

# St Thomas More Catholic Church

26<sup>th</sup> December 2021, +The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.

## CHRISTMAS SEASON

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: -[www.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/eastcote)

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### MASS INTENTIONS

#### CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> 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 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

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

#### + THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

#### ST STEPHENS DAYS, SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

09:30AM INTS OF ALTAR SERVERS IN THANKSGIVING  
11:30AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

#### MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN  
09:30AM INT THE O'KEEFE FAMILY

#### TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN  
09:30AM MARIE RALPH RIP LD

#### WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN  
09:30AM INT THE MASSEY FAMILY  
11:30AM FUNERAL OF PATRICK O'ROURKE RIP

#### THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

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

#### FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN  
09:30 INT CORA & TARA

FOLLOWED BY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

#### +2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

#### SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2022

06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) DEREK & BETTY BENSTED RIP A  
09:30AM EMMANUEL LUZ RIP A  
11:30AM IAN FITZGERALD RIP LD

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### MONDAY 3RD JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN  
09:30AM IAN FITZGERALD RIP LD

#### TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN  
09:30AM INT BREDA MCGILLICUDDY

#### +THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN  
09:30AM INT PATRICK O'ROURKE  
07:30PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

#### THURSDAY 6TH JANUARY

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

#### FRIDAY 7TH JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN  
09:30AM INT FR ANTON MATTHIAS (49 YEARS OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION)

#### SATURDAY 8TH JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN  
09:30AM INT ETUKA FAMILY

FOLLOWED BY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

#### +THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

#### SUNDAY 9TH JANUARY

6:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) FRANK TUOHY RIP A  
09:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH  
11:30AM INT MAUDE FAMILY

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](mailto:eastcote@rcdow.org.uk)

Parish Administrator - Liz Duignan

OFFICE OPEN: 9:30am-1:00pm (Mon- Thurs Only)

26<sup>th</sup> December 2021

+The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

May God bless all the parishioners of St Thomas More Church, Eastcote at this Christmas time with his peace and joy and may the new-born Jesus be also born again in our hearts bringing us his light and guiding us through all this New Year.

With love, Fr Martin



**Christmas Eve 6pm Family Mass.** If you are bringing young children to this Mass, they are welcome to come dressed as angels or shepherds. To keep everyone as safe as possible we will not invite the children on to the altar this year, but they will be singing their special Christmas song with actions and we will ensure that they can be seen by those around them. Thank you.

**Name an Angel** The Parish is, again this year, holding a little competition for the children to “Name one of our Angels”. The entry with the most appropriate name will receive their very own Guardian Angel from those displayed on the altar over Christmas. Last year two names tied, ‘Angel of Hope’ (Francesca Horton) and ‘Angel of Health’ (Jordan Edwards). There are some slips in the narthex - please place your entry in the basket marked “Angels”. Be sure to add your family telephone number by which we can contact you. The decision will be made on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 so be quick!

**The ‘Christ’ painting:** As a small token of gratitude for your generosity in sponsoring the framing of Victor’s Daltrey’s painting, “Christ with Crown of Thorns”, the Parish have had printed a small memento prayer card bearing a print of the original. They will be available for free after Mass in the coming weeks and there should be enough for every parishioner to have one each.

**Parish Office** will be closed from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021, re-opening on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Next Parish Newsletter will be sent on weekend of **9<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. Wishing you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

**ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,  
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ**



**Pastoral Letter for the Feast of the Holy Family  
26 December 2021**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

The stage today is somewhat crowded. Not only is it Boxing Day and the Feast of St Stephen, but it is also the Feast of the Holy Family. The Holy Family takes precedence, and rightly so. But the other two will get a mention.

The Holy Family is the first flowering of the Feast of Christmas. Our concentration on the birth of Jesus embraces Joseph and Mary too. There, in the simple circumstances of an animal's stall, the Holy Family takes shape.

This is no romantic image of family life, far from a respectable home where everything is 'just so'. We easily forget that, at the birth of Jesus, the animals were not at all cuddly and probably very smelly; and that the manger was filled not with soft hay, but scratchy straw. Yet these were the circumstances into which the Eternal Word, through whom all things are made, chose to enter our world. So let's put aside any idea that there is no connection between this Holy Family and the reality of our own home life.

Not so! We can hold this Holy Family to be a model, an inspiration, for our family life precisely because it is thoroughly human, thoroughly immersed in the same realities as ours, and thoroughly dependent on the goodness of its members, strengthened by the all-present grace of God.

In this past year, we have been giving additional thought and attention to Joseph. He emerges as a parent full of tender love. By this I mean that the love he had for the child in his care was both strong and gentle. Every parent needs this. This love does not overlook weakness and failings in a child. But it does mean never humiliating, or belittling a youngster because of his or her struggles. Such tenderness is an expression of strength. Such tenderness comes from a love that has eyes only for what is best for the young person making their way to maturity. The quiet, steadfast love of Joseph is part of what makes his family holy and is a model for holiness in our own homes too.

This parental love shown by Joseph was never possessive. Parental love is not only full of wonder at the uniqueness of the new life in their child, but also knows that the

child is given as a gift to be cared for, and not a possession to be managed. In this sense, human parenthood is about letting go.

