

28th November 2021
+1st Sunday of Advent



Dear Parishioners

“Be vigilant at all times and pray”

Advent begins with a call to vigilance as reflected in the verse above. There are numerous Scripture passages that call us to this vigilance and anticipation of the Lord’s coming. Being vigilant means that we are prepared. We are not caught off guard. Imagine if Christmas morning came and we woke up suddenly realising that we forgot to prepare. Imagine if there were no gifts, no food purchased and no plans were made. Of course we wouldn’t allow that to happen but it would be possible to allow it to happen spiritually speaking. Will we be prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ within our hearts? The first week of Advent also offers the focus of the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus will return again, in all splendour and glory, to judge the living and the dead. We profess that fact every Sunday in our Creed. So, even though Advent is a time for the preparation of the celebration of the first coming of Jesus in the flesh, it is also a time to acknowledge that His first coming is ultimately fulfilled in His final glorious coming. As Advent begins, let us reflect upon how ready we are for Jesus’ coming. Are we preparing for it with the same fervour that we might prepare for Christmas through shopping, cooking, decorating, etc.? Are we looking forward to that day when He will return? Are we preparing for the spiritual celebration of His birth? Are we awake and attentive to the numerous ways that God speaks to us on a daily basis? If we find that we are not as prepared for His return in glory as we would like to be, let us make this Advent a time when we get our hearts ready. We can do this by committing to prayer, reflection and attentiveness to His gentle and glorious voice.

God bless you,

Fr Martin

Advent Carol Service – We will be having our Advent Carol Service on **Sunday 12th December at 3pm**, followed by a social event in the parish grounds, weather permitting. We are asking those wishing to attend to use the booking system on the parish website. There will be food and drink available afterwards including mulled wine, hot chocolate and warm mince pies. We are asking for a donation towards costs to be made on the day. For volunteers willing to help with preparations please contact the parish office. We are also interested to know if any parishioners have a spare ‘fire pit’ and wood to burn so that we can provide some warmth! It would also be helpful to know if anyone can spare any outdoor coloured lights that we can use for the day. Let’s pray that it can be a truly beautiful Advent celebration to prepare us for Christmas this year.

Parish Synod Volunteer – Each parish in the Diocese is being asked if a volunteer would be willing to represent the parish when gathering comments for the upcoming Synod of Bishops in 2023. Over the next months each parish is encouraged to share their experiences and thoughts on their faith and the Church. If anyone would like to volunteer for this role please speak to Fr Martin.

As part of the **Westminster Synodal Pathway** we are invited to join *Cardinal Vincent Nicol’s* at an Area Listening Event on **Thursday 2nd December, 7.00pm – 9.00pm** at Ealing Abbey, Charlbury Grove, London W5 2DY. Pope Francis has invited the worldwide Church to a time of listening – of listening deeply to each other as we walk side by side, telling our stories of faith. Here in our local Church, our Diocese, this is just what we are doing. This Area Listening Event is an opportunity to listen, to share, and to dream about the Church we are called to be. All are welcome, and places can be booked by emailing catadmin@rcdow.org.uk.

Honouring Sunday Please see the statement from the Bishops’ Conference entitled *Honouring Sunday* in this newsletter. The statement emphasises the importance of Sunday as The Day of the Lord and the celebration of Mass gathered as the Body of Christ on that day. It also speaks of the difficulty that some will have in fulfilling the Sunday Obligation at this time. It invites reflection on the practice of Sunday Worship.

St Thomas More Catholic Church

28th November 2021, +1st Sunday of Advent

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 +1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) DECEASED MEMBERS OF
THE CATENIANS

09:30AM MARGARET RIST RIP A

11:30AM MARGARET NEWTON RIP A

MONDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM HOLY SOULS

TUESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM HOLY SOULS

WEDNESDAY 01ST DECEMBER

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM MARIA PIRRONI RIP A

THURSDAY 2ND DECEMBER

10:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN

THE ROSARY & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT

FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM DAVID JONES RIP A

11:30AM FUNERAL OF HELEN DAWSON RIP

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER

09:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM INTS ERYL D'SOUZA

FOLLOWED BY

*EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT &
CONFESSIONS 10-11AM*

+2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2021

06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) JACK KEATING RIP A

09:30AM PATRICK BARRY RIP LD

11:30AM FOR 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

Please remember our sick parishioners in your prayers:

