SUNDAY 23RD MARCH + 3RD SUNDAY LENT +

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

22ND/23RD MARCH

6.00PM JOHN & CHRISSIE KENE AND FAMILY **RIP**
9.30AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11.30AM CATHERINE TAYLOR AND FAMILY **INTS**

FOR OUR PRAYERS



FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK / IN NEED
Sharon Evans, Loreto Berry, Tracey Ashby, Houlden, Stella Murray, Andrew Hencel, Teresa Collins, Audrey Farrell.

THOSE IN OUR NURSING HOMES especially
Dolores Walsh, Sarah Joyce, Katie Loftus, Hilda Minoli.

FOR OUR HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS ESPECIALLY
Peggy McMahon, Marie Hardy.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME :
Reg Stanley Fry, William Johns, Freya Edwards, Aza Walsh, Lois Mattingley, Jim Higgins, Maria McKay, Steve Howley, Derek Honeygold.

Dear Parishioners,

'Sir, leave the fig tree for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilise it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not, you can cut it down.'

This Third Sunday of Lent brings us to the question of the fruitfulness of our spiritual lives and our desire to respond to God's great love for us. Jesus tells us a parable about a gardener asking a landowner to wait for one more year while promising to fertilise and cultivate the ground around an unfruitful fig tree. We can interpret this story seeing Jesus is the gardener and us as the fig tree. This parable can lead us to look at our lives and examine whether or not we desire to bear good fruit for the kingdom of heaven. Jesus comes to us to cultivate the soil of our hearts, fertilising them with his holy word and his Sacraments, watering them with his Holy Spirit which brings us love, mercy and grace. This is all to give us the opportunity to produce the fruit of charity in our lives; in loving God and loving one another. As we prepare to celebrate the great feast of our redemption at Easter, Lent is a perfect time to ask ourselves: how deep is our desire to engage with this plan of God in our life? Perhaps we expect to see only a little spiritual fruit in our lives? Do we dare to hope that our lives could become as abundantly fruitful as possible? A very encouraging and consoling aspect of the parable is that our Lord is very patient with us. God knows our true potential and will stop at nothing to help us realise it. In the Paschal Mystery we see Jesus climbing, not a fig tree, but the tree of the Cross. He irrigates our world with his precious blood which opens up for us the treasures of God's divine mercy. With God there is always another chance, another opportunity to start again. It's never too late to start living the life we were meant to live! Let us reflect, today, upon the image of us as a fig tree and Jesus as the divine gardener. Let us allow God to work in our lives in the necessary tilling and fertilising that we need. Let us strengthen our spiritual lives by reading the word of God, by participating more fully and regularly in the Sacraments, by being more focused upon our daily prayer, by examining our conscience more fully and by sincerely confessing our sins. In this grace-filled Jubilee Year of Hope, let us do all we can to cooperate with the action of our divine gardener so that we will be amazed at the good fruit that begins to come forth in our lives.

God bless you, ***Fr Martin***

THE CANDLE FOR THE SANCTUARY LAMP



has been donated this week
for the intentions of

JUDY AND ERIC DOKE

70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY





THE VIGIL LAMP AT OUR LADY

burns this coming week
for the intentions of

THOMAS AND JOSEPH

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LATE MARY RICHARDS– 12 noon Requiem Mass-Monday 24th March, followed by light refreshments in the hall from 1pm (family will join about 2pm after private commital following the mass)

NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR WALSINGHAM SHRINE -In this jubilee year, The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have asked us to support the Jubilee initiatives, projects and spiritual mission of the Shrine. If you would like to contribute to this there will be a basket available after the masses this weekend.

DRAMATISATION OF THE PASSION - Tickets for "The Last Days of Jesus, " the dramatisation of The Passion on Thursday 10th and 11th April at 7.30 pm and Saturday 12th April at 3.00pm, will be available after all Masses this weekend or through Jackie Keating on **07932 051742**. Spaces are limited so don't delay.

COMBONI MISSIONARIES APPEAL 2025—Next Sunday there will be a visiting priest and collections after all the masses

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
24th March –30th March

DAY	CHURCH OPEN	MASS TIMES	INTENTIONS / DETAILS / FEAST
MON 24TH MARCH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	TERESA MOORE **L/D RIP**
TUES 25TH MARCH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	BARBARA WHITEHEAD **L/D RIP** **THE ANUNCIATION OF THE LORD**
WED 26TH MARCH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	MICHAEL CAULFIELD **L/D RIP**
THURS 27TH MARCH	10 AM TO 11 AM	**NO MASS**	**ROSARY AND EXPOSITION**
FRIDAY 28TH-MARCH	9 AM TO 11 AM	9.30 AM	DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE HARRINGTON FAMILY **RIP**
SAT 29TH MARCH	9 TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	OUR BLESSED MOTHER **FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION AND CONFESSIONS**
SUN 30TH MARCH		**6.00 PM (SAT)** **9.30 AM** **11.30 AM**	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH EILEEN AND GERRY BRADY **(A) RIP** KATHY O' BRIEN AND TED & PHYLLIS MCGODLRICK **(A) RIP** **4TH SUNDAY LENT**

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

GOOD FRIDAY 18TH APRIL 2025 There will be a **Stations of the Cross Service for children at 10am.** This will involve the children as much as possible and will make the way of the Cross understandable to them. We invite families to "adopt" a Station. If you do this, your children will be enabled to take an active part in the service with your support. Please sign the paper form in the porch by 13th April (Palm Sunday) and I will contact you during Holy week to give you more details. If you have any questions please email jinglese@btinternet.com

DATES FOR THE DIARY

40 DAYS FOR LIFE –5th March to 13th April You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion! Vigil location Ealing Green, opposite Pitshanger Manor W5 5EQ. Vigil hours 7am to 8pm daily. E mail to sign up london40daysforlife@hotmail.com or call Sarah 07776 256838.

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.

THE LIFE ASCENDING GROUP meeting on **Wednesday 2nd April** 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.

JUBILEE RETREAT AND HEALING MINISTRY—Fr Rozo Palic, who has a special charism in caring for those with spiritual, physical, psychological problems, various addictions and depression, will be at Our Lady of the Visitation Church, Greenford on **Thursday 3rd April from 5pm -Mass at 7pm, and Friday 4th April from 10am -mass at 11am**.

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.

FOODBANK– Thank you for your donations, please keep them coming. The next collection will be on **7th April.**

RETROUVAILLE
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

REDISCOVER YOU MARRIAGE-The next programme commences with a week-end in Welwyn Garden City on **20th - 22nd June 2025** Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk. No group therapy or group work.

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.