


MASS TIMES THIS COMING WEEK

18th December – 25th December 2023

DAY	CHURCH OPEN	MASS TIMES	INTENTIONS / DETAILS / FEAST
MON 18TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
TUES 19TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	BRIDGET FRY
WED 20TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	SYLVESTER THARUMALINGAM RIP
THURS 21ST	8.30AM	9.00AM	MARY TOMLINSON RIP
FRI 22ND	10 AM 11 AM	NO MASS	ROSARY AND EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
SAT 23RD	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	INTS ANNEGIRT HILL CONFESSIONS AND EXPOSITION AFTER MASS
SUN 24TH	4TH SUNDAY ADVENT 	6 PM SAT 10.30 AM 6.00PM 10.00PM	FRANCIS & MICHAEL POWER AND BRIGID MEAD RIP JOHN MCLOUGHLIN RIP CHRISTMAS EVE LORRAINE BURTON PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
MON 25TH		10.30AM	CHRISTMAS DAY

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



SILENT AUCTION We still have some items available. Bid slips will be at the back of church at the weekend— have a go, you never know. We have a fantastic dinner and tea service for 12, all matching in Thomas Porcelain classic white with gold rim, a basket hamper of booze for Christmas, A Cath Kidson gift set, an amazon echo dot, a night away at the Tudor Lodge Hotel on a Sunday in January, a Johnnie Walker Boxed gift set, sealed box Ralph Lauren Romance and a clear glass aquarium.

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**.

CHRISTMAS EVENING LED BY THE FOLK GROUP Thank you to all those who attended the evening and gave donations on the night to the Ukraine Appeal. A total of £209.71 was raised.

FOODBANK Thank you for all the contributions. In November, the contributions from this parish and from St Lawrence totalled 62.2kg of food. This is the equivalent to 3 family emergency food parcels or 12 bags of food. The foodbank have passed on their grateful thanks.

LIFE ASCENDING GROUP—meeting next on **Wednesday 10th January** at 2.30pm in the Library and every fortnight thereafter. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years.

Christmas Eve

We will have our usual Children's Mass of Christmas at 6pm on Christmas Eve. All the children are invited to come and take part by dressing as a **shepherd** or **angel**.

Please come early to this service as the church gets very full!

Thank you for your support. Children's Liturgy Team.



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

SUNDAY 17th December 2023 +3rd Sunday Advent+

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

16TH/17TH DECEMBER

06:00PM SATURDAY (VIGIL) DECEASED MEMBERS
OF THE TOBIN & NEWTON FAMILIES

9.30AM INTS MICHELLE O'SHEA

11.30AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH



FOR OUR PRAYERS

SICK PARISHIONERS

Betty O'Neill, Pauline Fitzgerald, 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

Josephine O'Brien, Mary Cullinane,
Reginald Keen, Mary Tomlinson,
Jenny Skwirzynska

We pray for

Eloise Radlett

who will be baptised here on Sunday.

We welcome her to the parish.



THE VIGIL LAMP AT OUR LADY AND THE CRIB

burns this coming week for

Margaret and Michael O'Reilly

Dear Parishioners,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'make straight the way of the Lord.'

On this third Sunday of Advent, also called *Gaudete Sunday*, we once again hear about John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness: *prepare the way of the LORD!* We are called to *Rejoice* as we hear this prophecy of Isaiah, who was originally speaking about the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon back to Jerusalem. Isaiah prophesied that the Jewish exiles would travel the shortest route—straight across the desert—and that God would provide for their needs during that journey. Such a journey required much trust in the providence of God. John the Baptist, gives us the reason to rejoice, as he applies this prophecy to the coming Messiah. John was called to cry out in the desert and point people directly to Jesus, the Son of God. It was in the desert that they would discover their Saviour. John cries out in the desert because his message is for those who experience dryness, desolation, need and loss in life due to the damaging effects of evil, sin and death. John's message of repentance calls all people to return and receive the spiritual nourishment God wants to bestow upon them through grace. The message of John is pointed to those who humbly see the difficult situation they are facing in life and acknowledge their need for the living water of the Saviour of the world. When Jesus came amongst us, he was only here for 33 years: just long enough for him to make a straight path to the Cross in order to liberate the human race from darkness and death. Advent is a time to re-examine the path we are on. Are we trying to find our own way to happiness? Are we trusting in our own abilities, our own intelligence and our own plan for the future? If so, then let us listen to the *'voice of one crying out in the wilderness'*, calling us to a greater detachment from all things, to an abandonment of all that is not of God, and to a more willing trust in the providence of God to lead us. Let us already rejoice on this *Gaudete Sunday*, that we now have the means to find joy in our lives, because our Saviour is coming. *God Bless you, Fr Martin*

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN CHURCH There will be a retiring collection at all masses this weekend for flowers in the church at Christmas. We are grateful to our flower team, who give so much time during the year preparing the flowers in our church making it look so beautiful, especially at Christmas and Easter.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE A huge thank you to everyone who donated, helped organise and attended the Carol Service and Fayre last week. It was a lovely occasion and much needed funds were raised for the church. Final figures are not yet available but will be shortly. If you didn't manage to come, don't despair as you will have the chance after the masses this weekend to browse some of the items still available. See overleaf for the Silent Auction items.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING There is still a chance to help the cleaning team prepare the church for Christmas. Just turn up this coming **Thursday, 21st December at 7pm.**

POSADA -Mary and Joseph will return on Christmas Eve. If you signed up to host, please collect the envelope marked with your name and highlighted, at the back of church. This has the contact details for the host that you will collect the figures from, on the day you have signed up for.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS / OFFERTORY COLLECTORS FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES Please sign up at the back of church, indicating when you are available, if needed, over the Christmas Masses.