SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER +THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT+

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

14TH/15TH DECEMBER

6.00 PM TOM LYNSKEY & FAMILY **INTS**
9.30 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11.30 AM PHILIP DAVY-MARTIN **INTS**

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 : Charles Gattey, Josephine O' Brien, Mary Cullinane



THE VIGIL LAMP AT OUR LADY
burns this coming week
for the intentions of
THE HARRINGTON FAMILY

Dear Parishioners,

'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming… He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit…'

This Sunday, which is the third in our Advent season, still sees the figure of John the Baptist as he calls people to repentance. John turns our attention to Jesus Christ. He states that "*he who is mightier than I is coming*" and "*he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire*." John gives us a twofold command. First, work to overcome sin, and second, to turn our eyes to him who is coming to us. Once we repent, then the void within our souls can be filled with the presence of Jesus Christ. Advent, just like Lent, is an important time within our liturgical year to heed these messages. Though it's true that we must work to overcome sin and turn to Jesus every day of the year, God knows we need special times each year when we give concerted effort to these spiritual endeavours. This Sunday is also called '*Gaudete Sunday',* in which we are called to rejoice in the good news that Jesus comes to cleanse us with a baptism of the Holy Spirit to take away sin and evil from our lives. The little babe in Bethlehem, whom we will adore on Christmas night and whom we await in his returning glory at the end of time, has been proved to be our Saviour and Redeemer as he gave up his life selflessly for us on the Cross. This is the cause of our joy. The Church teaches us that, to qualify as a practicing Catholic Christian, we must confess our sins in the Sacrament of Confession at least once each year. Advent would be an ideal time to fulfil that essential requirement, which is one of the few obligatory precepts of the Catholic Church. Let us reflect, today, upon the twofold exhortation from John and apply it to our Advent preparations. Let us desire to cleanse our souls in a special way from all sin this Advent. We can then joyfully and prayerfully ponder and meditate upon the reality we are preparing to celebrate. As John says, we can then allow the Jesus Christ to truly *baptise us with the Holy Spirit and fire*, through our deepening devotion and prayer this Advent.

God Bless You, *Fr Martin*

PARISH CAROL SERVICE

THIS SUNDAY -15TH DECEMBER AT 3PM

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



SVP will next meet this weekend, **Sunday 15th December** after the 9.30 mass at 9.45 in the Library.

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.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS – as well as the usual time of Confessions each Saturday morning in the parish from 10-11am, members of all local parishes are invited to attend the deanery Advent Reconciliation Service on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30pm, at Sacred Heart Church, Ruislip.

CHRISTMAS MASSES If you are a Reader or Eucharistic Minister and will be attending any of the Christmas Masses, please show your availability on the sign up sheet at the back of church.

Mass Times
16th December—22nd December

DAY	CHURCH OPEN	MASS TIMES	INTENTIONS / DETAILS / FEAST
MON 16TH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	ANGELA PATEL **INTS** THANKSGIVING
TUES 17TH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM** **11.15 AM**	SYLVESTER THARUMALINGAM **(A) RIP** FUNERAL OF THE LATE NICHOLAS RYDER
WED 18TH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	ANNEGIRT HILL **INTS**
THURS 19TH DEC	10 AM TO 11 AM	**NO MASS**	**ROSARY AND EXPOSITION**
FRIDAY 20TH DEC	9 AM TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	KATHLEEN O'DONNELL **INTS**
SAT 21ST DEC	9 TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	BONILLA DE SOUZA **RIP** **FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION AND CONFESSIONS** ST PETER CANISIUS
SUN 22ND DEC		**6.00 PM (SAT)** **9.30 AM** **11.30AM**	MARY TOMLINSON **(A) RIP** TOM LYNSKEY **INTS** PEOPLE OF THE PARISH FOURTH 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

PARISH HYMN BOOKS We have received a very generous donation from a parishioner, donations from the Folk Group Christmas sing along last year and this year (last week,) so 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.

RADIO MARIA—If you like to listen to the radio, this is a Catholic 24 hour radio station based in the Uk and also part of the world family of Radio Maria formed in 1998. Leaflets with more details are available at the back of church for those who don't have access to a computer. If you do, follow this link to learn options on how to listen and what the daily programmes involve. https://radiomariaengland.uk/ examples are the Angelus, Rosary , readings of the day, Holy Mass, poetry , hymns, discussions.

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



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

THE LIFE ASCENDING GROUP meeting on **Wednesday 8th January** 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.

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



PPC MEETING—The next meeting will be **14th January at 8pm** in the library.

LIVE STREAMING –For information: All the parish masses and services are streamed live, for people who are unable to attend in person. Those on the sanctuary during mass and when receiving communion, may appear on the live feed on line. If you wish to avoid this, please sit further back in church.

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/

“The Last Days of Jesus’ - a dramatization of The Passion.

Dear Parishioners,

In the run-up to Easter next year we, as a parish, will be performing a dramatic reflection on the **‘The Last Days of Jesus’** as described in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

All of the roles, both acting and back-stage, will be played by parishioners who have already been approached and have agreed to the task.
To this end there will be an inaugural gathering of all acting and support staff involved on **Sunday 12th January at 3pm** in the Parish Centre.
At this meeting the roles will be allotted and scripts provided.

It is crucial that all involved make the utmost effort to attend both this and the following fortnightly rehearsals up to the four performance dates of
8th – 12th April, 2025

This is a very big undertaking for our small parish involving in excess of 30 players and if any have a difficulty in committing to this demand please let me know as soon as possible so that the role or task can be reallocated.

All will be revealed on Sunday 12th January but please advise me (see below) that you remain content to be part of this exciting production.

There will also an opportunity for the small children of the parish to make an appearance under the supervision of Jane Inglese.
Tickets for the viewing of the four performance dates will be open to members of the parish, their family and friends.
Sincerely.

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