

St Thomas More – Parish Newsletter

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SUNDAY 30TH APRIL FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)

Some thoughts about Jesus the Good Shepherd

*Pope Francis Regina Caeli Address last year
8th May 2022 in St Peter's Square*

“My sheep”, Jesus says, “hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (v. 27). (...) the sheep hear the voice of the shepherd. The initiative always comes from the Lord. Everything comes from his grace: it is he who calls us to communion with him. But this communion comes about if we open ourselves to listen. If we are deaf, he cannot grant us this communion. Opening ourselves to listening, because listening means being available, it means docility, it means time dedicated to dialogue. Today, we are overwhelmed by words and by the urgency to always have something to say or do. Indeed, how often when two people are talking, one does not wait for the other to finish his or her thought, but cuts the other off mid-sentence, and responds.... But if we do not allow another to speak, there is no listening. This is an ailment of our time. Today, we are overwhelmed by words, by the urgency to always have something to say or do. We are afraid of silence. How hard it is to listen to one other! To listen till the end, to let the other express him or herself, to listen to one another in our families, to listen to one another at school, to listen to one

another at work, and even in the Church! But for the Lord, it is first of all necessary to listen. He is the Word of the Father, and the Christian is a listening child, called to live with the Word of God at hand. Let us ask ourselves today if we are listening children, if we find time for the Word of God, if we give space and attention to our brothers and sisters, if we know how to listen until the other has fully expressed himself, without cutting off what the other is saying. Those who listen to others also know how to listen to the Lord, and vice versa. And they experience something very beautiful, that is, that the Lord himself listens — he listens to us when we pray to him, when we confide in him, when we call on him.

Listening to Jesus thus becomes the way for us to discover that he knows us. (...) He knows his sheep. But this does not only mean that he knows many things about us. To know in the biblical sense also means to love. It means that the Lord, “while he reads our inner beings”, loves us, he does not condemn us. If we listen to him, we discover this — that the Lord loves us. The way to discover the Lord’s love is to listen to him. Thus, our relationship with him will no longer be impersonal, cold or a front. Jesus seeks a warm friendship, trust, intimacy. He wants to give us a new and marvellous awareness — that of knowing we are always loved by him and, therefore, that we are never left alone by ourselves. Being with the Good Shepherd allows us to live the experience that the Psalm speaks about: “*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou*

art with me” (Ps 23:4). Above all in our sufferings, in our difficulties, in our crises, which are darkness. He sustains us by going through them with us. Thus, it is precisely in difficult situations that we can discover that we are known and loved by the Lord. So, let us ask ourselves: Do I let the Lord know me? Do I make room for him in my life? Do I bring what I am living to him? And what idea do I have of him after the many times I have experienced his closeness, his compassion, his tenderness? The Lord is near, the Lord is the Good Shepherd.

Coronation of King Charles III

The coronation of King Charles III will take place in Westminster Abbey on the morning of Saturday 6th May. For those who wish, we will project the TV coverage of the event in the parish hall after the 10am Mass, as was done for Queen Elizabeth’s funeral.

The Bishops of England and Wales have asked us to pray for His Majesty and the Queen from Wednesday 3rd May until Friday 5th May asking God to guide the King in his appointed tasks. The 10am Mass on Friday will be offered for King Charles.

There are some leaflets produced by the Bishops’ Conference available in the Narthex which contain some suggested prayers for the King.

Seniors’ Coffee Morning

This will take place on Wednesday 3rd May after the 10am Mass and will generally in future be on the first Wednesday of the month. Please add your name to the list in the narthex to help the organisers prepare for the event.

Family Event

A group of parents with young families are in the process of organising a Family Day in the parish ground floor hall and garden on Sunday 21st May starting at 12.30pm, after the 11am Mass. Everyone is welcome, including children of all ages. Tea/coffee and drinks for children will be provided, but please bring your own lunch/snacks. We hope this will be a great way for families of

the parish to meet and get to know each other.

Kindly RSVP to dominik@nagly.eu if you intend to attend, mentioning how many adults and children will be joining.

Seminar: Understanding yourself in today’s world

In June we shall be hosting a seminar over two days with this title. It is billed as “A Reflection on Faith, Science and the Human Person”, led by Dr James Navarro, a Philosophy Lecturer with plenty of experience of explaining philosophical ideas to the general public. It will take place from 3pm to 5.45pm on 17 and 18 June.

