St Thomas More Catholic Church

SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2023, +22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Good luck to all our members!! Winners will be announced this weekend.

MASS INTENTIONS
+22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TME

SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER
06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) INT PAULINE & STEPHEN HAWES
09:30AM INT NORA AND MICHAEL LYDON
11:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

MONDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM MOIRA BENNETT RIP

TUESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM BILL HANDE RIP

WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INT CHRISTINA ETUKA

THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER
10:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN+
ROSARY AND EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INT PAULINE FITZGERALD

SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER
09:00-11AM CHURCH OPEN
09:30AM INT MR TONY BURROWS
FOLLOWED BY
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS

+23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TME
SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) JOHN PATRICK DONNELY
09:30AM FOR PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11:30AM INT BILL SMYTH

Parish Priest: Fr Martin Plunkett
32 Field End Road, Eastcote, Pinner HA5 2QT
Tel: 0208 866 6581
E-mail: *eastcote@rcdow.org.uk*
Parish Administrator *Liz Duignan*
OFFICE OPEN: 09:30AM-2:00PM (Mon-Wed only)

Please remember our sick parishioners in your prayers; Laura Swan, 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, Kundan Singhoraya and Sarah Dunning; and those in our local nursing homes especially Kitty Goldie, 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
Francisco Alberlado

For those whose Anniversaries occur around this time
Dylan Buckley, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Charles Aggett, George William Barnes and Joan Laurence Smyth.

St Vincent De Paul Society The next SVP meeting will take place on **Sunday 3rd September** after 9.30am Mass in the Library room, at 10:45am. Please note there will be no meetings during the month of August.

The Life Ascending Group meeting next on **Wednesday 6th September** 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 are **Thursday 7th September** at **7pm.** Please do check the Narthex for dates.

Hillingdon Food Bank – Next collection Tuesday 26th September 2023.

the Pastor's corner

SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2023
+22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Parishioners,

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."
In this Sunday's Gospel reading we hear Jesus saying that he is ready and willing to suffer and die for the salvation of the world. Jesus knew that by dying he would transform evil, sin and death into the very means of eternal salvation. Jesus knew that laying down his life in this way was the greatest act of love he could offer; therefore, Jesus didn't hesitate at all. This tells us that, by assuming our human nature, Jesus forged a bond between God and the human race. Then, by sharing in our death, Jesus made it possible for us to cling to him in our own mortality. Finally, by rising from the dead, Jesus made it possible for those who cling to him to share in the resurrection of the body and eternal life. Though we will only fully understand this great mystery of redemption in Heaven, we can grow in our understanding and gratitude for this gift while here on earth. In order to rise with Christ, we are invited to take up our cross each day, deny ourselves the possibility of selfishness and sin, and imitate Jesus' heroic sacrificial gift of his life. This will unite us to Jesus in his death and Resurrection and to the true expression of who we are called to be as children of God made in his image. Let us reflect, today, upon the words 'Take up your cross and follow Me.' This is Jesus' most sacred instruction to us all on how we should live and how we will share in his gift of eternal life. What crosses in our life are we fearful of? What acts of sacrifice do we avoid? True love always has a selfless quality. Let us reflect upon any way that we could be more open to this sublime freedom and truth. May the words of Jesus inspire us so that we will be freed from any fears that keep us back from truly following Jesus.

God bless you, *Fr Martin*

With thanks and blessings for Liz Duignan – many parishioners will have been able to appreciate what an enormous contribution Liz Duignan has made to St Thomas More parish in the 4 years that she has been with us. All those who have encountered her either in the parish office or through other activities in the parish will have been aware of her quiet, calm efficiency, always carried out with a gentle kindness and in helpful supportive way. After only a relatively short while of being in the post, Liz was able to face the challenge of keeping the administrative side of the parish going during the various lockdowns and furlough periods. During an unprecedented and challenging time of uncertainty Liz was a vital source of calm and diligent support, working quietly in the background. As some may be aware, no doubt inspired by the wonderful experience of working in Eastcote, Liz has been offered a post with Westminster Diocese as part of the Parish Support Team! Liz is ideally qualified and very well suited to help other parish administrators around the Diocese and, while we are sad to say good bye to her, we pray for many blessings for her in her new post and express our heartfelt gratitude for all that she has brought to this parish. Thank you, Liz and God bless, you!

Big Thank You- Dear Fr Martin and Parishioners, Thank you very much for all the generous gifts, cards and kind words. I was very touched and really appreciate. Thank you once again for the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful and welcoming parish. I feel very blessed to have worked at St Thomas More Church and to have got to know so many of you. Thank you for your support over the past four years. I will be passing over to Tessa Maude, a former Parish Administrator at St Lawrence C of E church, Eastcote, who will taking over the role. She is a parishioner, so may be known to many of you already. She is looking forward to starting and learning more about supporting the life of the parish. I will keep in touch, so farewell for now and God bless you all. Kindest Regards Liz Duignan

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEEDS A NEW SECRETARY

We are looking for a new secretary for the PPC to replace Cheryl Cardoso, who has stepped down after many years of service.

The PPC advises Fr Martin on the pastoral side of the parish - spiritual growth of children and adults, participation in the work and life of the parish, including through social events and reaching out to others across and outside the parish.

It's a role that offers a deeper insight into the pastoral life of the parish.

The duties of the secretary include thinking ahead to help with the preparation of agendas, attendance and participation at our meetings, producing minutes of our meetings and tracking action points. We meet about three or four times a year for up to 90 minutes. The next meeting is on the evening of 26 September at 8pm.

No particular experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and a willingness to be involved in the pastoral issues of our parish.

If this opportunity interests you, please arrange to speak with Cheryl Cardoso (Cheryl_Cardoso@hotmail.co.uk) and me to find out more about what is involved.

Anthony Inglese
Chair, PPC
anthony.inglese@btinternet.com

The Bethlehem Nativity Group TBNG, A missionary from Bethlehem, The Holy Land, will visit us on the weekend **9th - 10th September** to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood to help and support the poor Christian families, any help you could give to them it will be highly appreciated" (when you help the poor you help our Lord").

Community Shield Award- Eastcote House Gardens- Sunday 10th September 2023

The Parish was contacted recently by The Friends of Eastcote House Gardens and advised that their Community Shield this year has been awarded to the gardeners of our parish for their work in transforming the grounds of our estate into a pleasing visual display that benefits the whole of the local community.

Their committee considered several possible recipients and determined that St Thomas More Church grounds were of such attraction that passer-by paused to enjoy the view and take the opportunity to come in and explore further. It was considered such a meaningful asset that it merited this year's award of a shield (which we hold for the year) and certificate of excellence.

It is exciting news that our gardeners have been recognised in this way for a four-year long project that has been said to have brought our parish grounds into such an attraction that the dedicated volunteers who keep our local Eastcote House Grounds so pristine a condition wish to embrace and honour St Thomas More by bestowing their annual award on us.

We also embrace those many parishioners and others who sponsored and supported our gardens project for, without their encouragement both financial and vocal, the end result could not have been achieved and this award bestowed.

There will be a formal presentation of the shield and certificate by the Deputy Mayor of Hillingdon on **10th September** at about 1pm at the Heritage Day event held in Eastcote House Gardens; all are invited.

Thank you again to everyone who can rightly enjoy this plaudit.
Sincerely and with many thanks.
Madaline and Bernard