Plunkett

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E-mail: eastcote@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator – Liz Duignan

OFFICE OPEN: 9:30-1PM (Mon- Thurs Only)

CATECHISM CLASSES are after the 9.30am Mass on Sundays. If your child is **NOT AT A CATHOLIC SCHOOL** please ensure they regularly attend these classes prior to enrolment for First Communion programme. **Class dates for 2020:**
15th March
29th March