

# St Thomas More – Parish Newsletter

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## Sunday 15th January 2023, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

### From the Holy Father

Dear brothers and sisters: Today we begin a new series of catechesis on apostolic zeal.

Christ's Church, founded on the apostles, was born with missionary zeal, sent by the Holy Spirit to radiate the light of Christ to every land and people. Apostolic zeal is the very oxygen of our Christian life and an index of the Church's spiritual health. Drawing upon the Scriptures and the Church's living tradition, we can find a first, eloquent example of this in the calling of the apostle Matthew.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus "saw" this despised tax collector; he looked at Matthew with eyes of mercy and called him to become his disciple. Matthew then "got up and followed him"; now a changed man, he left behind his ill-gotten gains and embraced, with Jesus, a life of discipleship and service to others.

Significantly, the first thing Matthew did was bring Jesus to a dinner with many other "tax collectors and sinners". He went back to where he lived and introduced Jesus to others. This can be our primary lesson in apostolic zeal; in the words of the late Pope Benedict, it proclaims Jesus not by proselytism but by attraction, out of a joyful desire to share with others the loving gaze of

Jesus and the call to follow him as his disciples.

*Audience 11th January 2023*

### Peace Sunday

Peace Sunday is today, 15th January, 2023. The theme chosen for 2023 by Pope Francis is: "No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace"

Links in this email will take you to the liturgy booklet with recorded music and activities for families and children at home. Pax Christi depends very much on financial contributions we receive from Peace Sunday collections and in these difficult circumstances we would be doubly grateful for any donation you are able to make.

With our sincere thanks and wishing you a peaceful and blessed New Year.

The Pax Christi Team

More information can be found at: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023/>

Also contact Cath Attlee.

There are some prayer cards available in the Narthex, with words from the Holy Father.

### Seniors' Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be Wednesday 18th January.

Please sign up on the list in the Narthex.

### Magnificat — January

Copies of the January Magnificat are available. Please ask Maggie, or one of the priests for a copy. Price £5.

## Mary's Meals

Until 31 January 2023, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.5 million. It costs just £15.90 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a school year. And this winter, a donation of £15.90 will feed two children.

We shall take up a retiring collection for Mary's Meals Sunday 22nd January.

## Valentine's Day Mass

Our traditional celebration of Christian Marriage, will be on **Friday 10th February 2023**. Mass at 6pm, followed by a reception in the Hall. All married couples, especially the recently married, and those preparing for marriage are welcome to attend.

## Diocesan Accounts

We have been sent a copy of the 2021 Annual Report & Accounts and Annual Review with a short Financial Summary. These will be in the Narthex for people to review, but please **do not remove them**. There is also a poster with details of where the full report can be found on the diocesan website. <https://rcdow.org.uk/about-us/>

## Dates for your diary in 2023

Ash Wednesday: 22nd February

Easter Sunday: 9th April

Ascension: 18th May

Corpus Christi: 11th June

All Saints: 1st November

1st Sunday of Advent: 3rd December

## Mass times

Please note that 7am Masses, Monday to Friday, resumed on Monday 9th. As before, the church opens at 6.50am and entry is via the car park entrance.

## Inquiry into Assisted Suicide

From Bishop John Sherrington:

At the beginning of the New Year, I am writing to inform you that the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has launched an inquiry into assisted suicide and is inviting individual members of the public and interested

organisations to comment, and also to suggest what actions might be helpful for the debate. Options include a 'Citizens' Assembly', further independent research, or a referendum.

I would be grateful if you could inform parishioners of this Inquiry and ask healthcare and legal professionals to respond from their expertise.

Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good, and so it is crucial that as many people as possible engage with the Parliamentary Inquiry and oppose the introduction of assisted suicide into UK law. It is especially important that those who respond should oppose the idea of a 'Citizens' Assembly' or referendum on this issue, as these are easily abused to try to legalise assisted suicide.

The Catholic Church is clear that we can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it. All life is sacred from conception until natural death, and we reiterate our call for investment in high quality palliative care. Our call is one for assistance in living and not assistance in committing suicide.

Statements of the Bishops' Conference can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/life-issues/assisted-dying/>

The Anscombe Centre can also help the response. They have produced a statement and resources about this Inquiry: <https://bioethics.org.uk/news-events/news-from-the-centre/anscombe-centre-statement-on-commons-hsc-committee-inquiry-into-assisted-suicide/>.

The timeframe for answering the consultation is a short one. Submissions must be in by **Friday 20 January** but happily the format of the Inquiry is simple, and not time-consuming – just six questions. To aid public engagement, the Anscombe Bioethics Centre has [produced a short two-page Briefing](#) to help anyone interested in responding, whether as an individual or as an organisation. The relevant links for the questionnaire and for longer responses are included in this document.

