St Thomas More Catholic Church

SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY 2021, +2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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**** 100 club Membership ****
GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!!

MASS INTENTIONS

+2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Confessions by request any day after mass .

SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY 2021
06:00PM MARGARET HAGAN RIP LD
09:30AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11:30AM AL MOORE RIP LD

MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2021
09:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM IN THANKSGIVING OF 48 YEARS PRIESTLY ORDINATION-FR ANTON MATTHIAS

TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY 2021
09:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE HARRINGTON FAMILY

WEDNESDAY 20TH JANUARY 2021,
09:00AM-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INTS OF ANNEGIRT HILL

THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 2021
10:00AM-11:00AM ROSARY & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY 22ND JANUARY 2021
09:00AM-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM JAMES TOMLINSON RIP A

SATURDAY 23RD JANUARY 2021
09:00AM-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INTS OF THE SICK & VULNERABLE
FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

+3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY 2021
06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) TERESA GANNON RIP LD
09:30AM INT OF FR MARTIN PLUNKETT & FAMILY
11:30AM EILEEN STENSON RIP LD

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 HOURS: (9:30AM-1:30PM) MON-THURS

Parish Sick List:
Please remember our sick parishioners in your prayers: Pedro Johns, 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 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: Ciaran Gallagher, Margaret Newton, *Deborah Brophy , Josephine Peter, Eileen Stenson, Meme (Margaret) O'Shea, and Montserrat Vineta .*
For those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Emile (Norman) Potts, John Carey, John Jeffries & James Tomlinson.

Confirmation programme 2021 registration: If you are in year 9 at school (or older and have not yet been Confirmed) and would like to be confirmed this year, please pick up an application for the Confirmation programme. These are now available in the entrance of the Church. Please collect after mass or during a time when church is open. Please complete the registration form along with a Medical form for your child and return to the Parish Office by the **end of February**. More details to follow on the format of the programme however we endeavour to commence in early March 2021. Alternatively you can download and print off application from the Parish website: **https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote/sacramental-prep/receiving-the-sacraments/st-thomas-more-catholic-church-confirmation-application/**

HILLINGDON FOOD BANK REMINDER:
You may have surplus unused/unopened food left over from Christmas you may wish to think about donating to the Food bank. The next collection will be **27th January 2021.** If you wish to get help through the Food bank system, please contact on the free number **of 0808 2082138** where you can speak with a citizens advice agent or alternatively you can make an enquiry via their website **https://hillingdon.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/**.

Pastor's Corner

SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY 2021
+2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Parishioners

'Behold the Lamb of God'

As we return to something like daily life after the Christmas season we are conscious this year of many challenges regarding our way of life. We are passing through an extensive time of trial and tribulation. For some of us this may mean simply variations and restrictions in our activities but for others it may be presenting very serious and challenging difficulties. We are all aware that there is no easy answer for this at present and that we must endure and persevere trying to do the best we can with each day and take the steps that are possible to continue with our lives. What help can we gain from our faith at this time and from the presence of the Church in our lives? In this week's Gospel St John the Baptist points out Jesus to the two apostles saying "*Behold the Lamb of God*." This is the same message that comes to us in our own time. The Church has been passed down to us by our ancestors in the faith to point out to us the one in whom we can place all our hope and appeal to in all our needs. This is Jesus, the Lamb of God. God is almighty and nothing is impossible for him, yet at the same time he is gentle, like a lamb and he comes to us to bring us peace. Jesus offers his life for us as the Lamb of sacrifice and opens up the way for a new existence, no longer under the power of evil and sin. God uses the Cross of Jesus to transform suffering into hope, death into life. It is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who reveals to us that God loves us with an everlasting love and that we never need despair of his help and that he has a mysterious but beautiful plan for our lives and our world. Let us continue in faith to seek the presence of God every day and ask him how we can practically help each other to find hope at this time.

God bless you,

Fr Martin

Parish Priest

Children's Liturgy
Baa Baa Lamb is the special helper this week as we learn about Jesus the Lamb of God.

https://youtu.be/v_3XD7Wqpqg

Can we help? If any Parishioners are in need of any material support, practical or financial help then please do not hesitate to contact the Parish office , 0208 866 6581 or email eastcote@rcdow.org.uk.

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ

DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

The current position and role of our churches in this phase of the pandemic

We are aware that questions are being asked as to why churches remain open during this National Lockdown. We are also aware that many local authorities are calling for places of worship to close. We wish to respond to these concerns.

Churches are allowed to open for prayer and communal worship at this time according to the provision of the most recent national legislation and Government guidance. This decision is based on two factors: the recognition that our churches are safe, and that the service they offer is essential.

The safety of our churches has been affirmed by Public Health England in its current advice to the Government. This is publicly recognised to be the result of the great efforts made by many people in the implementation of procedures mandated by PHE and thereby establishing the necessary conditions within churches for their safe use.

Our churches are making a significant contribution to the personal resilience and inner strength of people which is much needed at this time. Many are hubs from which essential support is offered especially to those most in need, extending well beyond the faith communities which use them. This includes the regular provision of food; the care of the homeless; and being a place of peace and reflection (which is safe) for many whose living conditions are very limited. This will become more appreciated as the programme of vaccination increases. The vital link between prayer and action is important to maintain this service.

At this phase of the pandemic, which is causing alarm and fear, our churches will exercise their role with increased diligence to ensure continuing safety and service.

Our clergy will ensure that all are aware that there is no duty or responsibility to come to church and communicate to all there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sunday. They will review, in each local area,

the provision offered by the church in order to ensure that the highest standards of safety are maintained. This will include a review of the role of stewards, the provision of additional social distancing within the church, a review of cleansing routines, and consideration of the personal circumstances of the priest(s) and people. On this basis there will be a local evaluation and decision about the possible reduction in the times of opening and the frequency of communal worship.

In conclusion we recognise the higher levels of fear and anxiety which the new strain of the virus has prompted and we have a very proper awareness of the care which must be exercised by everyone, under the guidance of PHE health professionals.

We recognise, too, that isolation is having a profound detrimental effect on people and that the role of churches in easing that isolation in ways which are safe and supportive has been recognised as a positive and beneficial contribution to the common good.

We pray for the dedicated work of the NHS and continue to provide spiritual support to staff and patients through the network of chaplains working both in the hospitals and the community.

Bishop John Sherrington
Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster 8th January 2021