

St Thomas More Catholic Church

SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2022, +4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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****100 club membership****
Good luck to all the members!!

MASS INTENTIONS +FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2022

06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) MICHAEL KEATING RIP LD

09:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

11:30AM MARY CULLINANE RIP A

3:00PM CHRISTMAS ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2022

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM INT PAT FAILLE

TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2022

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM INT SYLVESTER THARAMALINGAM

WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2022

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:00AM BETTY & DEREK RIP A

THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2022

10:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

THE ROSARY & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2022

09:00 CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM MARY TOMLINSON RIP A

CHRISTMAS EVE SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2022

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM ADAM SCIBOR RIP

06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) – INT CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

(CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASS)

10PM INT FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH (NIGHT MASS)

FOLLOWED BY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & CONFESSIONS

AFTER MASS

+THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)

SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2022

10:30AM INT FR MARTIN PLUNKETT IN THANKSGIVING

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:

Loreto Berry, 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 recently died Nelson Dias

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time

Charles Gattey, Josephine O'Brien, Mary Cullinane & Reginald Keen, Mary Tomlinson & Jenny Skwirzynska.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS ADVENT CAROL SERVICE,

SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER

3PM SERVICE FOLLOWED BY MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES
AROUND THE FIREPIT ALONG WITH FURTHER CAROLS.

CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER

6PM FAMILY MASS- INT CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

10PM NIGHT MASS-INT FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

CHRISTMAS DAY

+ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD MASS

10:30AM

INT FR MARTIN PLUNKETT IN THANKSGIVING

ST STEPHENS DAY MASS

09:30AM

INT FOR ALTAR SERVERS IN THANKSGIVING



SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2022

+ 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear Parishioners

‘... you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’

As we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent this week, we focus ever more directly upon the wonder that took place over 2,000 years ago: the birth of Jesus Christ, as our Messiah and Saviour. In this week's Gospel we hear the words of the angel to St Joseph, describing the nature of the extraordinary child who was coming to the world. The Blessed Virgin Mary conceived this child through the Holy Spirit while betrothed to Joseph. St Joseph, described as 'a righteous man', didn't understand how this could be. Mary's virtue and goodness would have appeared to contradict the possibility of her being with child. However, God's plan was so much greater than anything Joseph could comprehend. The Incarnation of the Son of God within the womb of his Our Lady required supernatural understanding. Joseph listened in the dream and believed by the interior revelation of faith that this incredible reality was true. God's wisdom and ways are always far beyond ours. The mystery surrounding this unique life didn't stop at the circumstances of his birth. After such a wonderful beginning, who could really grasp that this extraordinary child would grow up and give his life, crucified between two criminals, as the price of the world's redemption? The life of faith requires a constant desire to see the mystery of God's plan working through our human stories. If we are to walk by the same faith that St Joseph had, then we too are called to accept the most sublime mysteries in life and allow God's revealing word to clarify them. Let us reflect today upon any way that we feel challenged by life's circumstances. What tempts us to doubt, to be confused, or to feel uncertain? What is it that requires supernatural knowledge on our part to embrace? If God the Father chose to bring forth His divine Son in such a mysterious way, then we should not be surprised when God calls us to embrace similar mysteries in life. Let us walk by faith. Let us be inspired by the example of Our Lady and St Joseph, saying 'Yes' to all that God is asking of us.

God bless you,

Fr Martin



We will have our usual Children's Mass of Christmas at **6pm** on **Christmas Eve**. All the children are invited to come and take part by dressing as a **shepherd** or **angel**. Please come early to this service as the church gets very full! Thank you for your support. Children's Liturgy Team.

Crib Offering 2022- Catholic Children Society Each year many parishes very kindly donate their Crib Offering to support the work of the Catholic Children's Society. This enables us to provide vital support for disadvantaged children and families.

We are determined to be there for families in their time of need and we know many parishioners are keen to help. We would be extremely grateful for any donation you are able to make and will ensure this goes directly towards supporting local families in need. To make a donation please [click here](https://www.cathchild.org.uk/donate) and add 'Crib' in the optional message box. <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/donate>. Alternatively you may place your crib offering in the box located near the Crib in the Church. Thank you for helping disadvantaged children and families this Christmas.

Parish Confirmation Registration 2023: 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. Please return application and Medical forms to the Parish Office by **15th January 2023**. More information on the format of the programme will follow shortly in the parish newsletter.



Christmas Advent Carol Service

Our parish service will take place on **Sunday 18th December** at **3pm**, followed by mulled wine and mince pies around the firepit as we sing some further carols. Please bring a torch with you and wrap up warm. Children will be given battery candles. It is always a lovely occasion to share together, as we prepare for Christmas.

To help decorate for the occasion, we need some outdoor Christmas lights and some helpers to set up. If you are able to either loan some lights and or help to hang them in the car park area, please let the Parish Office know. We will be setting up from 1.30pm on the day. parish office eastcote@rcdwow.org. or phone 0208 866 6581.

Connex Community Coffee morning Monthly Coffee/Tea Club People Connex welcomes you back for another at St Thomas More Parish Hall for Refreshments and Activities provided by Community Connex 12:30-13:30 on **Sunday 18th December**. Please do come along and enjoy a cuppa and a chat, everyone is welcome after the 11:30am mass.

Connex Community presents **Cinderella Christmas Pantomime** on **Wednesday 21st 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.

We would like to hear from any parishioners that can help with serving tea/coffee before the Pantomime commences from 09:30am. Please contact the Parish office on 0208 866 65 81 or email eastcote@rcdow.org.uk.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION Thank you to everyone that contributed over the past few weeks for the Christmas Flowers. The parish raised **£459.38**, thank you once again for your generosity and support.

St Vincent De Paul Society: The next SVP meeting will take place on **Sunday 8th January 2023**. 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.

The Life Ascending Group meeting next on **Wednesday 11th January 2023** at **2.30pm** in the Library and will every fortnight thereafter. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years. Please come along on Wednesday.

Church Cleaning Team- Reminder of the next cleaning dates will be **Thursday 15th December at 7pm** and **Thursday 22nd at 09:15am**. Please do check narthex for dates and details of how to join team and sign up sheet in the Narthex.

PIGEON HOLE MAIL BOX The pigeon hole mail box located in the entrance of the church is for the parish to utilise for any internal mail or Christmas cards they wish to send to fellow parishioners. Please remember to check if there is any post for you on your way out after mass

Hillingdon Food bank: Next Collection **Tuesday 10th January 2022**. Please see Advent Calendar items required in Narthex.