

MASS TIMES THIS COMING WEEK

19th February –25th February 2024

DAY	CHURCH OPEN	MASS TIMES	INTENTIONS / DETAILS / FEAST
MON 19TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM 11.30AM	INTS FR MARTIN &FAMILY FUNERAL BRIGID MCGEE RIP
TUES 20TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	IN THANKSGIVING
WED 21ST	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	ELIZABETH THARUMALIN- GAM RIP ST PETER DAMIAN
THURS 22ND	8.30AM	9.00AM	YVONNE GRASSO RIP THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE
FRI 23RD	10 TO 11 AM	NO MASS	ROSARY AND EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
SAT 24TH	9 TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	INTS GERALDINE MURPHY EXPOSITION AND CONFESSIONS
SUN 25TH	2ND SUN- DAY LENT	6 PM SAT EVENING 9.30AM 11.30AM	HELEN DOOLEY RIP PEOPLE OF THE PARISH BIANCA MALHEIROS-FAUZ RIP

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/)

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

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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.

COFFEE AND PANCAKES Thank you to the members of the local **Catenian Association** who served coffee and pancakes last Sunday after 9.30an mass. Lots of pancakes were eaten and it was a lovely occasion to share and socialise with other parishioners.

SPUC APPEAL Thank you to those who contributed to the white flower appeal, a total of £572.40 was raised.

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.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

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.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – Friday, 23rd February 2024 Envelopes are available in the church or donations can be given on line at Cafod.org.uk.

A LENTEN MORNING OF RECOLLECTION with Rev F Javier Ruiz– Ortiz **Saturday 24th February** at St John Fisher Church North Harrow. See poster for details.

DEANERY LENT DAY—**Saturday 23rd March 9.30am to 3pm** Led by Fr John Hemer. A Day with Talks, Mass, Adoration and Confessions held at Pield Heath House School, Pield Heath Road, UB8 3NW (parking available) To book your place, please email uxbridge@rcdow.org.uk or call Angela: 01895 233193. See poster.

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 18TH FEBRUARY 2024 + 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT +

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

17TH/18TH FEBRUARY

6.00PM FRANK TUOHY RIP Sat Evening

9.30AM GERRY BRADY 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 McMahan, Norma Kolakowska, and Hilda Minoli.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME :

John Hinde, Shirley Ryan, Owen Hoy, Patricia Perry, Matthew Rammelt

Dear Parishioners,

'The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.'

This first Sunday of Lent we hear about Jesus going into the desert to fast and prepare for his great mission of redemption. In the wilderness Jesus humbled himself by being willing to experience the temptations of Satan. This was done so that we could also draw inspiration and strength from our Saviour, when we face the temptations that come to us. The Scriptures tell us that Satan is the fallen angel, Lucifer and the Book of Revelation indicates that one-third of the angels were cast out of heaven with him and now act against all that is good, seeking to destroy the work of God. We also hear this week that Jesus received divine help from the good angels who came and ministered to him after his time of fasting. By humbly engaging with these supernatural powers, Jesus was also teaching us that we must also be aware of the help that good angels provide and the hindrance that fallen angels present. Saint Ignatius of Loyola was concerned with teaching how to distinguish the lies and deceptions of the fallen angels from the consoling direction communicated by the good angels. Our Gospel passage today, encourages us to understand how these angelic creatures influence us. Jesus is the King of Angels but his time in the desert, which begins our Lenten preparations for Easter, is one more example of how our Saviour and Lord takes on himself the hopes and burdens of our lives and gives us the way to go forward. On the Cross, Jesus defeats the powers of evil at their root and so gives us grace and strength to resist evil and choose good. Through his sacrifice we also receive the everlasting merciful love of God, poured out for us, to heal our own sinful choices and the damage they have caused. Let us reflect, today, upon the spiritual state of our life, considering the various ways we can come closer to God by discerning his voice and help, through the help of the angels. We could also extend this contemplation to ask how we can be more like the good angels, by bringing love to God and to others, so that Lent helps us to grow in the two commandments Jesus has given us for our Christian lives.

God Bless You, Fr Martin

We pray for



BRIGID MCGEE

recently departed.



**THE VIGIL LAMP
AT OUR LADY**

burns this coming week
for the intentions of

TERESA COLLINS

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

OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LENT... AND BEYOND! This Lent we will be considering our involvement in our parish in various ways. Using the acronym **LOVE** – we will be **Looking** at ourselves, our **Offerings** to the church, **Volunteering** our time and the place of the **Eucharist** and prayer. Each week we will look at one of these aspects of our parish life together. See the posters and leaflets that will be produced for more information and guidance. Lent is a time of new beginnings as we enter into the hopeful season of Spring and also journey towards the great celebration of our redemption and new-birth at Easter. How can we all live our Christian lives more deeply and satisfyingly together and so help our parish and all her members to flourish and thrive as we go forward? Let us each ask God to inspire and help us to become always more open to his will for us and our parish in our lives.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS As we start our Lenten journey, stations of the cross will run each week throughout Lent on a Wednesday morning after 9.30am Mass.