St Thomas More Catholic Church

SUNDAY 7TH MARCH 2021, +3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

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****100 CLUB MEMBERS****

Congratulations to the winners of February draw 2021:

***1st prize** Anna Horton, **2nd Prize** Ivonne Higgison, **3rd prize** Patricia Wilby.*

MASS INTENTIONS
+3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 7TH MARCH 2021
06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) INTS OF JOHN WALLACE
9:30AM CIARAN GALLAGHER RIP LD
11:30AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021
09:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INTS OF MOIRA O'ROURKE

TUESDAY 9TH MARCH 2021-
09:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INTS OF NORA ROCHE

WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH 2021
09:00AM-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM MARY HARRINGTON RIP A

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

FRIDAY 12TH MARCH 2021
09:00AM-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM NORA ROCHE

SATURDAY 13TH MARCH 2021
09:00AM-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM MONICA D'SOUZA
FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

+4TH SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY 14TH MARCH 2021
06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) EDDIE MOLLOY RIP A
09:30AM ANN MCDONAGH RIP A
11:30AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

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, 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:
Tommie Loftus, Alec Roke and John Pitt.

Children's Liturgy, 3rd Sunday of Lent
Bertie is back with Ginger Bear this week and tells us how he wishes he had given up having a bath rather than sweets during lent. Not sure his friends would agree!
https://youtu.be/YwcWWWReq2Q

Church Cleaning Volunteers Appeal: Our dedicated cleaning team have worked hard throughout the year to maintain a Covid 19 secure and hygienic environment, this has enabled us to keep the Church open. For us to remain compliant we need to continue at this level however some volunteers have unfortunately had to isolate recently and others had returned to their university studies. The more volunteers there are would mean the less frequent individuals would have to clean . If you would like more information contact Pat Faille pat.faille@btinternet.com or 020 8429 3943 or Parish Office eastcote@rcdow.org.uk

Pigeon-hole message box: The internal mail system message box located inside the front door of the Narthex , is for Parishioners to pass on messages/cards/letters to fellow parishioners. There are many items that have not be collected for some time. Please can we ask everyone to check the Pigeon hole slots for any messages that may be awaiting your collection as soon as possible. We will soon be spring cleaning and anything left will be removed. Thank you for your help.

Pastor's Corner

SUNDAY 7TH MARCH 2021
+3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear Parishioners,

'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up'

We are all familiar with the concept of a 'spring clean'. Something about the time of year when nature is waking up again calls us to come out of our winter cocoons and emerge into the light with new hopes and desires to put things in order in our surroundings. This can be seen as a sign of an even more foundational and important aspect of our lives. In this time of Lent we are called to have a 'spring clean' of our souls. We are encouraged to look at our lives through the threefold call to prayer, fasting and almsgiving and to assess where we could be doing better. In doing this we are hopefully inspired to clear out those unnecessary elements of our lives, which are not helping us and take on new ideas and habits, which help to express our Christian life more profoundly. This week we hear about Jesus going into the Temple in Jerusalem and giving it a 'spring clean', driving out all those involved in the corrupt and commercial practices, which had been allowed to be carried out there. Jesus wants the Temple to be restored to its true purpose, to be a place of worship and reverence for his Father. We too are made temples of the Holy Spirit by our baptism and need to ensure that our spiritual selves are being used for their correct purpose – to bring praise, honour and glory to God. This is why Jesus came, so that we could be made free from sin and restored to our true nature as children of God. Lent is the best time to seek mercy and forgiveness from God for this purpose and so we are encouraged to make an annual confession of our lives to a priest as part of our 'Easter duties'. It is only by the grace of God that we can do this and so when Jesus says that he will raise up the Temple in three days after it has been destroyed, he predicts his own death and resurrection, by which we are reborn into the Christian life. May God find us willing to have a spiritual 'spring clean' of our lives as we prepare to celebrate the great feast of our redemption at Easter.

Novena to St Joseph – This year has been designated as a special holy year in honour of St Joseph, the foster father of Jesus and spouse of Mary. The diocese has produced a special novena prayer to prepare for the Solemnity of St Joseph on 19th March this month. Details of this novena can be found in this week's newsletter. This would be an excellent way to grow spiritually during this Lenten season, in unity with the intentions of the Church this year, accompanied by the prayers and example of this great saint.

