SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER +FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT+

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

30TH NOV/ 1ST DECEMBER

6.00 PM HOLY SOULS

9.30 AM MARGARET RIST **(A) RIP**

11.30 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

11.30 AM YOUTH MASS

FOR OUR PRAYERS

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK / IN NEED

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

FOR OUR HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS ESPECIALLY

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

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME :

Sheila Carey, James Reilly, James Tobin, Dorothy Heaney.

Dear Parishioners,

"Stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength…to stand before the Son of Man."

This Sunday we begin the season of Advent, in which we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. However, at the higher level we are redoubling our commitment to prepare in our lives for our encounter with God and '*to stand before the Son of Man'* at the end of our earthly journey through this world. For the whole of the human race this means that preparing to welcome the Son of Man in this world when Jesus returns in glory at the end of time. How do we prepare for all these different dimensions to our spiritual life at this time? What can we do? The way we prepare is through the grace given by God which opens up the mystery of the spiritual component to life. Grace helps us to grow in the gift of faith. The faith and trust that we carry in our hearts and minds, according to the tradition of Christianity, is that God has come to be with us to reveal his truth and his love to us through his beloved Son, Jesus Christ. By the moral force of his life amongst us, the depth of his beautiful teaching, the unrelenting example of his care and compassion for us and ultimately, his death on a Cross, Jesus has shown God at work among us. By his Resurrection Jesus has proved his divinity and the existence of heaven. By his sacrifice, Jesus has also assured us of God's divine mercy, which can now liberate us from the plague of evil, sin and death. All of this opens up the treasures of God's grace for us and begins again for us when we contemplate the majesty of God, present in the manger of Bethlehem in the new born Jesus. This same Jesus reveals to us God's plan for our future and the future of the world. This entire world is returning to God; the question for us is – will it be willingly and joyfully, or reluctantly or with lukewarm faith and weak spirits? Let us reflect, today, on how we can wake up this Advent and renew our spiritual lives through our prayer and our participation in this holy season. Let us ask to be led by God's grace to a deeper trust in the wonderful promises of our Christian faith. Let this desire in us be the antidote to fear and doubt and may it inspire us to hope and pray for our world – that all people may find the strength to *'stand before the Son of Man'* when he comes.

God Bless you, *Fr Martin*

THE CANDLE IN THE SANCTUARY LAMP



has been donated this week for the intentions of

THE SCHAEFFER FAMILY





THE VIGIL LAMP AT OUR LADY

burns this coming week for the intentions of

ROSELINDA AND HOLLY

CHRISTMAS CARDS A new batch of Christmas cards have been printed due to popular demand. On sale this weekend - £5 for 5 cards. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or via the contactless machine—under repository shop.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS– Thank you to everyone who has generously supported our Christmas flower appeals in the past. This weekend and next, there is the opportunity to make donations towards this years appeal, to help transform our parish church for Christmas. Contactless facilities available.

POSADA -As we enter the season of Advent next weekend, we are once again following a Mexican tradition of Posada (travelling nativity) and welcome Mary and Joseph into our homes, moving around the parish. If you would like to take part and host these figures, please sign the list at the back of church and supply your contact details. (This is not just for young families, it is open to all) Once the list is complete, you will receive the contact details for the person hosting the day before you to arrange collection. Mary and Joseph will visit for the Carol Service and then go back out to hosting families to return on Christmas Eve 6pm mass.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ITEMS Advent calendars and other items are available at the back of church.

SVP will next be meeting this **Sunday 1st December** after the 9.30 mass at 10.45am in the library.

Mass Times
2nd December –8th December

DAY	CHURCH OPEN	MASS TIMES	INTENTIONS / DETAILS / FEAST
MON 2ND DEC	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	THE MOST FORSAKEN SOUL IN PURGATORY
TUES 3RD DEC	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	MICHAEL MCGAUREN **RIP** ST FRANCIS XAVIER
WED 4TH DEC	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	CATHY FADE **(L/D) RIP** ST JOHN DAMASCENE
THURS 5TH DEC	10 AM TO 11 AM	**NO MASS**	**ROSARY AND EXPOSITION**
FRIDAY 6TH DEC	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	HILDA MINOLI **INTS** ST NICHOLAS
SAT 7TH DEC	9 TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	MARIE PRESTON-MCLAUGHLIN **(L/D) RIP** **FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION AND CONFESSIONS** ST AMBROSE
SUN 8TH DEC		**6.00 PM (SAT)** **9.30 AM** **11.30AM**	PATRICK O'ROURKE **RIP** MARIE BARRETT PEOPLE OF THE PARISH SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



100 CLUB—November draw takes place this weekend. Winning numbers announced in the newsletter next week.

RED MISSIO BOXES– please bring your red mission boxes to church in the next few weeks for counting and leave in the sacristy. Thank you

ROTA new rotas for 2025 are available at the back of church for anyone on the counting rota.

BREAKFAST CLUB—Sausage and bacon rolls were served after the 9.30am mass last Sunday, which was a great success. We are making arrangements for this to happen on a regular basis– so watch this space for details.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND HOLY COMMUNION 2025– LAST CHANCE If your child is in year 3 or above and would like to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on **Saturday 17th May 2025 at 12pm,** please complete the forms at the back of church to sign up to the programme starting in the New Year, by **3rd December 2024.**

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION If your child is in in Year 9 or above and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Saturday 14th June 2025, 12.00 pm** 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 **12th January 2025.**

ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC SCHOOL, RICKMANSWORTH Due to a number of families relocating to other parts of the UK and abroad, there are some school places available. Please see the website for more details.
https://www.joa.herts.sch.uk/2045/in-year-admissions

SCAM WARNING—We have been advised by the Diocese that there is a scam currently circulating in e mail form that appears to come from the Parish Priest, asking for gift cards and Amazon gift cards. Please be aware as this is not a genuine request.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



THE LIFE ASCENDING GROUP meeting on **Wednesday 11th December** at 2.30pm in the Library and every fortnight thereafter. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years. This involves half an hour of prayer and a discussion around the current material from the Agency for Evangelisation for small groups. **FOODBANK** Thank you for all the donations. The next collection date will be **2nd December 2024**.

AN EVENING OF SONG TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS Saturday 7th December in the Main Hall, led by the Folk Group. Doors open at 7.00 and singing starts at 7.30. No charge for the evening, There will be a voluntary collection for new Church hymn books. Bring your own picnic for you and your guests. Please see the sign up sheet at the back of church for an idea of numbers for set up.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE– 3 PM Sunday 15th December to include a candle light parade and refreshments after **SAVE THE DATE**