St Thomas More Catholic Church

27TH FEBRUARY 2022, +8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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****100 CLUB MEMBERSHIP** Good luck to all our members!! February Draw this weekend!**

MASS INTENTIONS
+8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 27TH FEBRUARY
6:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) SEAN CALLAGHAN RIP LD
09:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11:30AM INT ADAM KLAP

MONDAY 28TH FEBRUARY
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INT HELEN HINDE

TUESDAY 1ST MARCH
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM JOHN HORTON RIP A

ASH WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM TONY NAUGHTON RIP A

THURSDAY 3RD MARCH
10:00-11:00AM CHURCH OPEN
THE ROSARY & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY 4TH MARCH
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INT SHEILA JONES

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM JIM CURRAN RIP LD
FOLLOWED BY
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

+1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 6TH MARCH
6:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) JOHN SIMMONDS RIP LD
09:30AM FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & CATECHISTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMNION ENROLEMENT.
11:30AM INT COLETTE & KEVIN DOKE

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, 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 especially Sarah Joyce. 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: Matthew Rammelt, Sheila Ann Fitzgerald & Renita Adams

SAVE THE DATE- Saturday March 26th in the Parish Hall, an evening of song to celebrate a late St. Patrick's Day. More information to follow soon.

Children's Liturgy: What sort of fruit do you like? A nice shiny apple or an orange, or maybe cherries! This week's gospel talks about fruit and guess who appears at the end, yes you guessed it, Bertie and he has found some pieces of fruit, although there is a bit of a disagreement about the banana.....

https://youtu.be/o8qLDr3iXLo

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 27th February 2022.**

Hillingdon Food Bank: Thank you once again for your generous donations. Next collection **29th March 2022.**

The **LIFE ASCENDING** group meet on **Wednesday 9th March 2022** at 2.30pm in the Library. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years. Please do come along.

Churches Together in Eastcote Lent Groups 2022. Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey of those interested in attending a group and the times and days which people would prefer. Having analysed the responses we can now offer a Zoom group on Monday evenings 7.30 - 8.30pm, a Tuesday afternoon group 2-3.30pm at Pinner Methodist Church, a Tuesday evening group 8-9.30pm at St Thomas More, and a Wednesday evening group 7.30-9pm at Eastcote Methodist Church. The groups will follow an adapted course entitled "Experiencing God's Love", which uses the Psalms and St John's Gospel to help us reflect on how our lives may be transformed through a deeper experience of God's love. To put your name down for a group, please sign up on a paper form at church, or email me at jinglese@btinternet.com, or follow the link below to complete an online form. Please note that all groups are subject to a viable number signing up. We look forward to sharing our Lent journey with you this year. Jane Inglese Chair, CTE

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUj1AkLE_3fxfqFYvM7Nu6TQseXdeG0zQEjVlq-I6CTNKv3g/viewform?usp=sf_link

PPC Meeting Update: "The Parish Pastoral Council met on 15 February. The main issue we considered with Fr Martin was the impact for the parish of the bishops' recent guidance on Covid. Mass attendance is now at two-thirds of pre-pandemic levels. We agreed that, as the parish moves towards reintroducing more aspects of our liturgy and of our other parish activities, we should continue to adopt a cautious approach to the pace of the changes. Fr Martin will continue to update the parish regularly about this. We also agreed with the Folk Group's kind proposal for an Irish Night to be held in the parish on 26 March. We received an update from Fr Martin about the parish's preparations for the 2023 Synod. It is hoped that a parish meeting will be held Lent so that parishioners will be able to learn more about the Synod.
Anthony Inglese, PPC Chair"

Altar Servers: Training for new Altar Server's will begin on **Sunday 13th March 2022** after the 9.30 and 11.30 Mass and will consist of 5 thirty-minute sessions.
If you have already made your First Holy Communion and would like to join our Altar Servers group then please attend either of the above sessions.

HEAT or EAT? Help those facing this choice. Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2022 This year, we celebrate 10 years of Caritas Westminster, the social action agency of the Diocese, working with parishes to restore hope, and enable people to lead a life of dignity. Funds raised in this year's Cardinal's Lenten Appeal will be shared between parishes and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic are making daily life harder for all. Price rises mean many families face an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? The Church is responding, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. Just as a mosaic is made up of many different coloured pieces, each one unique, each person's contribution to this mosaic of hope will bring light into the lives of people across our Diocese. Please take a donation envelope. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Pastoral Letter for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
26/27 February 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Today I want to take a moment, first of all, to thank you for your faithfulness and for your presence here at Mass. These last two years have been very difficult and I thank God for the gift of faith which you have received, which you have nurtured and from which, I know, you receive great grace and strength. I know this to be true because it is true for me too.

Now I would like to ask your assistance.

During these last two years there were times when our way of life was severely curtailed. We were in 'lockdown'. At one time, for three months, even the doors of our churches were firmly closed. Being unable to enter the House of God and to take part fully in the celebration of the Mass was, for many, an experience of real dismay and pain.

But that is no longer the case. We are again able to fashion the way of life that we choose. The doors of our churches can stay wide open. Yet, as you know, many have not resumed the pattern of coming to church, week by week. Other activities have filled that space. For some, the thirst for being at Mass, for celebrating life-giving sacraments, has diminished.