God bless you,
Fr Martin

A Journey with St Joseph

Novena of St Joseph
11th– 19th March

2021 A Year of St Joseph

'Pope Francis has declared a year dedicated to St Joseph, from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021. He says: "Each of us can discover in Joseph - the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence - an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble" (Patris Corde - With a Father's Love - Pope Francis). Let's do that. Let's ask St Joseph to keep a watchful eye on this family of the Church, to intercede on our behalf'. – Cardinal Vincent Nichols

St Joseph Novena

Day 1 – **Joseph, Father of Jesus**

Day 2 – **Joseph, a Man of Patience**

Day 3 – **Joseph, Tender and Loving**

Day 4 – **Joseph, Patron of Workers**

Day 5 – **Joseph, a Man of Perseverance**

Day 6 – **Joseph, Obedient to God's Will**

Day 7 – **Joseph, Guide of Pilgrims and Migrants**

Day 8 – **Joseph, Courageous in Life**

Day 9 – **Joseph, a Man in the Shadows**

Praying the Novena

For each day ……
bring yourself into the presence of Our Lord and St Joseph in church or may be in a quiet 'prayer corner' at home, perhaps with a candle and a statue or image of St Joseph. Start with the sign of the Cross……..

Opening Prayer
Short Reading from Scripture
A reflection from Pope Francis' *Patris Corde*
A closing prayer
A suggested Activity

'Patris Corde – With a Father's Heart' *– Apostolic Letter from Pope Francis on the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church*

This booklet and additional materials are also available online at:
https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/st-joseph/

11th March – Day 1

Joseph, Father of Jesus

In the name of the Father……

Opening Prayer

O glorious St Joseph, called by God to be protector of Jesus his only begotten Son, be our guide as we come to know our heavenly Father.

Scripture

Read from the Gospel of Luke 2:15-20*: 'So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Everyone was astonished at what the shepherds had to say.'*

How wonderful those first hours as new parents; already full of challenge, and a life ahead of joy and tears, but always full of wonder.

Patris Corde

WITH A FATHER'S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as "the son of Joseph".

Closing Prayer

Many families – and fathers - have struggled this past year: with distance from loved ones, or loss of income, uncertainty, ill health or many other stresses. Bring the fathers and grandfathers you know to Jesus and St Joseph; commend them to their care, and ask their blessing on them.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil.
Amen.

Activity

Do you know a father or grandfather who would appreciate a phone call, and some empathy and affirmation?

12th March – Day 2

Joseph, a Man of Patience

In the name of the Father…….

Opening Prayer

Dear St Joseph, as you met all the trials in your life with patience, teach us to be patient also, ever trusting in God's mercy.

Scripture

Read from the Gospel of Luke 2:22-33*: 'When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord'.*

The day-to-day practicalities can take up our lives, but accompanied by faith, who knows what wonders may be opened to us.

Patris Corde

Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust. Our world today needs fathers.

Closing Prayer

We've spent so much time waiting patiently: in queues; for good news; for benefits; for our turn to be vaccinated. Bring to Jesus and St Joseph everyone still waiting for good news, and all those who, in their lives, always end up at the back of the queue.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil.
Amen.

Activity

Light a candle and pray for all those who wait, and are losing hope; ask for the grace to be able to help and accompany anyone you know.

13th March – Day 3

Joseph, Tender and Loving

In the name of the Father…….

Opening Prayer

O St Joseph, share with us the tenderness and love with which you cared for Jesus, so that we are comforted in our daily life.

Scripture

Read from the Gospel of Matthew 1:19-24 *'Joseph did not want to expose Mary to public disgrace'.*

Even when we take action that seems proper at the time, we must go forward with love for the other person; it is love that will steer us to what is right and just.

Patris Corde

In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him" (Ps 103:13).

Closing Prayer

We've seen and benefited from so many examples of tenderness, care and compassion. Bring all carers and medical staff to Jesus and St Joseph, asking for their special blessing on them.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil.
Amen.

Activity

Think of the people around you - to whom can you show extra tenderness and love today? Or who do you most hope and pray will experience this from someone else in their life?

14th March – Day 4

Joseph, Patron of Workers

In the name of the Father…….

Opening Prayer

Craftsman and builder, St Joseph, help us to follow you in your daily tasks, as through our work we build God's Kingdom here on earth.

Scripture

Read from the Gospel of Matthew 13:54-57 *'Isn't this the carpenter's son?'*

We are often recognised by the work we do, but whether in work or elsewhere, let us always be recognised by our work of bringing God's Mercy into lives of all those we meet.

Patris Corde

Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour

Closing Prayer

We have discovered a new appreciation for the workers we used to take for granted. Bring these unsung heroes to Jesus and St Joseph, asking that their work and their efforts may be blessed.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Activity

Today, how can we consciously show our appreciation to those who render us a service?

15th March – Day 5

Joseph, a Man of Perseverance

In the name of the Father…….

Opening Prayer

St Joseph, through perseverance you brought Mary and Jesus to safety; help us to persevere in our faith, as we journey to our heavenly home.

