SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY +THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD+

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

11TH /12TH JANUARY



6.00 PM MARY HANRAHAN **RIP**
9.30 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11.30 AM CLIVE THOMAS **(A) RIP**

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 :
Victoria Gattey, Emilie Potts.

FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Giovanna Blasetti, Fr Sean Carroll



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

CATH GORMAN

Dear Parishioners,

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes for us the Christmas Season and transitions us into the beginning of Ordinary Time. From a Scriptural point of view, this event in Jesus' life is also a transitional moment from His hidden life in Nazareth to the beginning of His public ministry. As we commemorate this glorious event, we can ask: why was Jesus baptised? John's baptism was one of repentance, an act by which he invited his followers to turn from sin and to turn to God. But Jesus was sinless, so what was the reason for His baptism? We see that Jesus' true identity was made manifest through His humble act of baptism. *"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased,"* spoke the voice of the Father in heaven. Furthermore, we are told that the Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. Thus, Jesus' baptism is in part a public declaration of who He is. He is the Son of God, a divine Person who is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. This public testimony is an "epiphany," a manifestation of His true identity for all to see as He prepares to begin His public ministry. Jesus allows Himself to become identified with sinners. By sharing in an act that was focused upon repentance, Jesus speaks volumes through His action of baptism. He came to unite Himself with us sinners, to enter our sin and to enter into our death. By entering the water, He symbolically enters into death itself, which is the result of our sin, and rises triumphantly, allowing us to also rise with Him to new life. For this reason, Jesus' baptism was a way of Him "baptising" the waters, so to speak, so that water itself, from that moment onward, would be endowed with His divine presence and could be communicated to all who are baptized after Him. Therefore, sinful humanity is now able to meet divinity through baptism. This Sunday at the start of our Jubilee year of hope is an ideal time to treasure the gift of our own baptism and to pray that we will come closer to Jesus in the coming months and so become Pilgrims of Hope in our daily lives.

God Bless You, *Fr Martin*

A BIG THANK YOU – for all the kind expressions of Christmas good will received from parishioners in this festive season. I am very grateful for all the generosity and kindness shown to me in all the various expressions of love in cards, gifts, food and drink and other means! Thank you to everyone, please be assured of my grateful prayers for all your intentions in this Jubilee year. God bless you, Fr Martin

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025—The first session with the children and parents of those registered for the 2025 preparation programme takes place after 9.30 am mass this Sunday 12th January.

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. Please return to the parish office by **Monday 13th January.**

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2025– Next weekend there will be the annual appeal for SPUC, who work tirelessly to radically transform culture so that abortion becomes unthinkable, restoring the sanctity of human life in our society. This year's appeal postcards call on the Government to adhere to the United Nations' convention on the Rights of a Child. Please give generously to help SPUC continue to defend unborn babies and their mothers.

Mass Times
13th January to 19th January

DAY	CHURCH OPEN	MASS TIMES	INTENTIONS / DETAILS / FEAST
MON 13TH JAN	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	CLIVE THOMAS **(A) RIP** ST HILARY
TUES 14TH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	GERALDINE AND GORDON WALLACE **RIP**
WED 15TH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	TOM & MARY LYNSKEY AND FAMILY **INTS**
THURS16TH	10 AM TO 11 AM	**NO MASS**	**ROSARY AND EXPOSITION**
FRIDAY 17TH JAN	9 AM TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	ANNEGIRT HILL **INTS** ST ANTHONY
SAT 18TH JAN	9 TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	PATRICK AND RUBEN **INTS** **FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION AND CONFESSIONS** BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
SUN 19TH JAN		**6.00 PM (SAT)** **9.30 AM** **11.30 AM**	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH ALICE COWAN I**NTS** FR SEAN CARROLL **(L/D) RIP** 2ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

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



100 CLUB Winning Numbers for the December 100 club draw: Annegirt Hill No. 35, Karen Berry No. 4, Anna Horton No. 36. Please collect your envelopes from the sacristy.

THE PASSION– If you are involved in the dramatization of The Passion at Easter, the first reading takes place this **Sunday 12th January** in the hall, from 3 pm. If any further details are needed, please contact Bernard Luckhurst bernardjluckhurst@btopenworld.com.

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.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS 2025 -Sunday Jan 12th 2025 meet 2.30pm, Church of the Most Precious Blood, OMeara Street London ISE1 1TN (nearest tube: London Bridge). Dress warmly! We will walk along the river, cross at Tower Bridge and see the Tower, and finish at the birthplace of St John Henry Newman. **Wed Jan 15th**, meet 2.30pm, Church of the Most Precious Blood, O Meara Street London SE1 1TN. Same walk as Sun Jan 12th… ALL WELCOME! No need to book - just turn up. More information: http://www.catholichistorywalks.com

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

FOODBANK– Thank you for your donations, please keep them coming.

SVP—Will meet next on **Sunday 19th January** after the 9.30 am mass in the library. All are welcome to come along and see how those in need in our parish and community are helped and supported.

THE LIFE ASCENDING GROUP meeting on **Wednesday 22nd 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

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/