Patrick O'Rourke, Ed Gorman, Bill Smyth, Audrey Farrell, Fr Duncan Adamson, Eileen Ferris, Katie Murchan, Pedro Johns, Richard Stoneman, Paula Wazny, Daisy Cunningham, Bianca Malheiros-Fauz, Kundan Singhoraya, Sarah Dunning, Eamonn Kearney, Ruby Bastiampillai, Peggy McMahan and 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: John Molloy, Bridget Fernandes, Anastasia O'Connor, Luigia Pirroni, John Plackett, Patrick Donnelly

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time:

Joseph Bernard O'Shea, Mary O'Reilly, Jack (John) Keating, Margaret Newton, Albert Gray, Margaret Rist & Derek Miles.

Children's Liturgy Well this week Bertie and Ginger are very excited. Do you know why? We are starting Advent and that leads to something very special.

<https://youtu.be/xQVkpqFqC7Q>

Marys Meals: Thank you to everyone that contributed to the Marys meal's appeal last weekend. The Parish raised £615.66!!

Christmas Flowers St Thomas More has a wonderful tradition of beautiful flowers adorning our Altar and around the church for Christmas Services. The flower team are currently planning in preparation of their wonderful creations. The Parish welcome donations towards to the cost and if you would like to contribute there will be an opportunity to donate at the second collections on **weekends of 5th December & 12th December**. Thank you.

The **LIFE ASCENDING** group meet on **Wednesday 8th December 2021** at 2.30pm in the Library. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years. Please come along on Wednesday.

Red Boxes-Missio: *Our parish representative Liz Tuohy will be arranging the annual count of all the monies collected. If you have a box, please can you return to the Sacristy as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.*

Hillingdon Food Bank: Next collection 22nd December 2021

Advent Carol Service



Sunday 12th December

3pm

The service will take place in the church,
followed by mulled wine /drinks served outside.

Numbers are limited and places need to be
pre-booked.

To book your place, visit the church website
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote/>
choose EVENTS, find this date in the diary, click on the service
and follow instructions or contact the Parish Office.

If you are unable to attend, watch the service live
<http://clearview.org.uk/st-thomas-more>

Tickets are FREE—donations welcome on the day to help towards costs

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Honouring Sunday

As the Synodal Pathway of listening and discerning unfolds, we the bishops of England and Wales, are paying particular attention to the hopes and fears, the joys and anxieties of all who are sharing their thoughts and feelings with us.

Longing for our Lord

We are attentive to the experience of the last year or so, when we have lived our faith through the limitations of the pandemic. We have heard of the longing which some express as a "homesickness." We want to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We yearn to celebrate the sacraments together, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We desire to be nourished by our Lord in Holy Communion. The live streaming of the Mass and the remarkable response of our Catholic communities to those in need, have provided comfort, sustenance and resilience.

The Eucharist, source and summit

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life. Many people have said to us that they have appreciated the noble simplicity of the Mass at this time, which has allowed the mystery and majesty of our Lord's sacrificial love to shine through.

The central appeal of the Mass, its beauty and its transcendence, raises our minds and hearts to God in an unambiguous and compelling manner. Our Lord Jesus invites us to receive anew the gift of Sunday as the preeminent day, the day of the Resurrection, when the Church gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. Here we stand together before our heavenly Father, offering our thanksgiving and prayer, through our Saviour in the Holy Spirit. Here we receive Christ in his Word. Here we are nourished by Christ in his precious Body and Blood. This is our primary joy, for which there is no substitute, and from which we draw our strength.

The Gift of the Sunday Eucharist

The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God's holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ's love.

At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.

Responding to the Gift

We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass.

The Sunday Mass is the very heartbeat of the Church and of our personal life of faith. We gather on the "first day of the week," and devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42). The Eucharist sustains us and spurs us on, renewing our gratitude and our hope. When we say "Amen" to Christ in receiving his Body and Blood, we express the love of God which is deep within us, and at the end of Mass, when we are sent forth, we express our love for our neighbour, especially those in need. These two dimensions reveal the full meaning of our faith. We are gathered together and sent out, we pray and are fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ.

Approved at the Plenary Assembly of Bishops in Leeds
Thursday 18th November 2021