the Pastor's corner



13TH DECEMBER 2020
+3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear Parishioners

"A man came, sent by God…"

One of the key images, which emerges in the Advent season, is that of 'light'. With the shorter winter days, longer and darker nights accompany us at this time of year. This physical darkness reminds us of the theme of spiritual darkness. God is light and we are creatures made to respond and to long for his light in our lives. Spiritually 'darkness' refers to how our lives are a greater struggle when we cannot find our way and cannot see clearly, such as happens in the dark. In this week's Gospel we are told '*a man came sent by God*'. This man is John the Baptist and his mission is to be '*a witness to speak for the light*'. God sends John to announce the coming light into the darkness of this world which will be revealed through Jesus, his Son. For these last months, our world has encountered the 'darkness' of disease and all that it has ushered into our daily lives. The problem with darkness is that, like a disease, it can spread. Unless a spiritual light shines on us, anxiety and fear can easily spread in times of darkness. In many ways our world doesn't know how to be open to the light which comes through Jesus. Many people therefore can't see how such a light could be of direct relevance to not only helping to heal a physical disease but of curing the spiritual disease of fear that can follow in its wake. This Advent season has been given to us to renew us and to call us once again to open up to the light of Jesus in our lives. Like St John the Baptist, we are also '*sent by God*' into this world to be a witness to speak for the light. We are encouraged to turn away from the darkness of sin in our lives and turn instead to the light of God's love. Let us give thanks to God then for the great gift of his Son at this time and pray for one another that all our lives be illumined with the light of heaven revealed in Jesus Christ.

God bless you,

Fr Martin

Churches Together in Eastcote *have produced a joint Carol Service which will go live on* ***Monday 14th December*** *at* ***8pm*** *and will be available for a few weeks for you to view at your leisure. We hope many of you will join our worship and sing along on 14th, so that we can be united in our praise and prayers. The service can be accessed through the link on the poster. The song "Glory to God and Peace to All" which is sung during the service is written and performed by Fr Martin Plunkett. CTE would like to wish you every blessing of this joyous season. Please see poster within this newsletter, copies are also available in the church entrance.*

St Thomas More Catholic Church

13TH DECEMBER 2020, +3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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*****

Congratulations to all our winners, **1st** Prize Stephen Glancey, **2nd** Prize Angela Kulanthailvelu, **3rd** Prize Liz Tuohy

MASS INTENTIONS

+3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Confessions by request any day after mass

SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER
6:00pm SATURDAY (VIGIL) PATRICK TOBIN RIP LD
09:30am EDWARD MURCHAN & JOHN DONOGHUE RIP A
11:30am OLIVER MAGUIRE RIP LD

MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER
09:00-11:00am CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER
09:30am ANITA BACH RIP A

TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER
09:00-11:00am CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER
09:30am INTS OF ANNEGIRT HILL

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER
09:00-11:00am CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER
09:30am MAUREEN O'DOHERTYY RIP LD

THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER
10:00-11:00am ROSARY & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER
09-11:00am CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER
09:30am INTS OF ANNEGIRT HILL
11:00am FUNERAL OF MARGARET NEWTON RIP

SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER
09-11:00am CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER
9:30am ANTHONY SILVA-DINTO RIP LD

Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

+4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER
6:00pm SATURDAY (VIGIL) DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CATENIANS
09:30am CATHERINE & JAMES TOBIN RIP A
11:30amSYLVESTER THARUMALINGAM RIP A

Parish Priest: Fr Martin Plunkett
32 Field End Road.
Eastcote, Pinner, HA5 2QT
Tel: 020 8866 6581 Fax: 020 8429 2346
E-mail: eastcote@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Administrator – Liz Duignan
OFFICE OPEN: 9:30-1PM (Mon- Thurs Only)

Please remember our sick parishioners in your prayers:
Pedro Johns, Richard Stoneman, Theresa More, Dudley Plunkett, Paul Wazny, William O'Shea, Sean Moohan, Daisy Cunningham, Bianca Malheiros-Fauz, Kundan Singhoraya, Sarah Dunning, Eamonn Kearney, Ruby Bastiampillai, Peggy McMahon and Delores Walsh: for Deborah Brophy, Kitty Goldie, Kathleen Dunleavy, Phyllis O'Brien, and those in our local nursing homes; and for our housebound parishioners, especially Katie Loftus. *Please let us know if you wish to add or remove any names on the sick list.*

For those who have died recently: Margaret Newton, Patrick (Paddy) Tobin, Tom McKearney, Joseph O'shea, Victor Blake

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time: Charles Gattey, Josephine O'Brien, Edward Murchan, John Donohue, Anita Bach

CHRISTMAS MASSES: The Parish Mass times are now available on the Parish Website and are available for you to book. We encourage parishioners to book as soon as possible, we can then determine numbers wishing to attend and possibly provide extra masses or extra seating in the Parish hall if required. Please visit the Parish website **Events** to book Mass or alternatively contact the Parish Office via email Eastcote@rcdow.org.uk or telephone 0208 8666581. **https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote/events/.**

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve: Family Mass 6pm
Night Mass 10pm
Christmas Day: 09:30am & 11:30am
St Stephens Day: 10:00am

CHILDRENS LITURGY 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Bertie can hardly contain himself. He is very excited for Christmas but today learns more about Advent and what Christmas really means. https://youtu.be/ghLOMdU9XQE

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sick & Retired priest's collection last weekend. The Parish has raised £338.50, your generosity is very much appreciated.

FOOD BANK: Hillingdon Food bank will be collecting donations before Christmas. Please place your donations in the box provided in the Narthex by **22nd December 2020**. Thank you.

MISSIO BOXES: Please remember to collect your empty box from the table in the Church entrance.

Churches Together in Eastcote

Virtual Carol Service



Watch and share with others at the same time, the link below will become live

Monday 14th December

8pm

https://youtu.be/qmNN4KHokH4

Glory to God and Peace to All