

# St Thomas More Catholic Church

SUNDAY 04<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022, +2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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**\*\*100 club membership\*\***

Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Marian Melhuish, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize J Becker-Hansen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Kathleen Nodes

## MASS INTENTIONS +2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2022

06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) MAURICE HORGAN RIP A

09:30AM JOANNA BARRY RIP LD

11:30AM MICHAEL SOIKA RIP LD

### MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2022

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM INT CHRISTINA ETUKA

### TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2022

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM INT MARY JORDAN

### WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2022

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:00AM MARY MCINERNEY RIP LD

### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY- THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2022

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

THE ROSARY & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

09:30AM PATRICK O'ROURKE RIP A

### FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2022

09:00 CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM INT SHEILA JONES

### SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2022

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

*FOLLOWED BY*

*EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & CONFESSIONS*

*AFTER MASS*

### +THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2022

06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) IAN FITZGERALD RIP A

09:30AM BERNIE MINOLI RIP A

11:30AM INT ERYL D'SOUZA

**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)

## Please remember our sick parishioners in your prayers:

Mary Cullen, Mary Richards, Audrey Farrell, Phyllis O'Brien, James Bradley, Eileen Ferris, Katie Murchan, Paula Wazny, Daisy Cunningham, Bianca Malheiros-Fauz, Kundan Singhoraya and Sarah Dunning; and those in our local nursing homes especially Kitty Goldie, Moira Bennett, Dolores Walsh, Sarah Joyce and Katie Loftus. For our housebound parishioners, especially Peggy McMahon, & Norma Kolakowska.

*Please let us know if you wish to add or remove any names on the sick list.*

For those who have died recently Michael Soika, Rita McDonnell, Jack Mace & John Barrett.

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time Joseph & Bernard O'Shea, Mary O'Reilly, Jack Keating, Margaret Newton, Albert Gray, Margaret Rist & Derek Miles.

## CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS TIMES

### CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

6PM FAMILY MASS- INT CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

10PM NIGHT MASS- FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

### CHRISTMAS DAY

#### + THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD MASS

10:30AM

INT IN THANKSGIVING FR MARTIN PLUNKETT

### ST STEPHENS DAY MASS

09:30AM

INT IN THANKSGIVING FOR ALTAR SERVERS

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**Mass Notice-**Fr Martin will celebrate Mass on The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 09:30am.



SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022

+ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear Parishioners

*A voice cries in the wilderness: 'Prepare a way for the Lord...'*

On the Second Sunday of Advent this week we hear about John the Baptist, preaching in the desert and fulfilling the words of Isaiah's prophecy. John is the voice crying into the 'wilderness' of this world and of people's hearts and calling them to return to the right path. Advent is a time of preparation, of starting all over again. As Christians we are being prepared all life long, if we desire, to be made ready to spend eternity with God in heaven. Every second counts! This was especially true when John was preparing the people to welcome the Messiah that they had been longing for, for so long. Before the Church calls us to gather in peace and wonder around the crib in Bethlehem, she asks us to look at our hearts and our lives, to 'prepare a way for the Lord'. Jesus came to reveal the infinite love of God for each of us, so that we could rediscover our true identity as children of his that he loves. It took the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross to open up the way in the wilderness of this world, so that evil, sin and death could be defeated for us. God wants to make of our hearts a true oasis, a paradise of love, but he needs our cooperation to transform our deserts into fertile ground. Let us reflect, at this time on all that we want to bring to God this Christmas. The greatest gift we can ever give to him is our love. In this season of repentance we begin by acknowledging that in humbly asking for God's mercy and desiring to grow in holiness we do give to God a beautiful expression of our love.

God bless you,  
*Fr Martin*

**Advent Penitential Service Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm** – to help us prepare for the coming feast of Christmas we will be hosting a parish service of repentance and mercy this Advent. Visiting priests will be available for the Sacrament of Confession, after we reflect on the theme of God's forgiveness and pardon during a time of reflection with Scripture and prayer. The Church has always taught that all believers are to make a sacramental confession with a priest at least once each liturgical year. This is a perfect opportunity to do this! All are welcome.



**Christmas Evening Song - Saturday 3rd December 7:30pm.** An evening of Christmas song led by the St Thomas More Folk Group. Doors open at 7pm and Singing commences at 07:30pm. Free entry. Donations welcome to the Ukraine appeal. Please bring along your own food, refreshments, crockery and utensils for your own table. Everyone welcome. Please see sign up sheet in the Narthex.

**Churches Together in Eastcote** will hold the United Carol Service in our church on **Monday 12th December at 8pm.** You are warmly invited to this special occasion, when we extend a welcome to our fellow Christians from the local community. Please join us for readings, carols and music and for refreshments afterwards. This is always a lovely service and we hope you will want to support it.

**Experience Carer available** - also trained in Pastoral Care (Spiritual Counselling) looking for care work in Eastcote, Pinner area. Part time, hourly wages and reference's available. If you require help, please contact Parish office on 0208 866 6581 or email [eastcote@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:eastcote@rcdow.org.uk).



**Advent Carol Service** to be held on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December** at **3pm** in the church and the Service will continue outside for a few more carols around the fire pit! Along with Mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies! Please do come along to celebrate, everyone welcome. Please remember to bring along a torch/own candle. Children will be offered a battery powered candle for the outside service.

If you would like to volunteer to help set up from 1:30pm on the day, please contact the parish office [eastcote@rcdwow.org](mailto:eastcote@rcdwow.org). or phone 0208 866 6581.



### **CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> WEEKEND OF ADVENT**



St Thomas More has a wonderful tradition of beautiful flowers adorning our Altar and around the church for Christmas Services. The flower team are currently planning in preparation of their wonderful creations. The Parish welcome donations towards to the cost and if you would like to contribute there will be an opportunity to donate at the second collection on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you.

**Marys Meal** –would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity. We spoke at the end of each Mass last weekend and were delighted surprised by the total given – a terrific £668.12! This will feed 42 children one good meal every school day for a whole year.

However, our '**Double the Love**' campaign means all donations (up to £1.5 million before 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2023) will be matched so the parish effectively doubles the number of children being fed from 42 to 84! Please continue to pray for our work. God bless you all.

**The Life Ascending Group** meeting next on **Wednesday 14<sup>TH</sup> December** at **2.30pm** in the Library and every fortnight thereafter. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years. Please come along on Wednesday.

**St Luke's Pinner Morning of reflection Preparing the Way for the Lord... Step into the Season of Advent.** Join us for a Morning of Reflection led by Fr John Hemer MHM on **Saturday 3rd December** at St. Luke's Church, Pinner. A very engaging speaker, Fr John will present a series of three talks from 10:30am to about 1:30pm with a time for Confessions. Fr. John is a Mill Hill missionary priest who hails from Liverpool and has done missionary work in Pakistan, Kenya and Uganda. He now is a full-time lecturer on Sacred Scripture at Allen Hall. You are very welcome to come for all or part of the morning.

**Connex Community** presents **Cinderella Christmas Pantomime** on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December** in the Parish hall from 09:30am. Tickets £5 including a light refreshment. Everyone welcome. Please see poster in the narthex for further information.

**Accommodation required:** A St Thomas More Family are looking to move house within Eastcote, to rent either a 1- or 2-bedroom house/apartment. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help and for further information, email: [eastcote@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:eastcote@rcdow.org.uk) or telephone 0208 866 6581. References available.

**Hillingdon Food bank:** Next Collection **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. Please see Advent Calendar items required in Narthex.

**SVP Summer Raffle 2022 update.** There were 17 lucky winners in this year's SVP Summer Raffle. Many thanks to the 465 Conferences and five St Vincent's community support center's who took part in making this a great success. They will soon receive their share from every ticket sold minus expenses.

The lucky winner of the £5,000 top prize, Irene Nicholson, an SVP member from St Edward Kettering, and recently retired as Conference treasurer, said on hearing the news: "I never win anything and buy a ticket every year. I am happy to publish my name and for others to hear my story as it will encourage others to do the same next year."

While the second £1,000 prize winner, Sue Short, didn't remember buying her ticket when St Vincent de Paul Society was mentioned, she remembered an SVP member from her prayer group selling her a ticket. She was overjoyed with her win. It came just in time for a family reunion. She said: "I never win anything, I can't believe it."

The other lucky winners, collecting £100 each, are geographically spread throughout Conferences in England & Wales – St William, Trimdon - Our Lady Queen of Peace, Llanelli - St Mary & St Margaret, Ulverston - St Anselm, Southall - John Fisher, North Harrow - St Aidan, Kingsthorpe (x2) - Our Lady & English Martyrs, Cambridge - St Chad, South Norwood (x2) - St Vincent's, Ely Bridge - Holy Family, Sale - St Patrick, Stockton - St John the Evangelist, Mongeham and Sacred Heart, Leighton Buzzard.

Congratulations to all our winners. We look forward to next year's SVP Summer Raffle 2023

**St Vincent De Paul Society:** The next SVP meeting will take place on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022.** If you would like to find out more about the work they do please join them after the 9.30am Mass in the Library room, at 10:45am.

**MISSIO RED BOX** As the end of the year is approaching, the Missio collection will need to be counted up and submitted. Please can parishioners who collect money for the Missio Red boxes return them to Liz Tuohy or to the Sacristy as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.

**Church Cleaning Team-** Reminder of the next cleaning date will be **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 9:15am.** Please check narthex for dates and details of how to join team and sign up sheet in the Narthex

**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/sacramental-prep/receiving-the-sacraments/>

Please return application and Medical forms to the Parish Office by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.** More information on the format of the programme will follow shortly in the parish newsletter.

**Car Security-** Please be aware that a car was broken into on Monday evening in the Church car park. A number of items from the car were stolen. Please remember to not display or leave any items of value in your car. Either hide or take them with you. Your mobile phone, coins for the car park, sunglasses, packs of medication or other items that can earn quick cash are irresistible to the opportunist thief.





**Free  
Entry!**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
St. Thomas More Parish Hall  
Doors open 7.00pm  
Singing starts 7.30pm

**Donations to the Ukraine  
Appeal Welcome**

# **An Evening of Christmas Song**



**Led by the St. Thomas More Folk Group**

There will be an interval - bring food, drink, crockery and utensils for your own table.

Sign-up list in the Church narthex. Please let us know how many people you will be bringing so we can set up tables and chairs accordingly.

