St Thomas More Catholic Church

SUNDAY 15TH JANUARY 2023, +2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

+ 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

MONDAY 16TH JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM DAVID CULLEN RIP

TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INT GEORGE BHATTI

WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:00AM INT THE GIBNEY FAMILY

THURSDAY 19TH JANUARY

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

FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY
09:00 CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM JAMES TOMLINSON RIP A

SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM MARY MCINERNEY RIP
FOLLOWED BY
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS

+ 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 22ND JANUARY

06:00PM (SATURDAY VIGIL) PADDY MOLLOY RIP
09:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11:30AM EDWARD & MICHAEL MURCHAN RIP A

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: Bill Smyth, 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 whose Anniversaries occur around this time Victoria Gattey, Emile Potts and John Carey.

St Vincent De Paul Society The next SVP meeting will take place on **Sunday 22nd January 2023,** after 9.30am Mass in the Library room, at 10:45am.

The Life Ascending Group meeting next on **Wednesday 25TH 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 19th January at 7pm and Thursday 2nd February at 9:15am.** Please do check narthex for dates and details of how to join team and sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Hillingdon Food bank: Thank you for all your generous donations the past month.

Save the Date Pinner Folk & Blues will be presenting a musical play with Chiltern Folk Assoc, in the Parish Hall on **Wednesday 22nd February**. Please see poster in Narthex for further information. Proceeds will be donated to Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

the Pastor's corner

SUNDAY 15TH JANUARY
+2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Parishioners,

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

In the Gospel, on this Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, we hear St John the Baptist call Jesus the 'Lamb of God.' St John knew, by divine revelation, that Jesus would become the sacrificial Lamb who would lay down his life for the salvation of the world. John's role was always to point towards this sacred mission of the Messiah. Today, through Holy Mass we receive the body and blood of this same Messiah sacramentally in Holy Communion. Before this most sacred of moments in our life the priest will say 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.' This is the flesh and blood of Jesus, given for us, that we can now consume with the deepest reverence and love. Now we begin this season of Ordinary Time, which will carry us into all the celebrations of this coming liturgical year, especially the Paschal mystery of Our Lord's death and resurrection at Easter. We will be invited during this time to come to know the Lamb of God more fully through His many teachings, miracles and actions done during his public ministry. We are encouraged to give him our lives and our love, to surrender to him all that we are grateful for and all we may struggle with and suffer from. Let us reflect today upon the familiar words of St John the Baptist prayerfully pondering all that we now know about these holy words. Let us reflect especially upon the suffering and death of the Lamb of God and the way in which he has transmitted his saving sacrifice to us in Holy Communion. What a gift! What a mystery! What a joy! Let us behold the Lamb of God within our hearts and seek to know him more fully this day.

God bless you

Fr Martin

Inquiry into assisted suicide – A public inquiry is being held to gather the views of the public concerning proposed legislation to facilitate assisted suicide in this country. The Anscombe Centre has produced a short two-page Briefing as a guide to form a response. The link for the inquiry can be found in the document. Please see this week's newsletter online or in the printed handouts to read the guidance of the Diocese from Bishop John Sherrington.

Big Thank You from Fr Martin - I hope to convey in person how grateful I have been over this Christmas period to receive such warm and gracious wishes from parishioners and also such generous gifts and signs of appreciation. If I *overlook* thanking someone please know that I am very grateful for all the kindness I have been shown. Please be assured of my thanks and prayers in response. God bless you. Fr Martin

Caritas Parish Reps Launch -Caritas Representatives are our key contacts in parishes to share news of local opportunities for mission and outreach, networking, training and formation in Catholic Social Teaching. They help put up posters, raise awareness in the parish and with local schools, they let us know about local need, provide information on the amazing community outreach and share data and stories so that we can work together towards social justice. If you would like to find out further information please click on the following link https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/parish-social-action.php

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

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