This helps us to understand the words of Jesus when he says: 'You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven'(Mt 23:9). Our Heavenly Father entrusted us to our parents. In turn he entrusts your children to you, yet always remaining Father of us all, and forever.

Now, Boxing Day. In my family life Boxing Day was always a special day. Its title that comes from opening boxes containing presents. Family presents were exchanged on Christmas Day. But on Boxing Day the circle widened. Aunts and Uncles, friends and lonely neighbours came round on this day. And so the joy of giving and receiving was extended. We sing about Good King Wenceslaus doing just this on the Feast of Stephen!

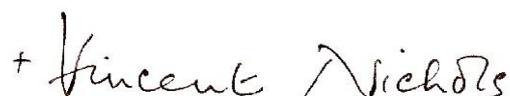
Yes, Boxing Day is also and always the Feast of St Stephen, the first martyr. His gift, in response to the presence of Jesus amongst us in our flesh, was to give up his life in witnessing to Jesus. In the account of his martyrdom we read that, as he gave his testimony, he cried out: 'I can see heaven thrown open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7:56). For this truth, heard by his audience as gross blasphemy, he was stoned to death.

Stephen's martyrdom is also a flowering of the Feast of Christmas, for in the eyes of faith there is a close link between our birth into this world and our entry, or second birth, into the next. Christmas marks the entry of Jesus into our flesh, and Easter brings the new life of the Resurrection. As we celebrate the Nativity, St Stephen teaches us to look forward to our 'second birth', because when this life ends we have the sure hope of eternal life. For us, too, the heavens will be thrown open and we shall indeed see the Son of Man and the all-consuming glory of God, the greatest gift of all. As we celebrate the birth of Christ and the entry into heaven of St Stephen, we see again the contours of our lives and the destiny that lies before us.

The Holy Family marks out our route. Boxing Day teaches us the greater joy of giving than of receiving. St Stephen proclaims the new and heavenly birth that our Saviour comes to give us.

A happy and joyful Christmas to you all and a happy New Year.

Yours devotedly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent Nichols". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Archbishop of Westminster

Exciting opportunity to lead and develop a well-established award-winning residential nursing home based in Pinner, Middlesex

St Vincent's  
Nursing Home



*Magnifici sunt opera Domini*



Full time  
£65-70,000/annum



Based in Pinner,  
Middlesex

**\*\*Winner of the Nursing Times Award 2021 – The Best UK Employer of the Year in Nursing\*\***

**\*\*Highly Commended by the HSJ for Patient Safety\*\***

**\*\*Finalist in Nursing Times Awards 2021 for Risk & Governance in Social Care\*\***

St Vincent's provides residential and nursing care for the elderly. Set in beautiful grounds, it provides care in a warm and caring environment for its' residents. Whilst we promote and practice the Catholic faith, we welcome people of all faiths.

We are seeking to appoint a **General Manager** who has experience working in a health and social care setting to provide strong leadership to a team who care passionately about the residents in their care. You will develop the home to meet the vision and strategic direction of the Board of Trustees contributing with creative ideas and initiative to maintain and further enhance the excellent reputation it has cultivated in the community.

You will be a role model in representing Catholic values and represent the home professionally with a wide range of stakeholders and external contacts to build on the already long waiting list.

St. Vincent's has an exceptional passion for care delivery and ensures all residents, some of whom are living with dementia, are treated with the utmost respect and dignity. We are therefore looking for an insightful and proactive candidate who is able to demonstrate empathy, engage team members, and work with families and residents alike.

The post holder will manage a senior team and report to the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

This is an exciting opportunity to take our strategy forward and work with a wonderful team. If you feel you have the right skills and experience to succeed in this role, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

Please email [jeremy.ruppersburg@svnh.co.uk](mailto:jeremy.ruppersburg@svnh.co.uk) for a copy of the full job description and person specification. You will be expected to submit a current CV with a supporting statement outlining how you meet the competencies of the role.

**\*\*STRICTLY NO AGENCIES\*\***

Closing date: 5pm Friday 4 February\*

Interview date: Tuesday 22 February (second interview date to be confirmed)

\*Subject to response

#### Disclosure and Barring Service Check

This post is subject to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Exceptions Order) 1975 and as such it will be necessary for a submission for Disclosure to be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly known as CRB) to check for any previous criminal convictions.

#### Data Protection

In submitting a CV, you consent to the processing of your personal data for the purposes of recruiting for this position. A copy of our full Recruitment Privacy Notice will be provided when sending the Job Description.

**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 McMahon 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, Kathleen Quinn, Patrick O'Rourke, John Molloy, Bridget Fernandes, Anastasia O'Connor, Luigia Pirroni, John Plackett, Patrick Donnell.

**For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time:**

Alfred Cook, Alan Goodwin, Derek Bensted, Saturnino Pereira, Peter Blanshard, Brian Morris and Josephine Peter & Ernest Walsh.

**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.

**General Manager post** - St Vincent's Nursing Home, in Pinner are seeking to appoint a General Manager who has experience working in a health and social care setting to provide strong leadership to a team who care passionately about the residents in their care. Please

email [jeremy.ruppersburg@svnh.co.uk](mailto:jeremy.ruppersburg@svnh.co.uk) for a copy of the full job description and person specification.

Applicants will be expected to submit a current CV with a supporting statement outlining. Closing date: **5pm Friday 4 February**

**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.