St Thomas More Catholic Church

30TH JANUARY 2022, +4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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****100 CLUB MEMBERSHIP** Good Luck to all our Members!!**

MASS INTENTIONS
+4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 30TH JANUARY

6:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) INT JOHN & LINDA GRIMES
09:30AM INT ST VINCENT DE PAUL MEMBERS
11:30AM IAN FITZGERALD RIP LD

MONDAY 31ST JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM KATHLEEN (KAY) QUINN RIP LD

TUESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INT JUDY & ERIC DOKE

WEDNESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INT MOIRA O'ROURKE

THURSDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

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

FRIDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

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

SATURDAY 5TH FEBRUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INT CATH GORMAN

FOLLOWED BY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

+5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

6:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) INT CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS.
09:30AM INT ANNA HORTON
11:30AM INT COUNTING & BANKING VOLUNTEERS

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: Margaret Cunningham, Ed Gorman, Audrey Farrell, Fr Duncan Adamson, Eileen Ferris, Katie Murchan, Pedro Johns, Richard Stoneman, Paula Wazny, Daisy Cunningham, Bianca Malheiros-Fauz, Kundan Singhoraya, Sarah Dunning, 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: Frances Reynolds, Ian Fitzgerald, Kathleen Quinn, Patrick O'Rourke, John Molloy, Bridget Fernandes.

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time: Ann Cox, Ann Boone

Children's Liturgy: Oh dear, Bertie is a bit distracted today and leaves Polar to answer the questions. He is just so excited as he has news, which he will share with you at the end of the liturgy- keep watching.

https://youtu.be/Qsqq9T9fYuc

The **LIFE ASCENDING** group meet on **Wednesday 9th February 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 **Sunday 6th February 2022.**

Hillingdon Food Bank Next collection 23rd February 2022.

White Flower Appeal 2022 The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal this weekend.

Guidance for Churches – January 2022

Introduction

Following the announcement by HM Government on 19th January that the measures put in place to mitigate against covid virus transmission as "Plan B" will be lifted in full on 27th January, the following guidance is offered to the dioceses of England and Wales. The material in this briefing has been agreed with Public Health officials and follows the regulations for England and concur with the regulations in place for Wales which take effect on 28th January 2022.

Acts of Worship

The main mitigation against serious health issues arising from covid infection is to be fully vaccinated; this means two doses plus a booster for anyone aged 16 or over. The vaccine programme in England and Wales has had a major impact in reducing death and serious illness from infection with Covid-19. The Church in England and Wales supports the vaccination programme and encourages people to be vaccinated.

The scientific consensus is that society is moving towards the stage where the virus is transitioning from the pandemic phase to the endemic phase, but as stated by HM Government, there is still a risk associated with gathering for sustained periods in enclosed spaces and therefore there needs to be continued caution by all against infection.

This, however, has to be balanced against the need to move forward safely towards a normal lifestyle and these two positions will always be held in tension. This holding in tension is the key to living safely with Covid-19, namely keeping infections from a virus that cannot be eliminated to levels which minimise disruption to people's lives.

This guidance has been written with this principle in mind.

Alongside the positive effects of covid vaccination, it should be stressed that any people displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not participate in acts of worship in church. This is good practice for any transmissible illness. Medical advice should be sought as appropriate for those who are ill.

The main form of virus transmission is via personal oral or nasal aerosol. Those attending an act of worship may continue to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) whilst in the church building. There is no need for formal social distancing in church buildings, although those present should be sensitive to the needs of others around them. Churches should continue to ensure there is good ventilation, balancing this against the need for church heating, especially at this time.

It is clear from scientific evidence that transmission from surfaces (touch transmission) is now minimal and so the use of hymn books, missals and other worship aids can be resumed with immediate effect. Whilst it is still good practice to sanitise hands on entry and exit of churches, there is no need for readers (or other ministers) to sanitise their hands before reading or performing other ministries in the church. All ministers of Holy Communion (clergy and lay people) should still sanitise their hands for the

distribution of Holy Communion. Holy water stoups may be refilled but care should be seen that the water is changed regularly (at a minimum of once a week). Usual forms of church cleaning are sufficient.

