St Thomas More Catholic Church

SUNDAY 21st MAY 2023, +7th SUNDAY OF EASTER, THE ASCENSION 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!

To Donate to the parish online , please scan the QR CODE.THANK YOU

Good luck to all our members!!

MASS INTENTIONS
7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 21ST MAY
06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) IN THANKSGIVING FOR JOHN & LINDA GRIMES
09:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11:30AM IN THANKSGIVING FOR SAFEGUARDING REPS

MONDAY 22ND MAY
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM MR ANICETIO ROQUE BARRETTO RIP

TUESDAY 23RD MAY
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM MR MENINO FERNANDES RIP

WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:00A MR LENIN FERNANDES RIP

THURSDAY 25TH MAY
9:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
ROSARY & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY 26TH MAY
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN FOR MORNING PRAYER
09:30AM MICHAEL FITZGERALD RIP LD

SATURDAY 27TH MAY
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN FOR MORNING PRAYER
09:30AM INT HOLLIE–MAE YOUNG
12:00PM FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS
+ PENTECOST SUNDAY

SUNDAY 28TH MAY
06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) IN THANKSGIVING FOR JOHN GANNON
09:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11:30AM IN THANKSGIVING FOR LIAM HUTCHINSON

Parish Priest: Fr Martin Plunkett
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Parish Administrator *Liz Duignan*
OFFICE OPEN: 09:30AM-2:00PM (Mon-Wed only)

Please remember our sick parishioners in your prayers: Kerri Hepworth, 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 died recently Cora Farrelly, Norman Dosey and Fei Young.

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time Margaret Fry, Luke Kolakowski and Brian Berry.

St Vincent De Paul Society The next SVP meeting will take place on **Sunday 28th May** after 9.30am Mass in the Library room, at 10:45am.

The Life Ascending Group meeting next on **Wednesday 31st May,** 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 25th May 7pm and Thursday 8th June at 9:15am.** Please do check narthex for dates and details of how to join team, sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Hillingdon Food Bank Next collection 23rd May 2023.

Connex Community- Everyone welcome to Coffee morning on **Wednesday 24th May 2023** in the Parish Hall. A Volunteer cook is required to help with the St Thomas More Parish lunches, held bi monthly on Sundays. Working in a team. Contact jeremy.child@communityconnex.co.uk .

the Pastor's corner

SUNDAY 21st MAY 2023

+7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Dear Parishioners,

"Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him."

The passage of the Gospel chosen for this 7th Sunday of Easter comes from the Last Supper. Jesus raises His eyes to Heaven and prays a lengthy prayer to his Father. This is the high priestly prayer by which Jesus acknowledges that His hour has arrived and that it is an hour in which He will glorify the Father. In this prayer, Jesus asks his Father for the disciples to be kept safe from the evils of the world. He also prays for all who would believe in Him and become His followers. Thus, in this prayer Jesus prays for each one of us. This prayer now continues today especially through the celebration of the Holy Mass. In commenting upon this passage, Saint Augustine notes that this prayer is prayed immediately after Jesus told His disciples that they would encounter trouble within the world. Jesus himself was preparing to offer His life on the Cross for the salvation of the world. His total encounter with suffering the effects of evil, sin and death, is the way that Jesus opens up the glory of God for us and for our world. Jesus also sets us an example for how we are to deal with the troubles we encounter in life. We, too, can turn our eyes to heaven and pray to the Father with Jesus. What form of trouble do we experience right now in our life? As we call our struggles to mind, we can remember that Jesus is praying this prayer to the Father for us. In this way we also open ourselves to receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit who brings God's glory and love into our lives. Let us reflect, today, upon the place of the holy sacrifice of the Mass in our lives. The Mass is our 'hour' in which we open up to the life of the Blessed Trinity in our lives. The power of the Mass is infinite. Within the Mass all the grace we need is given to us, and we are invited to share in the glory of God. Let us renew our commitment to the Holy Mass and pray with Our Lady especially this month to help us to follow God's call in our lives.