This is where I ask for your help. I would like you to be ready to approach those whom you know, and who are not present here today, with a word of invitation for them to join us. I know this is not easy. You may well feel it is an intrusive thing to do. Also, taking the step across the threshold of the church can be daunting for someone who has been away for a long time. So I ask you to exercise great deference and kindness when approaching them, perhaps offering to accompany them on this return journey.

I make this request now not simply because fear and restrictions are eased, but because we are approaching Lent, the traditional and powerful season of our renewal in faith. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, this coming week, we respond to the Lord's invitation to come forward and meet him afresh. He invites us to come through the doors of the church to stand before him and receive his blessing, his mark of mercy.

Lent is the time to reset our patterns so that there is time for God in our hearts and in our weekly routines. You know well that the highest form of prayer is the celebration of the Eucharist. It is here, above all other places, that the Lord wishes to fill us with his gifts, so that we, in turn, can offer those gifts to others. And then, when we give that which we have received, we bring this precious light of Christ into our world. He is the best antidote to the darkness of the pandemic, to the loneliness it has brought, to the lack of clear hope for the future, to the deep weariness and unexpressed resentment that has entered into the souls of so many.

So, please, do what you can to invite those who are missing to come with you to be part of this great family of faith at prayer. If each of you can give a word of encouragement to one other person, to one other family, then the reward will be great. Then we can journey together to Easter. There we proclaim again that Jesus alone has mastered death, that he alone is the Lord of life, that he is now among us and calling us to come to meet him here, in this House of God, in this Gate of Heaven.

I thank you again for your presence here today. I thank you for all that you will do in response to this request and I ask God's blessing on the words that you will speak. Remember the words of St Paul that we have just heard: 'Keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain' (1Cor. 15:58).

Pease continue in your prayer for peace in Ukraine. We cry out: No more war, no more violence!

And remember me in your prayers as I will remember you, the faithful people of God!

Yours devotedly,

+ Vincent Nichols

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Archbishop of Westminster

SYNOD QUESTIONS

COMMUNION - PARTICIPATION - MISSION

I. JOURNEYING COMPANIONS
How can we be more welcoming as a Christian community?

2. LISTENING
To whom do we listen?

3. SPEAKING OUT
How can we be more honest in our dealings with each other?

4. CELEBRATING
How might we celebrate better the Liturgy in our parish?

5. SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MISSION
How well do we work together as clergy and laity for the mission of the Church?

6. DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY
How can our group, parish, diocese and the Church be more outward-facing?

7. WITH THE OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS
In what ways might we improve our dialogue and relationship with other Christians?

8. AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION
How can we make the Church more participatory and increase shared responsibility?

9. DISCERNING AND DECIDING
In a synodal style Church, what new processes of decision-making and decision-taking are needed? How transparent and accountable are the decisions made?

10. FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY
How do we form people to make them more capable of “journeying together”?

the Pastor's corner

Sunday 27th February 2022

+8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Parishioners,

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit." Luke 6:43

In this week's Gospel reading Jesus says that "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit." Conversely, it can be said that a good tree does bear good fruit. When we live a life with Jesus at the centre, the effect will be that good fruit is born from our lives. Hopefully, we all want to live good lives. We would like to become the most beautiful expression of who we are created to be. We would also like to make a difference in our world and in the lives of others. How do we do this? On a fundamental level we must choose to live a life grounded in Jesus Christ, thus becoming a "good tree." If we want to bear good fruit and make a holy and positive difference in the world, then we need to do one principal thing: ask God to make us holy. To use the image that Jesus gives, we can see ourselves as a tree planted in the ground with roots going deep being nourished by the earth and the sun. This is the life of grace and the effect is that good fruit automatically comes forth. The life of grace is accomplished by focusing first on our own spiritual well-being. We become this "good tree" by doing the basics well. First, to pray, and pray well. Second, to learn about our faith, listening to the Gospels, learning all that God has revealed through the Church and the teachings of the saints, and learning from other good people. Third, living good sacramental lives, coming to Mass, celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, understanding the grace of our Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Ordination, etc. Knowing that the Sacraments nourish us in powerful ways because they incorporate us in a unique way into the saving death and resurrection of Jesus. Let us reflect, today, upon the important mission we have been given to go forth and bear an abundance of good fruit in our world. This mission can be accomplished only as a result of a life of holiness. This holiness is only accomplished when our roots are firmly grounded in the life of grace. Let us embrace this life of grace through the many means that God has set before us, and know that the commitment we make to holiness will bring health not only to your own soul, but also to the souls of those whom God will touch through us.

God bless you,

Fr Martin

Synod preparations update - Having had to delay our Synod preparations due to the ongoing restrictions we are now hoping to move forward with 3 meetings on the weekend of 2nd & 3rd of April. On that weekend we will have an opportunity to meet together after each of the Masses: Saturday 6pm & Sunday 9.30 & 11am. As a parish we can then reflect on the 10 questions the Bishops have proposed. This is an opportunity to share our voices and ideas concerning the development of our own parish of St Thomas More and on the wider issues of the Church in contemporary society. Chris Horsburgh, our Synod representative will be speaking at Masses 2 weeks before to guide us in the process and help us to prepare for the meetings. A copy of the 10 questions we will be considering together can be found attached to this week's newsletter.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedra: Saturday 14th May 2022 at 3pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact the parish office eastcote@rcdow.org.uk with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email)