Regarding the liturgical action, there should be a return to the normal mode of celebrating Mass respecting the integrity of the Rite. This would include the reintroduction of the Prayer of the Faithful (where this has not been reinstated already), the *Sign of Peace* may be offered again if felt appropriate, and Holy Communion should be distributed at the usual place and in the usual mode

(i.e. with the faithful approaching the minister in an orderly procession). For the time being, Holy Communion must continue to be given under one kind only (the Sacred Host) and for concelebrations of clergy, intinction of the Precious Blood with the Sacred Host should continue to be used.

Where there is physical touch as part of another Rite of the Church (for example, anointing of the sick, ashing of foreheads etc) the use of cotton buds is no longer mandated, but the hands should be cleaned well before and after the Rite.

Congregational singing may continue and there is a general encouragement to wear face coverings while singing. However, it is recognised that not everyone will feel able to do this.

Social Activities

Parish social activities can resume (if they have been suspended) from the revert date to Plan A. It is recommended that the normal Health and Safety risk assessment for the activity and the space used for the activity is reviewed for these types of gatherings.

Home Visits

Home visits can continue (or begin again if they had been suspended) by priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and other volunteers. The minister to the sick or housebound person should take care to ensure that the number of visits to different homes in a single session of visiting is managed. It is recommended (outside hospital and hospice chaplaincies and social care institutions who have infection control in place) that the number of people visited is assessed beforehand to prevent the possibilities of transmitting the virus between people. Assessing the time spent with people and ensuring that there is good ventilation and cleanliness during the visit are also good practice.

Conclusion

Whilst this reduction of restrictions brings about a more normal way of living, the Covid-19 virus is still in circulation, and this should be in the mind of those participating in the life of the Church as time goes forward holding in balance the need for personal safety and taking responsibility for that safety.

Rev. Canon Christopher Thomas

FINAL 24th January 2022

the Pastor's corner

Sunday 30TH January 2022
+4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Parishioners,

"Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country."

This Sunday we read from the Gospel of Luke, continuing immediately from last week's Gospel. In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah and announced that this Scripture was now fulfilled. In today's Gospel, we learn that the people of Nazareth are impressed by Jesus' words, and yet they seem surprised. They still think of Jesus as merely Joseph's son. They do not expect such words from someone they believe that they know.

This Gospel is about who Jesus is and who people believe him to be. In Luke's Gospel, this incident is told in a way that foretells Jesus' passion and death and helps explain the inclusion of the Gentiles in the promise of salvation. The people are surprised but not immediately offended by Jesus' words in the synagogue. It is the words that follow his reading from the prophet Isaiah that seem to offend them. Jesus challenges and provokes the people of Nazareth by referring to examples in which Israel rejected the prophets. He also challenges them to respond to his message, the message of a prophet, in a way that is different from their ancestors. This call for a new response leads to his rejection. After Jesus' words of challenge, Luke reports that there was a movement to kill Jesus by throwing him over a cliff. Luke then says that Jesus walks away from the crowd that intended to kill him; it is not yet his time. The animosity of the people of Nazareth prefigures and prepares the reader of Luke's Gospel for the cross. Luke wants all to understand that it is through his death on the cross that Jesus offers God's salvation to all. Each day of our Christian lives we are offered, in perhaps less dramatic ways, the choice to either accept or reject the love of God which comes to us through Jesus Christ. Let us pray always for the grace to perceive the wondrous and beautiful plan made true for us by the Son of God and continue to choose to give our lives to his mission in the world.

God bless you,
Fr Martin

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 15th February 2022 at 8pm.** Fr Martin would like contributions for the Agenda. If you have any items/ideas you would like to be discussed, please contact: Parish Administrator, Liz Duignan *E-mail: eastcote@rcdow.org.uk or Telephone 0208 8666581.*

Finance Committee Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 22nd February 2022,** details to follow soon. If you have any items you wish to be added to the Agenda, please contact the Parish Office eastcote@rcdow.org.uk or telephone 0208 866 6581.

Confirmation Programme will commence on **Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 8pm**. The class will take place in the Anglim Room of the Parish Centre. There will be more information to follow soon from the Catechists.

Diocese of Westminster network Meeting for all who work with older people.
Thursday 3rd February 2022, 11:00 - 12:30 - online
The event is for anybody who journeys alongside older people, perhaps by organising events or running projects. It is an opportunity to share ideas, discuss issues, and meet others who are engaged in the same mission.
Please contact Rosa Lewis for more information rosalewis@rcdow.org.uk