St Thomas More Catholic Church

06th MARCH 2022, +1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

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****100 CLUB MEMBERSHIP****

Congratulations to the winners! 1st Prize Fiona Cole, **2nd Prize** Josien Sarratt, **3rd Prize** Rosistela Boyle

MASS INTENTIONS
+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

MONDAY 7TH MARCH
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INT JUDY & ERIC DOKE

TUESDAY 8TH MARCH
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM ELIZABETH THARUMALINGAM RIP LD

WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM ELIZABETH MILTON RIP LD

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

FRIDAY 11TH MARCH
09:00 CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INT O'ROURKE & HARRINGTON FAMILIES
FOLLOWED BY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

SATURDAY 12TH MARCH
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM PATRICK FOGARTY RIP A
FOLLOWED BY
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

+2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 13TH MARCH
6:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) MICHAEL HORAN RIP LD
09:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11:30AM INT FR MARTIN PLUNKETT & 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
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, 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: Henry (Jim) Powley Ruby Bastiampillai, Timothy Asservathan, Frances Reynolds, Ian Fitzgerald, Kathleen Quinn, Patrick O'Rourke, John Molloy, Bridget Fernandes.

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time: Kathleen Dunleavy, Sr Carmel Cusson, Tommie Loftus, Alec Roke & John Pitt.

Date for your diary: **Saturday March 26th** in the Main Parish Hall, an evening of song to celebrate a late St. Patrick's Day. Doors open at 7.00 and singing starts at 7.30. No charge on the evening but donations to the Ukraine Appeal. Bring your own food, drink, crockery and utensils for you and your party to eat in the interval. There will be a sign-up list in the Church narthex so we know how many people are coming.

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.

St Vincent De Paul Society- Please join them after the 9.30am Mass in the Anglim room on **Sunday 20th March 2022.**

Children's Liturgy: Hugo and Bertie are thinking about Lent and they are learning about the things that we can do to help prepare for Easter. Bertie thinks he may try giving up biscuits and knows he may need some help when he gets tempted. Have you decided how you are going to prepare?

https://youtu.be/siyg4oK1C78

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

Altar Servers: Training for new Altar Server's will begin on **Sunday 13th March 2022** after the 9.30am and 11.30am 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.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY 12TH & 13TH March This Family Fast Day, we remember that there are many people who need our love and support all around the world. Children experiencing malnutrition like Amie's daughter Lombeh did in Sierra Leone or as we are seeing now in Ukraine, families affected by conflict. Your small act of love can make big things happen. Donations to CAFOD this Lent will reach families around the world, enabling local experts to provide support to families in times of need or conflict. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/lent

#HELPUKRAINE

EMERGENCY APPEAL

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family

Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in the Diaspora Diocese in Great Britain

Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain

Association of Ukrainian Women in Great Britain

Ukrainian Youth Association in Great Britain

Plast Ukrainian Scouts in Great Britain

Association of Ukrainian Teachers

#HELPUKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL

Ukraine is facing a new threat of invasion from Russia. Seven years of war have already left Ukraine with 14,000 dead soldiers and civilians, with an additional 1.4 million forced to flee their homes.

A further Russian invasion will be catastrophic for the civilian population. The elderly, vulnerable, children and families are at risk of losing their homes and access to medical and other vital services. The psychological trauma of war will affect generations.

Our Ukrainian Churches and community organisations have united to work with accredited and registered Ukrainian charities to provide medicines, food and critical services to support the most vulnerable to overcome the consequences and trauma of war.

We are asking all our members, communities and supporters to do everything they can to raise funds to **#HELPUKRAINE**. Donations will be used to fund immediate emergency and ongoing needs, including for example:

£8	2 woollen blankets for individuals or emergency shelters
£23	A food and hygiene pack for one adult for a month or 30 thermal foil blankets for emergency use
£70	A food and hygiene pack for a family of 4 for a month
£500	Towards crisis counselling, support services, and children's services
£1,500	A basic emergency medicine pack for 1,000 people for 3 months
£3,700	Medicine and pharmaceutical pack for 10,000 people for 3 months

The more we collect, the more we'll be able to help – particularly with the longer-term impacts of hostilities, displacement and poverty on families, children, the elderly and those with special needs.

The food, hygiene and medical packs comply with specifications set by the World Food Programme, UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (IEHK 2017).

If the crisis passes, the emergency medicine/food/hygiene packs that you have helped to buy will be released to hospitals and to Ukrainian accredited charitable organisations for distribution to those in desperate need.

How to donate:

- Through parishes and branches of partner organisations
- Direct to the central appeal fund
  AUGB Ltd, 80038237, 20-65-89, with reference **HelpUkraine**
- Through our fundraising page on GoFundMe by following the link or by scanning the QR code to the left with your smart device.
  https://rb.gy/dcqecc



Sunday 6TH MARCH 2022
+1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear Parishioners,

'Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.'

In this week's Gospel for the first Sunday of Lent we hear that Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, the Creator of the Universe, the great I AM, the second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, is in the desert, suffering for forty days while He is tempted by the devil and living among the wild beasts. Why would He do this and why would God the Father allow it to happen? We are also told that it was the Holy Spirit who drove Jesus into the desert to experience this painful 40 days! What can we learn from this? We can learn that God loves us so much that Jesus was willing to endure every form of hardship and human suffering that can enter our lives. It's about God being able to say to us "Yes, I do understand your lives." This is a love so deep that God Himself was willing to experience our weaknesses and pain, through Jesus, so that we would be able to meet him there, that he may console us in the midst of whatever we are going through, and gently lift us out of it to the new life He has in store for us. The Holy Spirit "led" and even "drove" Jesus out into the desert. This was a way of telling us that this experience was the plan and will of God. It wasn't something imposed upon Jesus by some unforeseen circumstances. It was suffering for a purpose and it is aligned with the intentional suffering that Jesus eventually endures for us on the Cross. Jesus is able to meet us in the desert and in the Cross. He is there, waiting for us, looking for us, calling to us. Jesus is there in the midst of anything and everything we or our world may be going through. And it is Jesus, the One who defeated temptation in the desert and who defeated evil on the Cross, who will guide us out. Whether our "desert" is what we are personally experiencing or our severe concerns for the restoration of peace in these troubled times, Jesus wants us to place our trust and faith in his strength and his victory. Jesus conquered the desert once and for all, and He is able to conquer any desert in our life and our world.

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.

Ukraine Emergency Appeal Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Poland are working on the ground. The Ukrainian Catholic Church in the UK and Ukrainian Cultural organizations have organized an appeal. Please see the details of which are included in this Parish Newsletter.