

# St Thomas More – Parish Newsletter

Maresfield Gardens London NW3 5SU Tel: 020 7435 1388

*Email: [swisscottage@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:swisscottage@rcdow.org.uk) Web page: [parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage)*

*Web camera: [www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage](http://www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage)*

*Parish Priest: Mgr Nicholas Morrish: [nicholasmorrish@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:nicholasmorrish@rcdow.org.uk)*

*Fr Bernard Marsh [bernardmarsh@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:bernardmarsh@rcdow.org.uk)*

*Fr Álvaro Tintoré [alvaro.tintore@netherhall.org.uk](mailto:alvaro.tintore@netherhall.org.uk)*

## Sunday 29th January 2023, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

### From the Holy Father

Dear brothers and sisters:

The Gospel from today's liturgy narrates the call of the first disciples who, along the lake of Galilee leave everything to follow Jesus. He had already met some of them, thanks to John the Baptist, and God had placed the seed of faith within them. So now, Jesus goes back to look for them where they live and work. The Lord always looks for us. The Lord always draws near to us, always. This time, he extends a direct call to them: "Follow me!". And "immediately they left their nets and followed him".

Let's take a moment to reflect on this scene. This is the moment of a decisive encounter with Jesus, one they would remember their entire lives and would be included in the Gospel. From then on, they follow Jesus. And in order to follow him, they leave.

To leave so as to follow. And it is always like this with Jesus. It can begin in some way with a sense of attraction, perhaps due to others. Then the awareness can become more personal and can kindle a light in the heart. It becomes something beautiful to share: "You know, that passage from the Gospel struck me.... That service opportunity I had struck me..." – something that touches your heart. This is what happened with the first disciples. But sooner or later, the

moment comes in which it is necessary to leave so as to follow. That is when it is necessary to make a decision: Shall I leave behind some certainties and embark on a new adventure, or shall I remain like I am? This is a decisive moment for every Christian because the meaning of everything else is at stake here. If someone does not find the courage to set out on the journey, the risk is to remain a spectator of one's own existence and to live the faith halfway.

To stay with Jesus, therefore, requires the courage to leave, to set out on the journey. What must we leave behind? Our vices and our sins, certainly, which are like anchors that hold us at bay and prevent us from setting sail. To begin to leave, it is only right that we begin by asking forgiveness – forgiveness for the things that are not beautiful. I leave these things behind to move forward. But it is also necessary to leave behind what holds us back from living fully, for example, fear, selfish calculations, the guarantees that come from staying safe, just getting by. It also means giving up the time wasted on so many useless things. How beautiful it would be to leave all this in order to experience, for example, the tiring but rewarding risk of service, or to dedicate time to prayer so as to grow in friendship with the Lord. I am also thinking of a young family who leaves behind a quiet life to open themselves up to the unpredictable and beautiful adventure of motherhood and fatherhood. It is a sacrifice, but all it takes is one look at a child to understand that it was the right choice

to leave behind certain rhythms and comforts to have this joy. I am also thinking, of certain professionals, for example, doctors or healthcare workers, who give up a lot of free time to study and prepare themselves, and who do good, dedicating many hours day and night, and spend so much physical and mental energy for the sick. I think of workers who leave behind convenience, who let go of doing nothing so as to put food on the table. In short, to live life, we need to accept the challenge to leave. Today, Jesus extends this invitation to each of us.

*Angelus, 22nd January 2023*

### **Collections for 1st to 22nd January 2023**

Sunday offertory collection: £1,419.42  
(Envelopes: £645.50; Loose: £773.92)  
Contactless card machine 26th December 2022 to 25th January 2023: £355.93. **Grand total: £1,775.35**

Catholic Childrens Society Crib Collection: £103.39.

Mary's Meals: £657.85.

Many thanks.

### **Magnificat — February and Lent**

The February Magnificat (£5) and Lenten companion (£2) are available to buy. Please ask Maggie, or one of the priests for copies.

### **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.

### **World Day of the Sick**

On Saturday February 11th 2023, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and the 31st World Day of the Sick, Cardinal Vincent will celebrate Mass in the Cathedral at 2.30pm. During this Mass anointing of the sick will be offered.

If you would like to attend this Mass then please let Fr Nicholas know. Best to send him an email or a note.

### **Annual Mass for Matrimony**

“The annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries.

Full information and invitation will be issued shortly by the Diocesan Co-ordinator for Marriage and Family Life, Deacon Roger Carr-Jones, but in the meantime Parishes are invited to note the date and begin to advertise this very popular and important celebration.”

### **Open Morning for Prospective Chorister Families**

Westminster Cathedral Choir School warmly welcomes families interested in chorister places for boys currently in Years 2, 3 or 4, for an open morning on Sunday 5th February from 10am to 12noon.

Becoming a chorister offers boys the opportunity to sing in our world-famous choir, and to join a world-class school for boys age 4 –13, with up to 100% off fees on a means-tested basis.

Interested families are invited to contact Lucy Auger to register for the open morning. Telephone 020 7798 9081 or email [lauger@choirschool.com](mailto:lauger@choirschool.com) or visit [www.choirschool.com](http://www.choirschool.com) for more information

### **Bach's St John Passion**

As part of its Lenten devotions, Westminster Cathedral Choir, directed by Simon Johnson, will perform Johann Sebastian Bach's the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John on Thursday 16th March at 7.30pm.

Tickets (£45/35/25/15) for this seasonal performance in aid of Westminster Cathedral are available from Ticketmaster.

### **From Aid to the Church in Need on Nigeria**

One priest was burned alive and another suffered gunshot wounds after attackers stormed a priests' house on Sunday, 15th January in Nigeria.

Father Isaac Achi died at the parish of St

Peter and St Paul, Kafin Koro, Minna Diocese, in Niger State, where the attackers struck in the early hours of the morning, burning the presbytery to the ground.

Confirming Father Achi's death, the Catholic Diocese of Minna said assistant parish priest Father Collins Omeh is "responding to treatment".

Local sources told Aid to the Church in Need that the attackers' motive was to kidnap Father Achi.

Last year, four priests were murdered in Nigeria, according to ACN data, and 28 were kidnapped. More than 7,600 Christians were killed in the country between January 2021 and June 2022.

*The Crib will stay until Thursday 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.*

*Next Wednesday, Monsignor Nicholas Morrish takes over as the new parish priest. Anything to do with the parish should be addressed to him. His email is on the front page of the Newsletter.*

*I shall be around for a while. Having been in hospital and away for about three weeks has put back the handover plan. Apart from this, the Royal Free Hospital has not yet finished with me in dealing with the kidney stone.*

*It has been a great gift from God to have been with you over the past nine years and before that while Fr Gerard was here as parish priest. I have learned a lot from each and everyone of you. This human and spiritual enrichment, plus all the happy and amusing memories will always stay with me. Many thanks!!*

*May the good Lord bless you, your homes and families, always.*

*Fr Stefan*

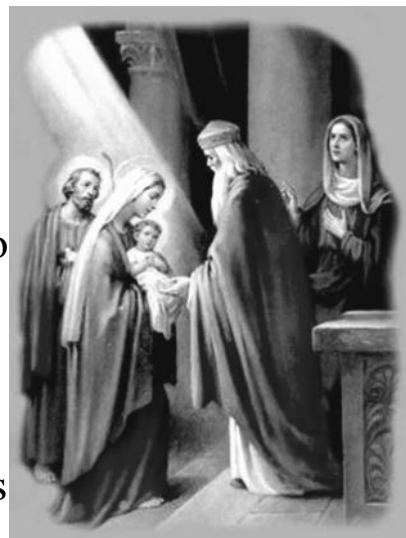
## Rejoicing with Simeon

The true light has come, the light that enlightens every man who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendour, and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in his splendour.

Through Simeon's eyes we too have seen the salvation of God which he prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness.

St Sophronius

*St. Sophronius was a simple monk who pursued a life of prayer and sacrifice first in the desert of Egypt, then near the Jordan River, then finally in the Holy City of Jerusalem. He was ultimately chosen to be bishop and Patriarch of Jerusalem in the early 7th century. He valiantly defended the true and full humanity of Christ in the face of the heresy of Monothelitism, which denied that Jesus had a human as well as a divine will.*



# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

29<sup>th</sup> January – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 29<sup>th</sup> January</b> Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  (Readings. Year A)	<b>9.30am</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass</b> Nick Aldridge (RIP) <b>6pm Mass</b> Sofia Vukusic (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.15am <b>10.30am</b> Confessions  <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 30<sup>th</sup> January</b> feria	<b>7am Mass</b> Alice La Vecchia (intentions) <b>10am Mass</b> Cancio Fernandes (RIP)	The Church opens at 6.50am (Monday to Friday)
<b>TUE 31<sup>st</sup> January</b> St John Bosco, Priest	<b>7am Mass</b> Peter Glenn (recently deceased) <b>10am Mass</b> Alice La Vecchia (intentions)	
<b>WED 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> feria	<b>7am Mass</b> Carmine Albano (intentions) <b>10am Mass</b> Brigeeen Humberstone (intentions)	
<b>THU 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b> THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	<b>7am Mass</b> Maura and PJ Grealish (RIP) <b>10am Mass</b> Joan Aldridge (intentions)	
<b>FRI 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b> Ss Laurence, Dunstand and Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>7am Mass</b> Helen Birch (intentions) <b>10am Mass</b> Pat Gibson (intentions)	<b>10am – 12pm</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>SAT 4<sup>th</sup> February</b> Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday	<b>10am Mass</b> Eddy Tabet (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; Peter Glenn

**Anniversary:** Brigid Monaghan; Josephine Abdala-Tabet; Christine Banks; Mark Sharman; Elizabeth Covenden; Maria Fernanda; Simon Ulcickas; Nick Aldridge; Mabel Bull; Sofia Vukusic

## 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:

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

**20<sup>th</sup> March: ST JOSEPH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**25<sup>th</sup> March: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**