Anyone with any questions can contact the Anscombe Centre at [admin@bioethics.co.uk](mailto:admin@bioethics.co.uk)

## **Catholic Children's Society's Christmas Gift Appeal 2022**

Dear Fr Stefan,

I wanted to pass on my sincere thanks to St Thomas More Church for the vouchers you donated over Christmas to help disadvantaged families. We received tremendous support this year and have been able to help over 1,200 children who would otherwise have gone without at Christmas. Below are just two examples:

1. A mother and her three young children had fled domestic abuse with only the clothes on their backs and were staying together in one room in a hostel and they relied on food banks to get by. At a time when many children were looking forward to Christmas, this mother knew she would have nothing to give her children. Thanks to your support, we were able to ensure that all three children could open presents on Christmas day. The mother said:

*“After everything my children have been through, it broke my heart to think they would have nothing to look forward to at Christmas like other children. These gifts mean so much to us and have helped me feel much more positive about the future. I can’t thank you enough”*

2. A mother lost her husband to cancer six months ago. In addition to coping with this traumatic bereavement, she had to face the challenge of bringing up her two young children alone. With no family nearby, she was extremely isolated. Her youngest was just two years old and the cost-of-living crisis meant that their flat was often cold as they struggled with rising energy and food costs. The family faced a bleak Christmas, with no money to help make this a special occasion.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide gifts and food for each child. This included toys as well as warm clothes and blankets, hot water bottles and an energy efficient/low-cost electric heater to help

keep their home warm. The mother got in touch to say:

*“We’ve had a difficult year and your help, support and kindness means a great deal to us. Just knowing there are people who care gives me strength to carry on. I’m so touched by these gifts, they’re a massive help and my children are over the moon! Thank you so much”*

I hope this gives you an idea of the joy your parish helped spread at Christmas. I have also attached a certificate of appreciation. From all of us at the Catholic Children’s Society, a huge thank you for your generosity.

With many thanks and best wishes,  
Emily Mundon  
Partnerships & Communications Officer

*You will see that the Wise Men have made their appearance in the Crib Scene. We shall keep the Crib up a little longer to give us all the chance to pray and meditate on the presence of these men who saw the Star in the East and came to worship the Child Jesus.*

*There are still some uncollected Christmas Cards on the small table in the Narthex. Do have a look to see if any of them might be for you.*

*God Bless you all!*

*Fr Stefan*

# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH    2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

15<sup>th</sup> January – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388;    <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage/>

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 15<sup>th</sup> January</b> Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  (Readings. Year A)	<b>9.30am</b> Wendy Bellas (recently deceased) <b>11am Mass</b> Simon Ulcickas (RIP anniversary) <b>6pm Mass</b> People of the Parish	The Church opens at 9.15am <b>10.30am</b> Confessions  <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 16<sup>th</sup> January</b> feria	<b>7am Mass</b> Donor's Private Intention <b>10am Mass</b> Margaret Meehan (intentions)	The Church opens at 6.50am (Monday to Friday)
<b>TUE 17<sup>th</sup> January</b> St Anthony, Abbot	<b>7am Mass</b> Irene O'Sullivan (recently deceased) <b>10am Mass</b> Angela Carpos (RIP)	
<b>WED 18<sup>th</sup> January</b> feria	<b>7am Mass</b> For Peace in Ukraine <b>10am Mass</b> Maria Isabel (intentions)	<b>10.45am</b> Seniors' Coffee morning
<b>THU 19<sup>th</sup> January</b> St Wulstan, Bishop	<b>7am Mass</b> Donor's intention <b>10am Mass</b> Brendan Burn (RIP)	
<b>FRI 20<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>St Sebastian, Martyr</i>  <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>7am Mass</b> Holy Souls <b>10am Mass</b> Persecuted Christians	<b>10am – 12pm</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>SAT 21<sup>st</sup> January</b> St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr	<b>10am Mass</b> Mabel Bull (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am

## Prayer Intentions:

**Recently deceased:** Mike Cipolla; Michael Crook; Pope Benedict XVI; Angela Carpos; John Stopplecamp; Wendy Bellas; Irene O'Sullivan

**Anniversary:** Sofia da Silva; Maryann Estrella; James Patrick McNally; Brigid Monaghan; Josephine Abdala-Tabet; Christine Banks; Mark Sharman; Elizabeth Covenden; Maria Fernanda; Simon Ulcickas

## Confessions:

Monday to Friday (before and after 10am Mass)

Saturday: before and after 10am Mass

Sunday: 10.30am and 5.30pm (before Mass)

## Forthcoming Events:

**18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January: Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**22<sup>nd</sup> February: ASH WEDNESDAY**