SUNDAY 9TH MARCH + 1ST SUNDAY LENT +

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

8TH/ 9TH MARCH

6.00PM ETHNA HOUGH **RIP**

9.30AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

11.30AM POPE FRANCIS **INTS**

FOR OUR PRAYERS

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK / IN NEED

Pope Francis, Sharon Evans**,** Loreto Berry, Tracey Ashby, Ida Houlden, Stella Murray, Andrew Hencel**,** Teresa Collins, especially Dolores Walsh, Sarah Joyce, Katie Loftus.

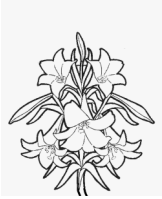


FOR OUR HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS ESPECIALLY

Peggy McMahon, Marie Hardy, Hilda Minoli.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME :

John Pitt, Phyllis Barnes.



WE PRAY FOR the repose of the soul of **Yvonne Scott,** recently departed.



THE VIGIL LAMP AT OUR LADY

burn this coming week

fin Loving Memory of

PATRICK O'ROURKE

RIP

Dear Parishioners,

'Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.'

This Sunday we hear the first of our Lenten Gospel passages which will introduce us to the 40 days we will spend with our Lord, preparing for the great feast of our redemption at Easter. When Jesus entered the desert he was aware that he would be facing great temptation. The commitment of Jesus to spend this time praying and fasting was an attack upon the forces of evil and even on the devil himself. This was to show the identification of Jesus with everything that we experience in our lives that causes us trouble, except the act of sinning itself. Jesus' victory over these temptations was a sign in advance of what he would accomplish definitively at the Cross when all evil, sin and even death would be defeated by the sacrifice of his life. We might ask ourselves as lent begins: *what temptations and sins are among my greatest struggles?* Sometimes we approach temptations in the wrong way when we try and manage all by ourselves and simply rely on our own will power. The best way to overcome the struggles is to turn towards the only one who can defeat evil: Jesus. By loving Jesus, as the first commandment tells us, and then seeking to share that love with one another, we are opening ourselves to God's solution for our lives: Love. As we begin our 40 day Lenten journey, let us reflect upon the various sins and struggles in our lives that we may need to overcome. If we find ourselves losing the battle at times it's an opportunity to change our strategy. Let us choose kindness if we struggle with anger, choose fasting and self-denial if we struggle with our appetites or choose generosity if we struggle with never feeling like we have enough of things. Whatever our struggle, let us turn to the virtue we need the most and ask God to help us receive all that we need through Jesus. This will bring us hope, which is being offered as a special grace in this Jubilee year, and will help us to arrive at our Easter celebrations with greater joy and freedom in our lives.

God Bless You, ***Fr Martin***

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY—FRIDAY 14TH MARCH By praying, eating simply and giving, you'll be supporting local experts to provide simple, effective solutions to the toughest problems facing people around the world. Collect a CAFOD envelope as you leave church to make a Lent offering, and please consider pledging a monthly gift this Jubilee year. You can scan the QR code or search 'CAFOD envelope' to give online. If you can Gift Aid your donation, you'll add a free 25 per cent to anything you give!

DEANERY LENT DAY—SATURDAY 29TH MARCH 9.30 AM—3PM Pield Heath House School, Pield Heath Road, UB8 3NW. A day with talks, Mass Adoration and Confession led by Fr John Hemer, MHM. E mail uxbridge@rcdow.org.uk or call Angela: 01895 233193 to book a place. Tea and coffee provided, bring packed lunch.

RETROUVAILLE
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Retrouvaille is a marriage ministry for couples who are in crisis. They reach out to people who may need their help and support- www.retrouvaille.org.uk or call 0797 338 0443.

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/

Mass Times
9th March—16th March

DAY	CHURCH OPEN	MASS TIMES	INTENTIONS / DETAILS / FEAST
MON 10TH-MARCH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	CHRISTINA ETUKA **INTS**
TUES 11TH MARCH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	STELLA MURRAY I**NTS**
WED 12TH MARCH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM** **11.30 AM**	PATRICK O'ROURKE **RIP** **FUNERAL** -DEREK PERRY **RIP**
THURS 13TH MARCH	10 AM TO 11 AM	**NO MASS**	**ROSARY AND EXPOSITION**
FRIDAY 14TH MARCH	9 AM TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	JOSEPH AND SABINA COYNE **(A) RIP**
SAT 15TH MARCH	9 TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	BRIAN COOOPER **(A) RIP** **FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION AND CONFESSIONS**
SUN 16TH MARCH		**6.00 PM (SAT)** **9.30 AM** **11.30 AM**	JOSEF, MARIAN AND MARIA **RIP** PEOPLE OF THE PARISH IZABEL MALHEIROS **INTS**

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– The draw will take place this weekend for February. Winning number are Pat F. No 72, Connor F. No 22, Jackie Gray No. 28. Please collect your envelopes from the sacristy.

SPECIAL EVENT People of the Parish are going to present a dramatisation of the Passion, "**The Last Days of Jesus"** on Thursday 10th April 7.30pm, Friday 11th April 7.30pm and Saturday 12th April 2.30pm. It will last about one hour, including an interval. **There is an opportunity for young children (primary age) to appear in a scene where Jesus welcomes them. There is no speaking involved and we will keep rehearsal times to a minimum**. If your child/ children would like to be involved in one or more of the days, please can you let me know asap? Many thanks. Jane Inglese 07779 626068 jinglese@btinternet.com

PARCHMENT—Bernard Luckhurst is looking for a small piece of parchment (A5) size for the "Last Days of Jesus" Passion. If you can help with this please contact him on 020 8866 7706

DATES FOR THE DIARY

FOODBANK– Thank you for your donations, please keep them coming. The next collection will be on **10th March**

SVP The next meeting will be **Sunday 16th March** after the 9.30 mass in the library.

THE LIFE ASCENDING GROUP meeting on **Wednesday 19th March** 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 half an hour of discussion around the latest literature produced by the diocesan Agency for Evangelisation.

YOUTH MASS- Sunday 6th April 6.00pm for year 9 and above. Followed by a social in the hall to 8.30pm. Come along, bring a friend and spread the word.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL **Saturday 17th May 2025 at 2:30pm** The Cardinal invites couples in the Diocese celebrating in 2025 their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and any year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage. Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend.

EVENING OF IRISH SONG - SAT 22ND MARCH in the Parish Hall to celebrate St. Patrick's Day led by the Folk Group. Free entry. Donations to Barnardo's Eastcote and Churches Together in Eastcote welcome. Doors open at 7.00 and singing commences at 7.30. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Please bring your own picnic for the interval.

LIVE STREAMING –For INFORMATION -All the parish masses and services are live streamed. Those on the sanctuary, sanctuary steps during mass or seated at the front of the church, may appear on the live feed on line.