

St Thomas More Catholic Church

SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY 2023, +THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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!



****100 club membership****

Good luck to all the members!! Winners to be announced this weekend!

MASS INTENTIONS

+ THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY

06:00PM (SATURDAY VIGIL) EDDIE MOLLOY RIP

09:30AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

11:30AM FRANK TUOHY RIP

MONDAY 9TH JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM MARY MCINERNEY RIP LD

TUESDAY 10TH JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM FR ANTON MATTHIAS RIP

WEDNESDAY 11TH JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:00AM PATRICK O'ROURKE RIP

THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY

10:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

THE ROSARY & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY 13TH JANUARY

09:00 CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM INT MARY CULLEN

SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM OLIVER MCSHANE & DANNY MCSHANE RIP A

FOLLOWED BY

*EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT &
CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS*

+ 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 15TH JANUARY

06:00PM (SATURDAY VIGIL) ALICE CLIFFORD RIP

09:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

11:30AM SHIRLEY MCGOWAN RIP LD

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: 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 Patrick Joseph O'Neil.

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time Frank Tuohy, Mary & Patrick Tobin and Francis Reynolds.

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 12th January at 09:15am and Thursday 19th at 7pm** Please do check narthex for dates and details of how to join team and sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Hillingdon Food bank: Next Collection **Tuesday 10th January 2022**.



SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY
+THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Dear Parishioners

‘This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.’

This Sunday we conclude our Christmastide as we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. This Gospel marks the beginning of the public ministry of our Saviour. John the Baptist, the forerunner, was preparing the way for Jesus by preaching repentance and baptising people in the Jordan as they acknowledged their sins. John also proclaimed that one greater than he would come afterwards and “baptise with the Holy Spirit” (Mark 1:8). Why did Jesus choose to be baptised? Jesus was not baptised for forgiveness of sins, since He was sinless. Still, in this act, He showed His solidarity with sinful humanity and gave indication of His role as Saviour. Also this event expresses Christ’s anointing as the Messiah. It also reveals the true identity of Jesus as the Son of God through the voice coming from Heaven. Finally, Jesus’ baptism prefigures the Sacrament of Baptism that He would institute, in which we receive the Holy Spirit and are adopted as children of God, while also being cleansed of our sins. As we mourn the death of our former Pope Benedict this week may we pray he will be born into eternal life and that our own baptism may give us the grace of new birth both now and in eternity.

God bless you

Fr Martin

Crib Offering 2022- Catholic Children Society Thank you for helping disadvantaged children and families this Christmas. The Parish so far have raised **£458.63!** We received a large donation in a GIFT aid Envelope however the envelope was left blank, if you were the donor and a UK tax payer the Catholic Children Society would benefit from an extra 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 donated. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to give details. Many thanks for your support as always.

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. 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 **15th January 2023**. More information on the format of the programme will follow shortly in the parish newsletter.

Connex Community Coffee Next Connex Coffee morning will be held on **Wednesday 25th January** after 09:30am mass in the Parish Hall. Everyone welcome!

PIGEON HOLE MAIL BOX Please remember to check if there is any post for you on your way out after mass.

Inquiry in to assisted suicide

Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good, and so it is crucial that as many people as possible engage with the Parliamentary Inquiry and oppose the introduction of assisted suicide into UK law. It is especially important that those who respond should oppose the idea of a 'Citizens' Assembly' or referendum on this issue, as these are easily abused to try to legalise assisted suicide.

Pope Francis has constantly taught against assisted suicide, euphemistically called, 'assisted dying', as have earlier pontiffs.

"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect." (*Pope Francis, Message to Catholics participating in Day for Life in Britain and Ireland, July 28, 2013*) "Physician-assisted suicide is part of a "throwaway culture" that offers a "false compassion" and treats a human person as a problem... True compassion does not marginalise anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude - much less considers the death of a person as a good thing." (*Pope Francis, Address to Directors of the Orders of Physicians of Spain and Latin America, June 2016*)

"More and more lonely elderly people exist in big cities, even in situations of serious illness and close to death. In such situations, the pressure of euthanasia is felt, especially when a utilitarian vision of the person creeps in. In this regard, I take this opportunity to reaffirm once again the firm and constant ethical condemnation of every form of direct euthanasia, in accordance with the Church's centuries-old teaching." (*Pope Benedict XVI, February 25 2008*)

As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them always to embrace life?" (*St. Pope John Paul II*)

The Catholic Church is clear that we can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it. All life is sacred from conception until natural death, and we reiterate our call for investment in high quality palliative care. Our call is one for assistance in living and not assistance in committing suicide.

Statements of the Bishops' Conference can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/life-issues/assisted-dying/>

The Anscombe Centre can also help the response. They have produced a statement and resources about this Inquiry: <https://bioethics.org.uk/news-events/news-from-the-centre/anscombe-centre-statement-on-commons-hsc-committee-inquiry-into-assisted-suicide/>.

The timeframe for answering the consultation is a short one. Submissions must be in by Friday 20 January but happily the format of the Inquiry is simple, and not time-consuming – just six questions. To aid public engagement, the Anscombe Bioethics Centre has [produced a short two-page Briefing](#) (attached) to help anyone interested in responding, whether as an individual or as an organisation. The relevant links for the questionnaire and for longer responses are included in this document.

Anyone with any questions can contact the Anscombe Centre at admin@bioethics.co.uk.

Be assured of my prayers, as we mourn the death of Pope Benedict XVI and pray for the repose of his soul,
+John

Bishop John Sherrington

Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster