

St Thomas More Catholic Church

SUNDAY 26th MARCH 2023, +5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

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!! Winners to be announced this weekend.

MASS INTENTIONS + 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 26TH MARCH

06:00PM (SATURDAY VIGIL) KATHY O'BRIEN RIP A, TED & PHYLLIS MCGOLDRICK RIP A

09:30AM EILEEN BRADY RIP A

11:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

MONDAY 27TH MARCH

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM INT NEEL & NIKHIL PATEL

TUESDAY 28TH MARCH

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM JOHN WILLIAMSON RIP

WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:00AM ALFIE CORREA RIP

THURSDAY 30TH MARCH

10:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

ROSARY & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY 31ST MARCH

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM AIDA MILLAR RIP LD

FOLLOWED BY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

07:00PM LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

SATURDAY 1ST APRIL

09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN

09:30AM POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI RIP

FOLLOWED BY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS

+PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 2ND APRIL

06:00PM (SATURDAY VIGIL) IN THANKSGIVING MADALINE & BERNARD LUCKHURST

09:30AM IN THANKSGIVING SANDY BYRNE

11:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

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: Yvonne Grasso, Hilda Minoli, 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 Rajan Bastian Pillai.

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this

time Stanley Fry, William Patrick Johns, Freya Edwards, Aza Walsh, Lois Mattingley, Jim Higgins, Maria McKay, Steve Howley (senior), Derek Honeygold & Eileen Brady.

St Vincent De Paul Society The next SVP meeting will take place on **Sunday 2nd April** after 9.30am Mass in the Library room, at 10:45am. Westminster Diocese Festival.

The Life Ascending Group meeting next on **Wednesday 5th April**, 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 6th April at 09:30am and Thursday 13th April at 7:00pm** Please do check narthex for dates and details of how to join team, sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Daylight Saving Reminder- Please remember that on **Saturday 26th March at 1:00am** the clocks go forward 1 hour to mark the beginning of British Summer time!



SUNDAY 26TH MARCH 2023
+5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear Parishioners,

“Lazarus, come out!”

On this 5th Sunday of Lent, as we approach the great feast of Easter, we hear about the raising of Lazarus from his grave. This extraordinary and undeniable miracle shows us that Jesus truly is the Lord of Life. The Scriptures overall help us to understand that death and sin bare a relation. When evil was allowed to enter through the choices of our first parents, death also came into God’s creation. At Easter we will be rejoicing that Jesus, by the gift of his life on the Cross and by his Resurrection, has abolished the hold that evil, sin and death have over us. The Church teaches us that the best way to rejoice fully in this gift is to complete our ‘Easter duties’ in this time of preparation. The death of Lazarus can be seen as symbolic of a soul that has died from sin. When Jesus cries “Lazarus, come out”, Lazarus comes forth but is still bound ‘hand and foot with burial bands.’ We can see in this a symbol of the whole process of confession and the forgiveness of sins. Lazarus’ obedience to the command of Jesus symbolises our response to God to ‘come out’ of the darkness of our sins. Then when Jesus says, “Untie him and let him go,” this speaks to us of the power of the Sacrament of Confession to release us from our sins. Sin keeps us from experiencing already the gift of eternal salvation. This is remedied through Confession and forgiveness. When we sin, we also become attached to that sin and the ongoing temptation to return to it is strengthened. Our humble confession and reception of sacramental absolution strengthens us in the possibility of growing in holiness and virtue instead. Let us reflect today on the compassionate voice of Jesus who calls us to “Come out!” What sin is Jesus calling us to be free from? God desires that we be completely unbound and set free. Let us be open to that grace and do all we can to accept it.

God bless you,
Fr Martin

Lenten Penance Service- There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confession in the parish on **31st March at 7pm** here in the church. There will be three 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 3rd April at 07:30pm**.

Eucharistic Ministers- There will be a sign- up sheet in the Narthex for the Eucharistic Ministers to volunteer over the Easter Period. Please put your name, contact details and time of mass you can attend from Maundy Thursday through to Easter Sunday. Thank you.

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.

ST LUKE’S CHURCH PINNER - “The Master is here and wants to see you” (John 11:28)

To prepare for Holy Week, a Lenten Morning of Recollection will be led by Fr. Gerard Sheehan, a noted spiritual director for priests and lay people, at St. Luke's Parish, Love Lane, Pinner on **Saturday, 1st April** beginning at **10:30am**. Everyone is very welcome.

Planned Giving Drive 2023 Having completed our Planned Giving campaign, and following the words of explanation by Marian from the Finance Committee, please return your completed commitment forms and Gift Aid declarations to the parish office or to one of the offertory collectors at Mass. Your support enables our parish to remain a living church at the centre of this community, welcoming to all and reaching out to those in need, and enables us to provide ministry to the whole parish. It also allows us to plan ahead with confidence to the future. It is important that we pass this parish onto the next generation in good spiritual and financial health. Thank you for all your support.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2023 Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity

Good Friday 7th April 2023.

There will be a **Stations of the Cross Service for children at 10am**. This 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 2nd 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.

Connex Community -Easter Show -Alice in Wonderland- On **Wednesday 29th March** in the Parish Hall from 10-11:30am. All welcome. Please see poster in the narthex notice board for further information.

SAVE THE DATE -CATENIANS QUIZ NIGHT WITH FISH N CHIP FAMILY SUPPER! On Saturday 22nd April, everyone welcome. More information to follow soon.

Parish Office Opening times: Please note there will be a change in the opening time of the Parish office after Easter. The new times will be 09:30am-2pm (Monday- Wednesday only).

Mass Offerings- When completing Mass offerings, please remember that if you are Gift aider, you may use the GIFT AID envelopes provided in the Church Narthex. Please complete in full with contact details and for whom the mass is being offered and date preferred. Thank you.

The Douay Martyrs Catholic Secondary School Examinations Invigilator is looking to recruit a pool of enthusiastic and well organised individuals to join our Examination Invigilation Team. £11.00 per hour. No experience necessary. All enquiries to Ms Ellen Cooney, ecooney@douaymartyrs.co.uk or apply by completing the support staff application forms on our school website www.douaymartyrs.co.uk Closing date for applications: **Monday 3rd April 2023.**