St Thomas More Catholic Church

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2021, +6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER DIRECT INTO YOUR INBOX! https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote/

Congratulations to the 100 club winners for January draw 2021;
1st prize: Wyn Maxted, **2nd prize** :Paul Melhuish , **3rd prize:** Angela Walsh

MASS INTENTIONS
+6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2021
06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) INTS OF JOHN GANNON
09:30AM INTS OF IAN & PAULINE FITZGERALD
11:30AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2021
09:00AM- 11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INTS OF HILDA MINOLI

TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2021
09:00AM- 11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM JEYRANI JOHN PILLAI RIP LD

ASH WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2021
09:00AM-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INTS OF ALASTAIR ALLCOCK
07:30PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2021
10:00AM-11:00AM ROSARY & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2021
09:00AM-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM LOURDES DESOUZA RIP LD

SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2021
09:00AM- 11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM LYNDA RODRICKS RIP LD
FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

+1ST SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2021
06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) INTS OF JOHN AND LINDA GRIMES
09:30AM INTS OF PAT FAILLE
11:30AM FOR THE PARISH OF THE PEOPLE

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: Katie Murchan, Vincent Fernandes, Duncan Webster, Pedro Johns, Paul Wazny, William O'Shea, Sean Moohan, Daisy Cunningham, Bianca Malheiros-Fauz, Kundan Singhoraya, Sarah Dunning, Eamonn Kearney, Ruby Bastiampillai, Peggy McMahon, Delores Walsh, Kitty Goldie, Kathleen Dunleavy 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: Kathleen Sullivan, Olive Law, Lourdes Desouza, Jeyrani John Pillai, Debbie Williams and Lynda Rodricks.

For those whose anniversaries occur around this time:
Jerry Vaz, Shirley Ryan, Owen Hoy & Patricia Perry.

Children's Liturgy
This week Old Bear learns about how nice it is to have a friend.
https://youtu.be/Z0FXcQdDmm8

Sacrament of 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 to register 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. Mass times are available on the Parish website and newsletter. 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.

SPUC -WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society of the Protection of Unborn Children will be holding its annual appeal next weekend at masses on **20th & 21st February 2021**. Please be as generous as you can to help protect unborn children and their mothers.

Reminder of Finance Committee meeting: Monday **15th February 2021:** If you wish to add any items to the Agenda, please contact the Parish Office eastcote@rcdow.org.uk or telephone 0208 866 6581

Pastor's Corner

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2021
+6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Parishioners,

'If you want to, you can cure me!'

The year is advancing and with it also our liturgical cycle in the Church. This week we celebrate the last Sunday of Ordinary Time before we begin the holy season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. The seasons and feasts of our liturgy are given to us to accompany us through the events of our lives during each year. They help us to find meaning and especially to see the hand of God in our lives and to believe in the promises of the Gospel. This week we hear about the request made to Jesus by the unfortunate man with leprosy who says to Jesus "If you want to, you can cure me". This appeal to the Saviour is an act of faith and Jesus responds by saying "Of course I want to. Be cured!" We are encouraged to continuously ask for God's help through Jesus in all our needs. God has power over diseases and sickness. We cannot demand from God and we cannot always predict the outcome of our prayer. We also can't ignore the human agency of medicine and good medical advice. However, God's mysterious will is at the centre of our lives and so we are invited to always place our ultimate hope and faith in him. This week's celebration of Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our preparation for the feast of Easter by assuming a penitential time of reform in our lives. The ashes remind us that without God we would be simply dust and ashes. Without God's redemption our death would only return us to this state. The greater healing that God gives us is from the 'leprosy' of sin and evil in our lives and to open the way for us to eternal life. As we continue to pass through this time of trial and testing may we see the opportunity to grow closer to God and seek his help and healing for ourselves and for all the world.

God bless you,
Fr Martin

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2021 –

Cardinal Nichols thanks you for your generous support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, especially throughout the unprecedented events of 2020. Your donations help fund initiatives in parishes, schools and charities in three mission areas which are more critical than ever. Marriage and Family Life: enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church. Youth and Evangelisation: helping young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith. Caritas Westminster: putting our faith into action by serving those in need. Education Service: supporting our schools. This year, the Cardinal is asking us to think about families who are struggling to put food on the table. Poverty is deepening across our Diocese and the need for food banks and supermarket vouchers has accelerated. Through your generosity we're continuing to provide food for those people most in need. Please take a donation envelope. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity

Pastoral Letter for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
13-14 February 2021

Shortly it will be Ash Wednesday, a day rich in associations and symbolism. It marks the beginning a Lent, a time for turning again to the practice of our faith, in prayer, self-denial (fasting) and practical generosity (almsgiving). Ash Wednesday is the doorway into this season of renewal.

As we cross this threshold we customarily receive ashes on our foreheads, in the sign of the cross. This is a public mark of our turning again to God, seeking his mercy, forgiveness and help. We use these words: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'. Yes, we cannot pretend otherwise. Or: 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel'. Yes, we seek the one thing that is absolutely necessary: the grace of God.

This year receiving ashes in church is going to be difficult. Yes, our churches are safe if the protective measures are fulfilled. But we must all be very careful about travelling too far. Some churches will of course be open for the celebration of Mass as usual. But I have asked them not to make extra provision for Ash Wednesday. We must be so careful and cooperative in the measures we must take, to protect ourselves and to protect others.

I now want to emphasise an important point. Receiving ashes is an outward sign of an inner step, a movement of the heart towards our beloved Lord. This year I invite you to concentrate much more on this inner, spiritual movement than on its outward manifestation in the imposition of ashes.

My suggestion is this: celebrate Ash Wednesday at home, with your family, in the household or 'support bubble' of which you are a part. Gather for a while. Read the prayer which I offer. Bless each other by making the sign of the cross on each other's forehead. Spent some time praying in a way that you know. But please, make this a prayer of your heart for God's mercy upon this world struggling to cope with the terrible pandemic and the devastation it is bringing.

Here is a prayer:

'Lord God, with all our hearts we beseech you: have mercy on your people; spare your people; strengthen all people in the struggle against the havoc of this pandemic. Lord our God, without you we are so weak and our courage so limited. Give us your strength; give us your love; give us wisdom and skill to continue this fight. Spare your people, O Lord we pray. Comfort those who mourn and gather into your kingdom all who have died. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, who died and rose to life, who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.'

Then, bless each other, using one of the two traditional formulas I have quoted earlier in this letter. Then continue with your own prayers. A pattern is suggested at the end of this letter.
As a child, my mother or father used to come to my bedside each night to settle me for sleep. I was kissed goodnight and then, either my Mum or Dad would make the sign of the cross on my forehead. They gave me their blessing. This brought me such security. I remember it to this day. Then I slept in peace.

So please do not hesitate, within your household or 'bubble', to bless each other on this Ash Wednesday. We do well to remember together our need of the good Lord. Together, and through each other, he wants to comfort and reassure us of his loving presence. If, on this day, we set aside every pretence that we can do everything of ourselves, then we create in our hearts and lives the space for God's grace and strength to find a home in us.

This is the great invitation of Ash Wednesday and of the weeks of Lent which follow. Please do take up this invitation. Open your hearts to the gift of God's presence to support, comfort and strengthen you. This year, it may be best to do this, not by going to church, but by sharing the prayer, the blessing and this moment of dedication within the love of your family and friends.

Please do include me in your prayers, too.

May God bless you all,

+ Vincent Nichols

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

Ash Wednesday at Home

1. Gather together and start with the Sign of the Cross.
2. Read the Gospel for today. It is from St Matthew's Gospel, 6.1-6 and 16-18.
3. Say together the prayer given in this Pastoral Letter.
4. Make the Sign of the Cross on each other's forehead, using the words you choose.
5. Pray together: the Our Father; the Hail Mary; each one with his or her own prayer or intention.
6. Conclude with the 'Glory be to the Father...'
7. Give each other a sign of peace.

So Lent begins!