SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER +SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT+

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

7TH/8TH DECEMBER

6.00 PM PATRICK O 'ROURKE **RIP**

9.30 AM MARIE BARRETT

11.30 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH



FOR OUR PRAYERS

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK / IN NEED

Tracey Ashby, 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 :

Patrick O' Rourke, Ian Fitzgerald, Bernie Minoli, Charles Gattey.

FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Denise Monteiro, Christina Enright, Barbara Whitehead, and Sheila Keable **RIP**





THE VIGIL LAMP AT OUR LADY

burns this coming week in Loving Memory of

PATRICK O'ROURKE

RIP

Dear Parishioners,

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'

On this Second Sunday of Advent we hear, from the Gospel about St John the Baptist. John was the one that Isaiah prophesied would come before the Messiah. John was given the responsibility and privilege of being the one who would be the most immediate precursor for the Saviour of the World, announcing: *'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'* John the Baptist, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was driven into the desert. From this lonely and deserted place, the John drew many people, by his radical witness, to accept his message of repentance in preparation for the coming of Jesus. God continues to call us today to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist. The 'way of the Lord' still needs to be prepared. The Lord still desires to come to many, and he needs prophets to prepare the way for his continual coming by grace and, ultimately, for his Second Coming at the end of time. Every one of us, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, young or old, is called by God to witness to the Gospel every day. This is done by the example of our actions, by our words and by numerous other ways that God provides. The first 'desert' to prepare is our own hearts. By the gift of God's Son and by the sacrifice of his life on the Cross, we can now find a way forward beyond the effects of evil, sin and death, into the new life of resurrected love in God's friendship. Let us reflect, today, upon the 'deserts' to which we have been called, so as to prepare our self and others for the coming of Christ. That desert is any place where there is need and every place where our Lord is not allowed full access, beginning with our own souls. Then we can consider our family, work environment, community, friends, or any other place that lacks the superabundance of God's grace. Let us ask God to help us in this holy season to seek to enter those deserts and to be open to be a channel of our Lord's grace in all circumstances.

God Bless You, *Fr Martin*

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

POSADA –During the season of Advent, we are once again following a Mexican tradition of Posada (travelling nativity) and welcome Mary and Joseph into our homes, moving around the parish arriving back at the parish for the first mass of Christmas 6pm Christmas Eve. We have a few days left. Please sign up today.

CHRISTMAS ITEMS New stock including Christmas candles, available to buy at the back of church.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE

NEXT SUNDAY -15TH DECEMBER AT 3PM

To include a candlelit parade to Our Blessed Shrine, followed by refreshments. Please come along–bring family and friends, suitable for all ages.



Mass Times
9th December -15th December

DAY	CHURCH OPEN	MASS TIMES	INTENTIONS / DETAILS / FEAST
MON 9TH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	ANNEGIRT HILL **INTS** THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
TUES 10TH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	ROMEO AND AURELIO ATIENZA **RIP** OUR LADY OF LORETO
WED 11TH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	GHANSHAM PATEL **(L/D) RIP** ST DAMASCUS 1, POPE
THURS 12TH DEC	10 AM TO 11 AM	**NO MASS**	**ROSARY AND EXPOSITION**
FRIDAY 13TH DEC	9 AM TO 11 AM	9.30 AM 11.00 AM	SYLVIA WRIGHT **RIP** FUNERAL OF THE LATE SHEILA KEABLE **RIP** ST LUCY
SAT 14TH DEC	9 TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	BILLY BUCKLEY **(L/D) RIP** **FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION AND CONFESSIONS** ST JOHN OF THE CROSS
SUN 15TH DEC		**6.00 PM (SAT)** **9.30 AM** **11.30AM**	TOM LYNSKEY & FAMILY **INTS** PEOPLE OF THE PARISH PHILIP DAVY-MARTIN **INTS** THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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—Winning numbers for the November draw: Mary Galante No 25, Tessa Maude No 50 Pat Faille No 72, please collect your envelopes for the sacristy.

PARISH MASS BOOKS– We have new parish mass books, with the revised translation, for the first half year of cycle C. These have been funded by the proceeds made from the sale of the parish Christmas cards and a donation from the weekday mass coffee club. Thank you to all those who have either donated or purchased cards to help replace our first batch of books.

PARISH HYMN BOOKS We have received a very generous donation from a parishioner, donations received from the Folk Group Christmas sing along last year and any donations made this year, so we will shortly be ordering new hymn books to replace the tired and battered ones that have served us well for many years. Thank you to all.

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

BREAKFAST CLUB—Sausage and bacon rolls were served after the 9.30am mass on 24th November, which was a great success. We are making arrangements for this to happen on a regular basis– so watch this space for details.

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.**

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.

SVP will next meet on **Sunday 15th December** after the 9.30 mass at 14.45 in the Library.

FOODBANK– Thank you for your donations, the next collection will be **Monday 6th January** 2025.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE
6 pm Family -First Mass of Christmas
10pm Midnight Mass with Carols

CHRISTMAS DAY
10.30 am Mass of Christmas



CHURCHES TOEGETHER IN EASTCOTE– Joint carol service this year hosted by Eastcote Methodist Church, Pamela Gardens at 8pm on **Monday 16th December,** followed by refreshments. All welcome.

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/