MASS TIMES THIS COMING WEEK

12th February –18th February 2024

DAY	CHURCH OPEN	MASS TIMES	INTENTIONS / DETAILS / FEAST
MON 12TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM 11.30AM	ALBERT HERRIG RIP FUNERAL YVONNE GRASSO RIP
TUES 13TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CURTIS FAMILY
WED 14TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM 19.30PM	FR MARTIN AND FAMILY PEOPLE OF THE PARISH ASH WEDNESDAY
THURS 15TH	8.30AM	9.00AM	CATHERINE AND PATRICK FOGARTY RIP
FRI 16TH	10 TO 11 AM	NO MASS	ROSARY AND EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
SAT 17TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	NORMAN DEAN RIP EXPOSITION AND CONFESSIONS
SUN 18TH	1ST SUN-DAY LENT	6 PM SAT EVENING 9.30AM 11.30AM	FRANK TUOHY RIP GERRY BRADY RIP PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

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/

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



MARRIAGE WEEK 7TH—14TH FEBRUARY National Marriage Week is an opportunity to ponder on this display of God's love for the world he created. It is a chance for married couples to reflect, perhaps with their families, on how they might develop the good things that exist between and within them. It is a time to demonstrate the value of marriage, based on sincerely lived vows, to men and women and to society as a whole. This is a week of prayer for the whole Church, in gratitude to God who has given us life and taught us to love so that we can be as he made us - a visible icon of himself. (Bishop David Evans- Lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life)

ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY - This will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on **Saturday 25th May** at 2.30pm for couples in the Diocese celebrating significant wedding anniversaries, such as 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60th) Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend .

CHURCH CLEANING We are very fortunate to have a devoted team of people, headed by Pat Faille who serve the parish, keeping our church clean. Pat is retiring after many years of overseeing this. We would like to thank her for her commitment and hard work over the years. Have you ever thought about how our church is kept clean? Do you have a few hours to spare every 3-4 weeks? Could you join a team and help keep the church clean for the parish and the glory of God? If you would be interested in knowing a bit more about the teams and times they clean, please let the parish office know.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



FOODBANK– Thank you for your contributions. The next collection will be **Tuesday 13th February 2024.**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL will next meet in the Library after the 9.30 am Mass today, **Sunday 18th February.** All are welcome to come along and see what they do, to help those in need of support locally.

LIFE ASCENDING GROUP—meeting next on **Wednesday 21st February** at 2.30pm in the Library and every fortnight thereafter. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years.

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH.

AN EVENING OF IRISH SONG—led by the folk group 7 for 7.30 pm start

See posters for more details or the parish website

SIGN Up sheets at the back of church for numbers.

Bring your own refreshments

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2024 + 6TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME +

MASSES THIS WEEKEND
11TH/12TH FEBRUARY

06:00PM GERALDINE & GORDON WALLACE RIP
9.30AM RAYMOND SWAINE RIP
11.30AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH



FOR OUR PRAYERS

SICK PARISHIONERS
Teresa Collins, Gloria Lewis, 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,
and Hilda Minoli.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME :
Jerry Vaz, Shirley Ryan, Owen Hoy, Patricia Perry



We pray for

YVONNE GRASSO AND BRIGID MCGEE

recently departed.





THE VIGIL LAMP
AT OUR LADY
burns this coming week
in loving memory of

PATRICK O ROURKE RIP

Dear Parishioners,

'If you wish, you can make me clean.'

In this week's Gospel we hear about another proof that Jesus is the awaited and promised Messiah – that he can cure diseases, even the incurable leprosy. At that time, leprosy was a horrible disease, not only for its physical effects, but also because those afflicted with it were not permitted to be a part of society. Leprosy is highly contagious and, by keeping those infected separate, the disease did not spread to others. Can we imagine not only the pain caused by the leper's disease, but the pain caused by this isolation? The complete loss of relationships with family and friends, as well as livelihood, home and all that seems to bring life meaning and value. On a spiritual level, the illnesses that Jesus cured can be seen as symbols for evil and sin. Sin, unless cured by God's forgiveness, has the effect of isolating us from the life of grace. Sin cuts us off from a relationship with God, and other relationships within the Body of Christ, the Church. In the face of these drastic effects of sin, this healing of the man with leprosy is a symbol of the way out. The man came to Jesus and knelt down before him and humbled himself, acknowledging that Jesus is the Messiah, with the power to heal him. He begged Jesus for help by professing his belief that he could heal him saying *'If you wish, you can make me clean.'* This can teach us the perfect way to approach God in our struggle with the reality of evil and sin. Jesus reassures the man, saying: *'Of course I want to. Be clean!'* In Jesus, God shows that of course he wants us to receive his help, his love, his mercy and his healing. The great proof of this is the offering of the life of Jesus on the Cross. This coming week, on Ash Wednesday, we will begin once again our preparations to thank God at Easter for the great feast of our redemption. This Gospel account today can help us to see what immense treasures Jesus has won for us by sacrificing his life for the world. Let us reflect, today, upon this example of the healing of leprosy. Can we relate to the themes of isolation and loss, of humility and faith? Let us seek to humble ourselves before God as we acknowledge the need we have for his forgiveness and healing. Let us profess our faith in God's almighty power and love, and place ourselves into his merciful and loving hands. He will not let us down.

God Bless You, Fr Martin

COFFEE AND PANCAKES After 9.30 mass today– (Sunday) members of the local **Catenian Association** will be serving coffee and pancakes for the parish in readiness for Lent that starts this coming week on 14th February. Please come along and enjoy the morning feast and be imaginative with your toppings! All ages welcome.

ASH WEDNESDAY is this coming Wednesday 14th February—mass times 9.30 am and 7.30 pm, to include the distribution of ashes.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN ALMS APPEAL 2024– This runs throughout Lent. All funds raised go towards projects across the Diocese, including supporting the work of Caritas Westminster. Details are at the back of church.

100 CLUB The draw took place for January last week—winning numbers 40. Chris Horsburgh 32. Pauline Hawes 47. Mary Lynskey. Congratulations, please collect your envelopes from the sacristy.