For more information please pick up a flyer from the back of the church.

Magnificat — May

The May *Magnificat* (£5) is now available to buy. Please ask Maggie, or one of the priests for copies. It is possible to pay using the card reader at the entrance.

Gift Aid and Planned Giving

There are still a few boxes of envelopes for the tax year which started on 9th April to be collected. If there has been any change in your situation (new address, change in tax status, change of name), please kindly contact our Finance Officer, Yolaine, at: swisscottagefin@rcdow.org.uk as soon as possible.

If you are a UK Income or Capital Gains Taxpayer, please sign a Gift Aid Declaration and support our parish in this free, easy way (donating either via online transfers to the parish bank account, standing order, weekly envelopes or using the Contactless devices). Gift Aid means our parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you. Thank you!

Young Adults Group

The young adults’ second social will take place this Sunday 30th April at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Brendan Thompson CEO of Catholic Voices will lead a discussion on the topic “Transmitting and defending the

faith". There will be pizza and drinks. Any person interested in the group, please contact Diego Cobian on young.adults.group.stm@gmail.com or Fr Alvaro (alvaro.tintore@netherhall.org.uk)

Retiring Collection for the Priest Training Fund

The annual Collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place this Sunday 30th April. It is called Good Shepherd Sunday and is a day when we pray for vocations to the priesthood. The fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 48 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 14 of whom are from the Diocese of Westminster, plus two studying in Rome and two in Valladolid. Please pray for them. Last year five men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure the diocese can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are still available at the back of the Church if you did not take one last week.

Monday 1st May, St Joseph the Worker

Please note that as this is a bank holiday there will be no 7am Mass and the church will close after the 10am Mass.

On my return from a few days in Rome after Easter there was certainly much happening in the parish. As announced at Mass last Sunday, four young people from the parish were confirmed at a ceremony in Our Lady's Church, St John's Wood on Friday 21st April. The next day there was a wedding in the church. Please pray for these young people and those recently married.

The Easter season continues with the beautiful readings at Mass each day taken

from the Acts of the Apostles, which invite us to consider the work of evangelisation carried out by the early Christians, based on the example of their faith-filled lives. If we try to be like them and remain united with Christ through prayer and the sacraments we will also spread the news of Jesus' resurrection from the dead through our example and words.

The Regina Caeli printed below is a prayer traditionally said at noon during Easter Time.

Mgr Nicholas

REGINA CAELI

V. Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia;

R. For he whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen as he said, alleluia;

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia;

R. For the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who by the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, granted joy to the whole world: grant, we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may lay hold of the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Easter

30th April – 6th May 2023

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 30th April FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Readings. Year A)	9.30am Colin Cardozo (RIP) 11am Mass Josh Soloman (intentions) 6pm Mass People of the Parish	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 1st May St Joseph the Worker	<u>Bank Holiday No 7am Mass</u> 10am Mass Mary V Pearson (intentions)	On Bank Holiday Monday, the Church will open at 9.30am and close after the 10am Mass.
TUE 2nd May St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor	7am Mass For Peace in Sudan 10am Mass Peter Monaghan (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 6.50am Tuesday to Friday for 7am Mass (entry via Church car park). Main doors open at 9.30am
WED 3rd May SS PHILIP and JAMES, Apostles	7am Mass For vocations to the Priesthood 10am Mass Persecuted Christians	10.45am Seniors' Coffee morning
THU 4th May THE ENGLISH MARTYRS	7am Mass For peace in Ukraine 10am Mass Camillo de Castiglioni (RIP anniversary)	
FRI 5th May Easter feria No Friday abstinence	7am Mass Pauline Ainsworth (intentions) 10am Mass Asking for God's Blessing on King Charles III	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 6th May Easter feria	10am Mass For all the authorities of our country	The Church opens at 9.30am 10.45am Coronation Viewing in Seminar 1

Prayer Intentions:

Recently deceased: Joseph Power; Ghislaine Williams; Helen Birch; Alice Hancock; Rita McNally; Mick Morrisette Tabet

Anniversary: Maroun Ramia; Iris Nally; Veronica O'Farrell; Peggy Attlee; Camillo de Castiglioni; Peter Monaghan

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:

18th May: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

28th May: PENTECOST SUNDAY