21st MARCH 2021
+5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

the Pastor's corner

Dear Parishioners,

'We want to see Jesus'

One of the most challenging aspects of believing in God is precisely that it is a question of faith. The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that 'faith is the hope in things not seen'. We live in a culture that has increasingly focussed on what can be scientifically verified and proved through the evidence of the senses. In such surroundings it can be hard to appreciate the value of a belief in a spiritual reality. However, the needs that we have as human beings point beyond simply what we can see and hear. We are beings who are fulfilled when our lives are connected to love and also to faith and hope. At the heart of it, these are spiritual capacities and they cannot be seen. In this weekend's Gospel we hear of people coming to the Apostles and saying 'we want to see Jesus'. The amazing grace of Christianity is that God has made himself visible to us. This means we can know him better now. Of course we cannot see Jesus in the way it would have been possible 2000 years ago but our religion is based on the experience of those who did see him. For us the challenge is to 'see' Jesus in the events of our lives, in the practice of our religion and in our own spiritual development. In these challenging times we are living through our faith gives us strength to believe that God is with us and that he is guiding us. As we prepare to celebrate Easter, we recall that it is through the evidence of God's love, principally revealed through the death and resurrection of Jesus, that we are assured of God's abiding help both in this life and in the next. Let us also pray to be able to 'see Jesus' in our lives and let others see him in us through our example and our love.

God bless you,
Fr Martin

Fr Martin

BOOKING FOR MASS: Masses are now available to book over the **Easter Triduum.** Please can we request you book early as this will allow us to gage numbers attending and plan accordingly the seating arrangements. We need to maintain safety for everyone that visits the church and continue to adhere to the current regulations of social distancing. Please visit the Parish Website **https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote/events/** to book the Mass you wish to attend. Alternatively, if you would prefer to call the Parish office to make your booking 0208 866 6581 or email eastcote@rcdow.org.uk.

CHILDREN'S GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE... message to our families about the Children's Good Friday Service: while we are unable this year to hold this lovely service in its usual form, we would very much like to involve the children and young people of the Parish in producing a beautiful virtual service. We are looking for contributions of art - pictures of the Stations of the Cross, or any other Good Friday inspired art, and prayers. We would love to receive these contributions from young people of all ages. If your family would like to take part in this, please contact Jane at jinglese@btinternet.com for more details. Let's make something together which will be really special. Thank you.

St Thomas More Catholic Church

21st MARCH 2021, +5TH SUNDAY OF 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
+5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 21ST MARCH
06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) EDDIE MOLLY RIP A
09:30AM PATRICIA BROOKS RIP LD
11:30AM MARIAN & JOZEF RIP A

MONDAY 22ND MARCH
09:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM JAMES SINHA RIP LD

TUESDAY 23RD MARCH
09:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INTS DOHERTY FAMILY
11:00AM FUNERAL OF KATHLEEN DUNLEAVY RIP
(LIMITED NUMBERS ONLY)

WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH
09:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM HOLY SOULS

THURSDAY 25TH MARCH, THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
09:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM JOHN HARRINGTON RIP A

FRIDAY 26TH MARCH
09:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM ANNE O'CONNELL FITZGERALD RIP LD

SATURDAY 27TH MARCH
09:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM MARTIN BOYLE RIP LD
Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

+6TH SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY 28TH MARCH
06:00pm SATURDAY (VIGIL) KATHY O'BRIEN, TED & PHYLLIS MCGOLDRICK RIP A
9:30AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11:30AM EILEEN BRADY 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: 9:30am-1:00pm
(Mon- Thurs Only)

Please remember our sick parishioners in your prayers: Brian Berry, Ron Johnson, 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 Dunleavy, Kathleen Sullivan, Olive Law, Lourdes Desouza, Jeyrani John Pillai, Debbie Williams and Lynda Rodricks.

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time: Ann Garner and Stanley Fry

CHILDREN'S LITURGY, 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT: Have you ever watched a tiny seed grow into a plant? Bertie and Polar Bear are the helpers this week and Bertie has his own pack of seeds. Which vegetable do you think he wants to grow? https://youtu.be/_neCprM77Mw

EASTER TRIDUUM 2021

Thursday 1st April MAUNDY THURSDAY
8.00pm Mass of the Lords Last Supper

Friday 2nd April GOOD FRIDAY
10.00am Stations of The Cross
3.00pm The Lords Passion

Saturday 3rd April HOLY SATURDAY
No morning Mass or Confessions
8.30pm *(Saturday Vigil)* Ints of Fr Martin Plunkett

Sunday 4th April EASTER SUNDAY
09.30am Ruby Harvey RIP A
11:30am Ints of Doherty Family

FOOD BANK: Thank you for your continued generosity and support. As Easter is coming up we thought it would be nice to have some Easter egg/chocolate donations. Please bring along your food donations before the next collection on **31st March 2021.**

Statement from the Presidency of the Bishops 'Conference on the National Day of Reflection for Covid-19

Tuesday 23rd March 2021

We welcome the designation of Tuesday 23rd March as a National Day of Reflection to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown with a minute's silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8pm.

We ask you all to make this not only a Day of Reflection but also a Day of Prayer. In reflection we ponder on all that has taken place; in prayer we bring this to our Heavenly Father. For all who live by faith in God, reflection and prayer always go hand in hand.

Prayer completes reflection. Reflection informs prayer. Prayer opens our life to its true horizon. Without prayer we live in a foreshortened world and are more easily swamped by its clamour and tragedy. Throughout this difficult year, so many have been inspired by prayer, so much effort sustained in prayer, in every place. So let us make 23rd March truly a day of prayer.

March 2020 was the first time our churches had to be closed. It is our hope that on this day, every one of our churches will be open. We invite everyone to enter a church on this day, to reflect and pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

We know this will involve an extra effort, but this can be part of our important contribution to a significant moment in the life of our country. Indeed, we ask that you might invite a friend, neighbour or colleague to come to church with you as you make this visit.

There is so much on which to reflect and include in our prayer.

We reflect in sorrow on all those who have died, whether family members, friends or those unknown to us personally. We pray for them, asking our Father to welcome them into their heavenly home, the destiny for which God first gave us the gift of life.

We reflect with compassion on all those who have suffered during this last year, whether through illness, stress, financial disaster or family tensions. We pray for their ongoing resilience, courage and capacity to forgive.

We reflect with thanksgiving for the generosity, inventiveness, self-sacrifice and determination shown by so many in this most difficult of times. We pray for them, thanking God for their gifts and dedication, whether they are scientists, politicians, health workers, public servants of every kind, community leaders, or steadfast family members and friends who continue to show such love and compassion.

We reflect in hope that, as the pandemic is controlled and we open up our lives again, we will gather in the lessons we have learned and build our society into a better shape, more compassionate, less marked by inequalities, more responsive to needs and deprivation. We ask for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us in this endeavour, whether we are focussing on overcoming family breakdowns, economic recovery, or building political consensus.

Christian prayer is, of course, centred on Jesus Christ, the one who is 'lifted up' before us 'so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him' (John 3.13). We pray with Jesus, in him and through him, for he is the one who carries us, and our prayers, into the embracing presence of his Father. He is our comfort in sorrow, our strength in the face of need, our rejoicing in the gifts we celebrate and our hope in the face of the weighty darkness of death.

May Tuesday 23rd March be a great day of prayer that this pandemic comes to an end and that the gift of God's Holy Spirit will carry us all forward to a new and better life, both here and in the world to come.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
President
Archbishop of Westminster

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP
Vice-President
Archbishop of Liverpool