Mass Times
9th September– 16th September

DAY	CHURCH OPEN	MASS TIMES	INTENTIONS / DETAILS / FEAST
MON 9TH SEPT	9 AM TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	OSCAR MARTINS **(L/D) RIP** ST PETER CLAVER
TUES 10TH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	ANNE QUIGLEY **RIP**
WED 11TH SEPT	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM** **11.30 AM**	JACQUELINE DAY **INTS** (BIRTHDAY) **FUNERAL** OF THE LATE RICHARD KEATING
THURS 12TH	10 AM 11 AM	**NO MASS**	**ROSARY AND EXPOSITION**
FRIDAY 13TH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	DOLORES WALSH **INTS** (BIRTHDAY) ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
SAT 14TH	9 TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	EDWARD GORMAN **RIP** **FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION AND CONFESSIONS** THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
SUN 15TH SEPT		**6.00 PM (SAT)** **9.30 AM** **11.30 AM**	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH SAMRAAT TIMILSINA **INTS** BILL SMYTH **INTS** 24TH SUNDAY ORDINARY

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/

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



CLEANER REQUIRED– PAID POST- 3 hours a fortnight for the parish offices and presbytery. Please contact the parish office by **25th September,** if you are interested or to find out more.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ AT ONE OF THE WEEKEND MASSES? -The new rota for readers will be coming out soon. Readers on the rota have as their main role: reading the first reading, the responsorial psalm, the second reading and the bidding prayers. Anybody who has been confirmed is eligible to read. You just have to be loud enough and comprehensible enough. Email Anthony Inglese anthony.inglese@btinternet.com or speak to him by 5 September if:

(a) you would like to join the rota and read regularly at one of the weekend Masses; or

(b) you would like to try doing some or all of the readings at one of the weekend Masses as a one-off to help you decide whether you would like to join the full rota as a regular reader.

CHURCH CLEANING Can you volunteer 1 hour every 3 weeks to help with cleaning the church? There are 3 teams who take it in turns clean every Thursday. A morning option at 9:30am (after Mass) or two evenings at 7pm. All equipment is provided. If you can join us, please complete a form on the table in the narthex with your details or come along to the next session. See the noticeboard poster for details. *Many hands make light work!*

KITTENS AVAILABLE to good homes. If you are interested please contact Irene on 07961 336511

DATES FOR THE DIARY



FOODBANK The next collection is Tuesday **10th September.** Thank you for your generosity and contributions. We have been asked to remind people that the foodbank are unable to take any fresh produce or any medications, which includes vitamins.

OPEN EVENINGS AT THE SACRED HEART LANGUAGE COLLEGE (WEALDSTONE) Wednesday 11th September 2024, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m / Thursday 19th September 2024, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m for September 2025 intake.

WESTMINSTER EUCHARISTIC FESTIVAL–Westminster cathedral **Saturday 14th September**—starting with mass at 12.30—4 pm followed by Adoration, procession of the Blessed Sacrament and sermons. See poster for details

SVP -will be meeting next on **Sunday 22nd September** at 10.45am in the Library. All welcome to come along and learn about the work the SVP do in the local community.

CONNEX SUNDAY LUNCH 1-4pm Sunday **15th September–** at St Thomas More**.** See poster for details to book.

THE LIFE ASCENDING GROUP meeting next on **Wednesday 18th September** at 2.30pm in the Library and every fortnight thereafter. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years.

EXPLORING ICONS AND ICONOGRAPHY– Talk and Workshop given by Sr Esther of Turvey Abbey **Saturday 21st September** 1.30—3.30 pm in St Matthews' Church Hall , Northwood. To book a place please e mail northwood@rcdow.org.uk. See poster at the back of church for more details.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER—Embrace your life together in love -both videos and courses provided by Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Next course **21-22nd September** Burnt Oak. All enquiries to wwme.org.uk

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER +23RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME+

MASSES THIS WEEKEND
7TH/8TH SEPTEMBER

6.00 PM JOHN DONNELLY **(A) RIP**

9.30 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

11.30 AM ANN COYNE **(A) RIP**



FOR OUR PRAYERS

SICK PARISHIONERS

Stella Murray, Andrew Hencel**,** Teresa Collins, Audrey Farrell and those in our local nursing homes especially Mary Richards, Dolores Walsh, Sarah Joyce, Katie Loftus and Christina Enright.