God bless you,
Fr Martin

RCIA – We hope to be running an RCIA course from this September; the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. This is an opportunity to learn about the wonderful truths and tradition of the Catholic Christian Church with the possible view to being baptised or received into the Church at Easter 2024. This is a very good moment to ask a spouse, friend or neighbour if this might be something they would like to explore, without any initial commitment. We would also like to hear from anyone who would like to be part of the team to help facilitate the course in the parish.

St Oliver Plunkett Symposium - In anticipation of the 400th anniversary of the birth of St Oliver Plunkett in 2025, there will be a symposium on Saturday 10th June at St Wilfrid's Hall at the Brompton Oratory in South Kensington. On the day various speakers will be talking on the witness of St Oliver for the world of today. St Oliver was the last of those martyred for the Catholic Faith in England in 17th Century, he was the only Irishman to give his life on English soil and the only Archbishop. His life is a noble and heroic testimony to a deep love for the Catholic Church and an inspiring example for today's world and the challenges facing those following the Gospel in our times. *Free Entry Eventbrite :* https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bringing-peace-banishing-bitterness-a-symposium-on-st-oliver-plunkett-registration-506735679057

Finance Committee Are you in a position to support Fr Martin and the Finance Committee? We are currently looking for new and enthusiastic members to join our friendly team. This is a valuable example of collaborative ministry. You do not have to be of a financial background. If you would like to hear more, please contact Karen Berry – Chair of the Finance Committee, or speak with Fr. Martin directly.

First Holy Communion: Please note the First Holy Communion Candidates Masses will take place Saturday 20th May & Saturday 27th May at 12pm.

Sudan & South Sudan appeal: Thank you to everyone that donated to the appeal last weekend. The parish raised £124.50.

Eastcote Residents' Association - do come and join us! We warmly invite residents of Eastcote to join us for our forthcoming AGM which will take place on **Tuesday 23rd May 2023** at the St Thomas More Church Hall, Eastcote at 7:30pm. Please see poster in the narthex for further information.

ASCENT So, I've been confirmed - now what?

If you'd like to continue learning about your faith in a relaxed and fun environment, sign up for the ASCENT. The ASCENT is a three year discipleship process for Catholic young people in years 10-13 who want to embrace their faith in Jesus Christ and learn how to share it with others.
Bookings are now open for the group starting in October and full details can be found at www.theascentuk.co.uk. Alternatively please scan QR CODE below.

Visit of Blessed Carlo Acutis's Mother Antonia Salzano, the mother of Blessed Carlo Acutis, is making a short visit to London. On **Wednesday 31st May** from 7.30pm to 9pm at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, Mayfair there will be Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction presided over by Bishop Hudson, especially for young people of the diocese. During this time Antonia will talk about her son's trust and focus on the Lord in the Eucharist. On **Thursday 1st June at 6.30pm** in the Church of Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, there will be a Sung Mass after which Antonia will also talk about her son, his life and his relationship with the Lord. There will also be the opportunity to venerate a relic of Blessed Carlo. All are welcome to both these events.

St Michael's Catholic Grammar School - Open Evening for Secondary Transfer - Monday 26 June 2023

Parents and girls who are interested in taking the entrance tests for St Michael's Catholic Grammar School are invited to visit the school for a guided tour on **Monday 26th June** between 5pm and 7pm. Headteacher talks will be held at 5pm, 6pm and 7pm in The Chapel. Full details of the Admissions Policy can be found on the School's website https://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk/home/admissions/.
The online application to apply to sit the entrance tests for entry in September 2024 is now available https://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk/home/admissions/admissions-2024-25/. The deadline for applications to be completed and Certificate of Catholic Practice provided to the School is 4pm on Tuesday 4th July 2023.

CAFOD- Called to action by our faith–

You are invited to CAFOD's International Office on Saturday 10th June for a short time exploring our faith, why we Campaign & how you can help.
The morning will include guest speakers & a chance for discussion in workshops to explore activities such as Live Simply, Our unfair Food System and Liturgy resources.
The morning will run from 10.30-1pm at CAFOD's Office in Lambeth North SE1. For further information contact Tony tsheen@cafod.org.uk or booking please see https://cafod.org.uk/news/events or Eventbrite **here**.