

MASS TIMES THIS COMING WEEK

11th December – 17th December 2023

DAY	CHURCH OPEN	MASS TIMES	INTENTIONS / DETAILS / FEAST
MON 11TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	BERNADETTE MINOLI RIP
TUES 12TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	MELVYN PEREIRA OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
WED 13TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	DAVID AND BRIAN FOGARTY RIP ST LUCY
THURS 14TH	8.30AM	9.00AM	MICHELLE EDWARDS RIP ST JOHN OF THE CROSS
FRI 15TH	10 AM 11 AM	NO MASS	ROSARY AND EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
SAT 16TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	KIM KELLY RIP CONFESSIONS AND EXPOSITION AFTER MASS
SUN 17TH	3RD OF ADVENT	6 PM SAT 9.30 AM 11.30AM	DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE TOBIN & NEWTON FAMILIES INTS MICHELLE O'SHEA PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

FOR MORE PARISH INFO OR TO SIGN UP FOR: E ALERTS, NEWS-LETTER BY E MAIL, LIVE STREAMING OF SERVICES, VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE [HTTPS://PARISH.RCDOW.ORG.UK/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/) EASTCOTE/

St Thomas More Catholic Church

32 Field End Road, Eastcote, HA5 2QT

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Martin Plunkett

PARISH OFFICE: Mon—Thurs 9.30 to 12 noon **Administrator:** Tessa Maude

Tel. 0208 866 6581 **E mail:** Eastcote@rcdow.org.uk



BANKERS NEEDED Can you spare an hour every 3 weeks? The parish needs some additional people to join the team. Working with one other member, every three weeks you choose a time that suits you both to meet up and bank the counted money. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION If your child is in in Year 9 or above and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 22nd June 2024 at 12pm, forms are now available to complete at the back of church to join the programme that starts in the New Year. Please return to the parish office by the **end of January**.

INTERCESSION OF OUR LADY– VIGIL LAMP Envelopes are now available at the back of church for intention requests for the 7 day vigil lamp. The lamp will continue to burn throughout the advent and Christmas season when the crib is displayed in the area.

VINNIE PACKS The **SVP** nationally, are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

FOODBANK Thank you for all the contributions. The next collection will be on **Tuesday 12th December**. The foodbank make hampers in time for Christmas. Please see the request list by the collection box in the narthex.

LIFE ASCENDING GROUP—meeting next on **Wednesday 13th December** at 2.30pm in the Library and every fortnight thereafter. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING—Extra help would be much appreciated to help prepare the church for Christmas. Just turn up on **Thursday 14th December after 9.30 mass** or **Thursday 21st December at 7pm** or both. For more information contact Pat, details in the volunteer tray in the narthex.

A MORNING OF RECOLLECTION— at St John Fisher Church, North Harrow led by Fr John Goodall, former Anglican Bishop of Ebbsfleet, starting with Mass at 10am and finishing with benediction at 1pm.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES As Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, there will be one morning mass only at **10.30 am** on 24th December.

CHRISTMAS EVE 6PM Family First Mass of Christmas **10pm** Midnight Mass with Carols

CHRISTMAS DAY—Nativity of the Lord **10.30 am**

SUNDAY 10th December 2023 +2nd Sunday Advent+

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

9TH/10TH DECEMBER

06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL)

NEVILLE LACY

09:30AM IAN FITZGERALD RIP

11.30AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH



FOR OUR PRAYERS

SICK PARISHIONERS

Pauline Fitzgerald, Harriet Moxon, Audrey Farrell and those in our local nursing homes especially Mary Richards, Kitty Goldie, Dolores Walsh, Sarah Joyce and Katie Loftus.

FOR OUR HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS ESPECIALLY

Peggy McMahon, Norma Kolakowska, Yvonne Grasso and Hilda Minoli,



FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME

Ian Fitzgerald, Bernadette (Bernie) Minoli, Charles Gattey

We pray for

Kit Newman who is to be baptised here this weekend.

We welcome him to the parish.



THE VIGIL LAMP AT OUR LADY,

burns this coming week
in loving memory of

Patrick O'Rourke RIP

Dear Parishioners,

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'

On this Second Sunday of Advent we hear, from the Gospel of Mark, about St John the Baptist. John was the one that Isaiah prophesied would come before the Messiah. John was given the responsibility and privilege of being the one who would be the most immediate precursor for the Saviour of the World, announcing: *'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'* John the Baptist, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was driven into the desert. From this lonely and deserted place, the John drew many people, by his radical witness, to accept his message of repentance in preparation for the coming of Jesus. God continues to call us today to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist. The 'way of the Lord' still needs to be prepared. The Lord still desires to come to many, and he needs prophets to prepare the way for his continual coming by grace and, ultimately, for his Second Coming at the end of time. Every one of us, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, young or old, is called by God to witness to the Gospel every day. This is done by the example of our actions, by our words and by numerous other ways that God provides. The first 'desert' to prepare is our own hearts. By the gift of God's Son and by the sacrifice of his life on the Cross, we can now find a way forward beyond the effects of evil, sin and death, into the new life of resurrected love in God's friendship. Let us reflect, today, upon the 'deserts' to which we have been called, so as to prepare our self and others for the coming of Christ. That desert is any place where there is need and every place where our Lord is not allowed full access, beginning with our own souls. Then we can consider our family, work environment, community, friends, or any other place that lacks the superabundance of God's grace. Let us ask God to help us in this holy season to seek to enter those deserts and to be open to be a channel of our Lord's grace in all circumstances.

God Bless you, Fr Martin

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN CHURCH There will be a retiring collection at all masses this weekend and next weekend for flowers in the church at Christmas.

POSADA -Mary and Joseph will return for the Carol Service this weekend and blessed before going back out to hosting families, to return on Christmas Eve. If you signed up to host, please collect the envelope marked with your name at the back of church with contact details to arrange for you to collect the figures.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY meet today **Sunday 10th December** after the 9.30am Mass in the Library room

PARISH CAROL SERVICE AND FAYRE Today **SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER**– The Parish Carol service will start at 3pm, followed by refreshments and a mini fayre. Thank you to all those who have given donations and signed up to help. Please bring any cake donations on the day. These can be left after morning mass. Don't forget to have a look at the silent auction items. If you are unable to make the Fayre, bids can still be left.

CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL SERVICE– The CTE Carol Service will be hosted this year by St Lawrence Church, Bridle Road on **Monday 11th December** starting at 8pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

NO COFFEE after the 9.30 mass to allow for setting up for the Christmas Fayre.