Scripture

Read from the Gospel of Luke 2:1-5 – *'Joseph went up from Nazareth to Bethlehem the town of David.'*

In a world of pandemic when our life's journey has become long and difficult, let us turn to Joseph and learn from a man, who has known what is needed to persevere - Faith.

Patris Corde

If at times God seems not to help us, surely this does not mean that we have been abandoned, but instead are being trusted to plan, to be creative, and to find solutions ourselves.

Closing Prayer

We are all benefiting from the perseverance and dedication of NHS workers, scientists and others at the forefront of the battle against Covid19. Bring them all to Jesus and St Joseph, asking that they be given the strength they need to continue their life-saving work.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil.
Amen.

Activity

Light a candle and pray for anyone you know in need of the gifts of inner strength and perseverance.

16th March – Day 6

Joseph, Obedient to God's Will

In the name of the Father…….

Opening Prayer

St Joseph whose life was one of obedience to God's will, help us to live a life of obedience too, always ready to follow the commands of God.

Scripture

Read from the Gospel of Matthew 1:22-24 – *'Joseph did what the angel of the Lord had commanded and took Mary home as his wife.'*

What more can be said: Joseph, close to God, did as he was commanded. Let us always be close to God, to always do his will.

Patris Corde

"When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him" (Mt 1:24). Obedience made it possible for him to surmount his difficulties and spare Mary.

Closing Prayer

This has been a year for obedience: for staying at home and obeying new laws, for the Common Good, even at great cost. We give thanks for all the times we have been able to do this, and ask for help for the times when we struggle.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Activity

Do you know someone struggling to keep these new rules? How can you support them?

17th March – Day 7

Joseph, Guide of Pilgrims & Migrants

In the name of the Father…….

Opening Prayer

To you St Joseph do we turn when we journey in prayer, or flee in times of need and persecution, seeking your protection at every step.

Scripture

Read from the Gospel of Matthew 2:13-18 - *'The angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up and take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt"'*

We cannot be sure what the night will bring, but whatever the journey: in prayer, in need, in persecution – or even through death itself, we can be sure that Joseph is with us every step.

Patris Corde

The Holy Family had to face concrete problems like every other family, like so many of our migrant brothers and sisters who, today too, risk their lives to escape misfortune and hunger. In this regard, I consider Saint Joseph the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.

Closing Prayer

All who travel, whether they be pilgrims, migrants or refugees, must rely on the welcome and hospitality of others. Bring to Jesus and St Joseph all who seek refuge, and a place of welcome.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Activity

What can you do to welcome the strangers in your midst?

18th March – Day 8

Joseph, Courageous in Life

In the name of the Father…….

Opening Prayer

We call to you St Joseph, help us in our hour need, give us courage to go forward in life with confidence, always trusting in God's mercy

Scripture

Read from the Gospel of Matthew 1:18-25 - *"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."*

We can't see beyond the horizon, we don't always know what is on the road ahead; but like St Joseph let us listen to God's word, to trust in the message we hear through his Church, and go forward with courage.

Patris Corde

Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude.

Closing Prayer

This year we have all experienced contradictions, frustrations and disappointments. Bring your difficulties and your setbacks to Jesus and St Joseph, and ask them to fill you with the courage and fortitude you need for the time ahead.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Activity

Light a candle, and pray for anyone who especially needs courage and the gift of fortitude at this time. Give thanks for all those whose quiet courage sustains us.

19th March - Day 9

Joseph, a Man in the Shadows

In the name of the Father……

Opening Prayer

Dearest St Joseph, as you were father to Jesus, God's only begotten son, may we always seek your guidance as adopted children of God.

Scripture

Read from the Gospel of Luke 2:41-52 – *'"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"'* There may be times when it seems that we are unimportant, that we are in the shadows. But we can be sure that, like Joseph, a man in the shadows, God has a task for us alone, to bring the light of Christ into the world.

Patris Corde

In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt 5:45). And a shadow that follows his Son.

Closing Prayer

St Joseph always stands aside and points us to God and to God's Son. Let him stand beside you, in the shadows, as you speak to Jesus of whatever is in your heart.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil.
Amen.

Activity

Look back over this Novena. Has any person, any need, remained in the shadows? How can you bring them into God's light – through prayer, a phone call, or some other way?

'A tradition I treasure is that of always having a statue of St Joseph in the kitchen, so often the heart of the home. I recommend this to you. Bring St Joseph into your kitchen. Then he will be before your eyes each day, as protector and guide in these difficult times.' – Cardinal Vincent Nichols

'Joseph teaches us that faith in God includes believing he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.'

Pope Francis

This booklet has been compiled by Sister Silvana Dallanegra rscj, Caritas Westminster and Deacon Adrian Cullen, Agency for Evangelisation

Booklet and additional materials are also available online at:
https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/st-joseph

https://rcdow.org.uk