FOR OUR HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS ESPECIALLY

Peggy McMahon, Norma Kolakowska, Marie Hardy , Hilda Minoli.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME

Hilarie Lemon, Philip O 'Donogue, Claire Polsinelli, Hanna Witterstein

We pray for the repose of the soul of

MARGARET BOONE

recently departed.

THE CANDLE IN THE SANCTUARY LAMP

has been donated this week in thanksgiving for

Harriet, Luke and family



THE VIGIL LAMP AT OUR LADY

burns this coming week for the special intentions of

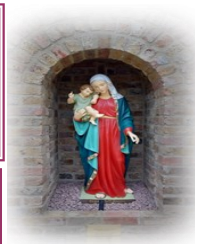
FINN

Dear Parishioners,

"Ephphatha! Be opened!"

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, we hear about Jesus healing a man who could neither hear or speak. Jesus says to him ' *"Ephphatha! Be opened!"* This becomes one of the Messianic signs that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one, who has been given a special power to accomplish something unprecedented in the world. Christianity believes that this is achieved especially by the death and Resurrection that Jesus underwent to liberate us from the destructive power of evil, sin and death. On the way to that sublime destiny, Jesus showed anticipatory signs by fulfilling the expectations of the people: healing their diseases, forgiving sins and liberating them from evil spirits. The healing of this deaf and mute man becomes a symbol for us of a more spiritual reality. Each of us is called to '*be opened*' to the awesome and transforming love of God at work in our lives. In many ways we resist this calling because we may be afraid or lacking in trust, or because some part of us thinks it prefers to remain attached to the inferior love which we give to sin and to our attachments. We come to Jesus because he is the one who can say, with authority, *"Ephphatha! Be opened!"* Then we find that God always rewards even our most seemingly insignificant efforts with his loving grace and mercy. It will take us a life-time to fully realise this possibility of being healed and 'opened' to God. The witness of the saints of our tradition helps provide an encouraging example for us along the way. This Sunday's date is the birthday of Our Lady who, above all, shows us what God can do when someone's life is totally open to his plans. We acknowledge that fact in a special way this Sunday by welcoming Bishop Jim Curry, who will celebrate the 11.30am Mass and then be joined by parishioners as he solemnly blesses our new parish shrine. May Mary, who is the 'Queen of Love', help us all to '*be opened*' to all the gifts God wants to give us as a parish.

God Bless You, *Fr Martin*



BLESSING OF OUR PARISH SHRINE – All parishioners, family and friends are invited to attend the blessing of our new parish shrine this Sunday 8th September at around 12.30pm following the 11.30am Mass which will be celebrated by Bishop Jim Curry. We will be gathering together behind the church as Bishop Jim blesses the shrine and prays for all those who have helped to build it with their donations and prayers and praying also for all past, present and future parishioners and priests of our parish of St Thomas More. Please do come along and participate in this historic moment in the parish. There will be light refreshments available afterwards as well as memorial prayer cards to mark the event.

PARKING– There will be restrictions to the parking bays in front of the shrine after the 9.30 am mass.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS – We are hoping to run another RCIA this year to help potential new Catholics learn about the tradition and teaching of the Catholic Christian Church. This is an ideal opportunity to ask friends, spouses, relatives, neighbours or colleagues if this might be a moment for them to find out more about the Church. Please consider who God might be calling to participate in this process and if we may be able to help them with an encouraging invitation. The evening sessions will begin in early October. Please provide the parish office with the names and contact details of those wishing to attend.