5th September 2021
+23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

the Pastor's corner

Dear Parishioners,

Ephphatha! That is, be opened!

These are powerful words. Why are they powerful? They are powerful because they are more than words. They are words that actually accomplish what they say. These words are spoken by Jesus after a deaf man is brought to Him with the request for healing. By saying the command "Be opened!", the deaf man's ears are opened and his speech impediment is removed. When Jesus speaks, His word changes things. This is true in this story, but it is also true in our lives. We do not always hear the voice of God and we do not always allow His word of love to speak through our own words and lives. For that reason, these words of Jesus are spoken also to us. We can let Jesus take us to a quiet place alone and speak to us. We can then hear these words spoken to us – 'Ephphatha!–Be opened!' What is it that we are not hearing properly? What part of ourselves may God want to 'be opened' to his healing grace and mercy? May the Lord open the 'ears' of our hearts so that we can hear all that He wishes to say to us. Once that happens, Jesus will also help us speak His words of truth and love. Let us reflect, today, upon how open we are to hearing the voice of God. We all struggle at times with listening, and we especially may struggle listening to God. It is good to spend some time alone with our Lord to let Him heal us so that we can hear and understand all that He is saying to us. We can pray this week - Lord, I do not always listen to You. Please speak Your words of healing to me so that I can hear You more clearly. In hearing You, may I listen to all that You have to say. Jesus, I trust in You.

God bless you

Fr Martin

First Holy Communion 2022

Fr Martin would like to invite children in Year 2 to apply to join the programme of preparation for the First Holy Communion. The programme will be commencing in **January 2022** after the children return back to school. Applications and Medical forms are now available in the main entrance of the church. The forms are also available on the Parish website **https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote/sacramental-prep/receiving-the-sacraments.**

Please remember to include a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate and return application forms to the Parish Office by **30th October 2021.** More information will follow on the format of the classes.

St Thomas More Catholic Church

5th September 2021, +23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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
+23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) INTS OF MOIRA & PAT O'ROURKE
09:30AM MAGGIE HINKLEY RIP LD
11:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

MONDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM SHEILA BURNS RIP LD

TUESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM ANTHONY MCGILLICUDDY RIP A

WEDNESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM ALICE CLIFFORD RIP LD

THURSDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER
10:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
THE ROSARY & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
09:00-11AM INTS OF YVONNE BYRNE

SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER
09:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM OPHELIA DIAS RIP LD

FOLLOWED BY
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

+24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER
06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) JOHN DONNELLY RIP A
09:30AM INTS OF MICHAEL & NORA LYDON
11:30AM INTS OF BILL SMYTH

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: Anastasia O'Connor, Audrey Farrell, Hilda Minoli, Fr Duncan Adamson, Eileen Ferris, Katie Murchan, Duncan Webster, Pedro Johns, Richard Stoneman, Paul Wazny, Daisy Cunningham, Bianca Malheiros-Fauz, Kundan Singhoraya, Sarah Dunning, Eamonn Kearney, Ruby Bastiampillai, Peggy McMahon, Delores Walsh; for Kitty Goldie 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: Mary Sheila Fitzgerald, Ron Johnson, Dominic Bann, Brian Berry, Catherine Mary Nolan & Carlos Salazar D'eca.

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time: Charles Aggett, George William Barnes, Joan & Lawrence Smyth & Hilarie Lemon.

Senior School Applications & Certificate of Catholic Practice

Fr Martin would like to meet with Parents/Guardians and children for signing Senior school applications. Please bring your Child's Baptism Certificates to the interview. Interviews will be held on the following dates: **Monday 20th September-4pm -6pm**

Monday 27th September- 4pm -6pm

Please call Liz Duignan 0208 866 6581 or email eastcote@rcdow.org.uk at the Parish office to book your appointment.

The **LIFE ASCENDING** group meet on **Wednesday 15th September 2021** at 2.30pm in the Library. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years. Please come along on Wednesday.

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. The more volunteers there are would mean the less frequent individuals would have to clean. If you can spare a little bit of time and

Hillingdon Food Bank: Thank you once again for all your generous donations the past month. The Food Bank have asked if we could request specific donation items which they are desperately in need of. They are as follows:
Toilet Tissue
Tissues
Tinned potatoes
Tinned spaghetti
Jam
Noodles
Puddings, e.g. tinned rice pudding, custard
Sugar (small packs)

Appeal for Help – A family of a mother and two daughters originally from Sri Lanka joined our parish last year from Italy and they would be greatly helped if anyone could assist with either of the following:

1) Someone with some time and perhaps experience who could help to make a claim for financial assistance with the local authorities.

2) Information about suitable accommodation for rent in the local area. The mother has two jobs but would still be eligible for State assistance and is struggling to know the best way for her claim to succeed. Their present rent is £1200 per month and they would also be looking for somewhere less expensive.

Please contact the Parish Office in response to either of these needs. Many thanks. Fr Martin