

St Thomas More Catholic Church

19th December 2021, +4th Sunday of Advent

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: -www.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote

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100 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

1st Prize: Liz Tuohy, 2nd prize Fionnuala Knibb & 3rd prize Stephen Glancey.

MASS INTENTIONS +4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER

06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) MARTIN O'BRIEN RIP A
09:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11:30AM ERYL D'SOUZA IN THANKSGIVING

MONDAY 20TH DECEMBER

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM SYLVESTER THARUMALINGAM RIP A

TUESDAY 21ST DECEMBER

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM PATRICK O'ROURKE RIP LD

WEDNESDAY 22ND DECEMBER

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM MARY TOMLINSON RIP A

THURSDAY 23RD DECEMBER

10:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
THE ROSARY & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT

CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER

09:30AM PATRICK O'ROURKE RIP LD
06:00PM INTS OF CHRISTMAS FLOWERS (FAMILY MASS)
10:00PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH (NIGHT
MASS)

+NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(CHRISTMAS DAY) 25TH DECEMBER

10:00AM INTS OF FR MARTIN PLUNKETT IN
THANKSGIVING.

+ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

ST STEPHENS DAYS, SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2021

09:30AM INTS OF ALTAR SERVERS IN THANKSGIVING
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 OPEN: 9:30am-1:00pm (Mon- Thurs Only)

Please remember our sick parishioners in your prayers:

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: Ian Fitzgerald, Patrick O'Rourke, John Molloy, Bridget Fernandes, Anastasia O'Connor, Luigia Pirroni, John Plackett, Patrick Donnell.

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time:

Mary Cullinane, Josephine O'Brien, Reginald Keen, Mary Tomlinson and Jenny Skwirzynska.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: This week we learn about how Mary was willing to be the Mother of God's son and said 'yes' to God. All the little helpers are out in force to listen to this story and to join together as we get close to Christmas.

<https://youtu.be/U71vfAdSVyY>

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone that has contributed to the Christmas Flower collections. The Parish raised an amazing £457.70!!

The **LIFE ASCENDING** group meet on **Wednesday 12th January 2022** at 2.30pm in the Library. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years. Please come along on Wednesday.

St Vincent De Paul Society- If you would like to find out more about the work they do please join them after the 9.30am Mass in the Anglim room on **Sunday 9th January 2022.**

Hillingdon Food Bank: Thank you to everyone that has contributed this year to the Hillingdon Food bank.



19th December 2021
+4th Sunday of Advent

Dear Parishioners,

“Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

In this Sunday’s Gospel we hear the account of the Visitation of Mary to her relative, Elizabeth. This event anticipates the birth of Jesus. Mary’s journey to Elizabeth immediately followed the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, when she learned that she would give birth to the Messiah. Scripture tells us that she went “in haste” to see Elizabeth, who was in her sixth month of pregnancy with John the Baptist. It is incredible to think of what this encounter must have been like. Here are two women who have been called by God to bring forth children into the world who would transform history. John would lead the way for the Messiah, Jesus, who would save us from our sins. Upon Mary’s arrival, John the Baptist leaped in Elizabeth’s womb as an expression of acknowledgement of the presence of the Lord, Jesus, in Mary’s womb. Elizabeth articulates this with the familiar words we say in the “Hail, Mary”: “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” She also referred to Mary as “the mother of my Lord.” Thus, Elizabeth expressed faith that Jesus was the Messiah. And she honoured Mary for her role in bringing the Messiah into this world. This leads us to an important reflection on Mary’s role in God’s bringing of salvation to the world. God chose to become man in order to save us from our sins. But He did not force Himself into humanity. He did not disrespect our human freedom in order to do so. Rather, He invited Mary to be the mother of the Messiah. And because she said ‘yes,’ God became incarnate. Therefore, we can echo the words of Elizabeth in saying, “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” Mary trusted God, even though what she was entrusted with was beyond comprehension. Because of her great faith in welcoming Jesus into this world, we proclaim with Elizabeth that Mary is “blessed among women,” and most of all, give thanks for the amazing gift of our Lord, Jesus, coming into this world.

God bless you,
Fr Martin

Deanery Reconciliation Service with confessions at **Sacred Heart Church**, Ruislip on **Tuesday 21st December** at **7.30pm**. Priests will be available to hear confessions. Also, a reminder that Fr Martin is available after weekday and Saturday morning masses or at other times by request for confessions.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: The Parish Mass times are now available on the Parish Website and are available for you to book. We encourage parishioners to book as soon as possible.

There will also be a Carol service before **6pm Christmas Eve Family Mass**, commencing at **5:40pm**

Please visit the Parish website **Events** to book Mass or alternatively contact the Parish Office via email Eastcote@rcdow.org.uk or telephone 0208 8666581.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote/events/>.

Parish Confirmation Registration 2022: Fr Martin would like to invite children in Year 9 to apply to join the programme of preparation for Confirmation. Applications and Medical forms are now available on the welcome table of the church. The forms are also available on the Parish website.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2021/11/APPLICATION-FORM-CONFIRMATION-new.pdf>

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2021/11/Word-doc.-Medical-Form.docx.pdf>

Please return application and Medical forms to the Parish Office by **15th January 2022**. More information on the format of the programme will follow shortly in the parish newsletter.

PIGEON HOLE MAIL BOX

The pigeon hole mail box located in the entrance of the church is for the parish to utilise for any internal mail or Christmas cards they wish to send to fellow parishioners. Please remember to check if there is any post for you on your way out after mass.

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity. We spoke at the end of each Mass a number of weeks back in November and were genuinely surprised by the total given – a terrific £615.66. Our 'Double the Love' will now be match this taking the grand total to £1231.32. As a result 77 children will be fed one good meal every day in their place of education for a whole school year. God bless you all.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Reception Admissions 2022/2023

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 you are invited to apply for a Reception place. We would ask parents/carers to click on the following link to complete and submit an online application form >> [Reception 2022 application form](#).

In this page, you will also find our Reception Admissions Policy and information explaining this process on the website. Please do not forget to submit your local authority's e-admissions application too to complete the process.

The **closing date** for applications is **Friday, 14th January 2022** and **Offer day** is **Friday 15th April 2022**. Online offers will be available to view from 5pm on the eAdmissions website—no letters will be sent to online applicants. Offer letters will be posted to paper applicants on this day.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Nursery Admissions 2022/2023

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 you are invited to apply for a Nursery place. We would ask parents/carers to click on the following link to download the application form >> [Nursery 2022 application form](#). You will also find our Nursery Admissions Policy and information explaining this process on the website.

The **closing date** for applications is **Friday, 4th February 2022** and **Offer day** is **Friday, 11th March 2022**.

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.