

St Thomas More Catholic Church

27th MARCH 2022, +4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER DIRECT INTO YOUR INBOX!



*Blessings to all mothers in the parish on this
Mothering Sunday.
Happy Mother's Day!*

MASS INTENTIONS +4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 27TH MARCH

6:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) CHRISSIE KEANE RIP A & FAMILY
09:30AM EILEEN BRADY RIP A
11:30AM MARY SHEILA FITZGERALD RIP LD

MONDAY 28TH MARCH

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INTS OF ALEXANDRIANA INGLIS

TUESDAY 29TH MARCH

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

WEDNESDAY 30TH MARCH

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM JOHN ISSAC RIP

THURSDAY 31ST MARCH

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

FRIDAY 1ST APRIL

09:00 CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INT HILDA MINOLI
FOLLOWED BY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

SATURDAY 2ND APRIL

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM PETER SNELL RIP

FOLLOWED BY

*EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, BENEDICTION &
CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS*

+4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 3RD APRIL

6:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) KATHY O'BRIEN, TED & PHYLLIS
MCGOLDRICK RIP A
09:30AM GERRY BRADY RIP A
11:30AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Please remember our sick parishioners in your

prayers: Ed Gorman, Fr Duncan Adamson, Eileen Ferris, Katie Murchan, Pedro Johns, Paula Wazny, Daisy Cunningham, Bianca Malheiros-Fauz, Kundan Singhoraya, Sarah Dunning, Peggy McMahan and Dolores 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: Simone Guibaud, Kathleen Morris, Margaret Cunningham, Henry (Jim) Powley, Ruby Bastiampillai, Timothy Asservathan, Frances Reynolds, Ian Fitzgerald, Kathleen Quinn, Patrick O'Rourke & John Molloy.

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time: Freya Edwards, Aza Walsh, Lois Mattingley, Jim Higgins, Maria McKay, Steve Howley Snr, Derek Honeygold and Eileen Brady.

Children's Liturgy: Bertie and Leaf learn about God's love for us and how he forgives us when we say we are sorry if we have done something wrong. Bertie is very pleased about this because although he tries hard, he just can't seem to keep off the biscuits in Lent. He is sorry and is going to try extra hard this week. https://youtu.be/qVxH8Lz_drQ

The LIFE ASCENDING group meet on **Wednesday 6th April 2022** at 2.30pm in the Library. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years. Please do come along.

Food Bank: Next collection Tuesday 29th March 2022.



Sunday 27TH MARCH 2022
+4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear Parishioners,

‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you’

This Sunday in the Gospel we read the parable of the Prodigal Son. We know the story well. It is everyone's story. In forsaking the inheritance of being true children of God we often exchange it for a life of desolation in a 'far off land'. However, like the wayward son, we can learn from our mistakes and eventually come to our senses. What happens to a person who consistently follows the path of sin? In the case of the prodigal son, he eventually reaped the fruit of his sin. He found that his sin left him destitute and alone. He didn't know where to turn. And though our sins may not be to the extent of this son, we will all experience the empty effects of the sins we commit, just as this son did. The profound insight we can gain from this son is that he did come around. Specifically, by 'coming to his senses' he recognised two important things. First, he realised that he was worth more than a life of destitution. By seeing his own dignity, he came to realise that he was made for more. Secondly, he knew he could return to his father. The reason he knew he could turn to his father was that his father clearly loved him with unconditional love. The mercy in the heart of the father was so strong that the son was aware of it and this awareness gave him confidence to return to him. As we approach the celebration of Easter, we are drawn once again into contemplation of the infinite mercy of God revealed through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This mystery has intimately personal and far-reaching universal implications. For our part the path to peace and for a better world will always begin in our own desire to 'come to our senses'. Let us pray for peace at this time that all people will hear this call and return to the way of love. There is no mention of a mother in the parable of Jesus, maybe she could have helped the son see the error of his ways sooner. Let us pray in thanksgiving for all mothers this week, that their loving example will help us walk the way of truth and goodness in our lives.

God bless, you

Fr Martin

Easter Flower Donations: Your help in the purchase of flowers to make our sanctuary look even more beautiful as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, is greatly appreciated. Donations can be put in an envelope and marking it for “Easter Flowers” and placed in the collection basket. Alternatively, you can donate through the Dona Contactless Device in the entrance of the Church. Please select ‘Easter Flowers Offering’ on the device when making your donation. Thank you for your support.

Lenten Penance Service - Tuesday 5th April at 7pm. There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confession in the parish on Tuesday 5th April at 7pm here in the church. There will be four priests available to hear confessions and an opportunity to reflect together on God's divine mercy and the gift of new life through repentance and forgiveness. This will be a very fitting way to prepare for the great feast of Easter by following the teaching of the Church that we should confess our sins to a priest at least once each year. There will also be a Deanery Penance Service at Sacred Heart, Ruislip on **Monday 11th April at 7:30pm.**

Good Friday 15th April 2022. There will be a Stations of the Cross Service for children at 10am. This will be different from our usual service but will involve the children as much as possible and will make the way of the Cross understandable to them. We invite families to “adopt” a Station. If you do this, your children will be enabled to take an active part in the service with your support. Please sign the paper form in the porch by 10th April (Palm Sunday) and I will contact you during Holy week to give you more details. If you have any questions please email jinglese@btinternet.com Thank you, Jane Inglese.

*Act of Consecration
to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Basilica of Saint Peter
25 March 2022*

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (*Jn* 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (*Jn* 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.