

St Thomas More – Parish Newsletter

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SUNDAY 11th June

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Year A)



From a Homily of the Holy Father on the Feast of Corpus Christi

The Eucharist also reminds us that we are not isolated individuals, but *one body*. As the people in the desert gathered the manna that fell from heaven and shared it in their families (cf. *Ex* 16), so Jesus, the Bread come down from Heaven, calls us together to receive him and to share him with one another. The Eucharist is not a sacrament “for me”; it is the sacrament of the many, who form one body, God’s holy and faithful people. Saint Paul reminded us of this: “Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the

one bread” (*1 Cor* 10:17). The Eucharist is the *sacrament of unity*. Whoever receives it cannot fail to be a builder of unity, because building unity has become part of his or her “spiritual DNA”. May this *Bread of unity* heal our ambition to lord it over others, to greedily hoard things for ourselves, to foment discord and criticism. May it awaken in us the joy of living in love, without rivalry, jealousy or mean-spirited gossip. Now, in experiencing this Eucharist, let us adore and thank the Lord for this greatest of gifts: the living memorial of his love, that makes us one body and leads us to unity.

(Pope Francis Homily in the Square of St John Lateran 18th June 2017)

Forthcoming Parish Activities and News

First Holy Communion

The children who have been preparing this year will make their First Holy Communion on the Feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday 11 June at the 11am Mass.

They will sit at the front with their parents. and receive Communion first.

Seminars on Catholic Anthropology: Understanding yourself in today’s world

On **17 and 18 June** we shall be hosting afternoon seminars from 3pm to 5.45pm to explore the notion of ‘personhood’ and its

implications for a number of contemporary issues: who (rather than what) are we? Are we capable of knowing and relating to God? What can science tell us about the world and about God? The seminars will be led by Dr James Navarro, a research Professor at the University of the Basque Country. James has also taught at Imperial College and at Cambridge University. The seminars require no previous knowledge of the subjects covered.

Parents who would like to improve the way they talk to their children about the human body, love and parenthood; students who want to engage more confidently with their fellow students on topics such as gender dysphoria; and people who want to be able to explain Christian anthropology to their colleagues, will all find the seminars helpful.

Further details about the seminars and about Dr James Navarro can be found in the flyers at the entrance to the church. Booking via Eventbrite [shorturl/ehllV](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/shorturl/ehllV). He has plenty of experience explaining philosophical ideas to the general public.

Help needed in the Parish

Are you able to volunteer in any of the following ways?

Maintenance: while the parish will always have to hire professional help for major work, it would be a great help if there were some parishioners the parish priest could turn to for small repair jobs around the property.

There are certain times when it would be a great help if a parishioner could be present in the parish office while the church and hall are in use, for example on a Saturday morning. If you are able to be in the parish for a few hours a week or have some maintenance experience or would like to volunteer to help in some other way please contact Fr Nicholas.

June 'Mini Retreat' for Women

A time set aside to look at our lives in God's presence. Tuesday 13th June: starts with

10am Mass, finishes at 12.40pm. Stay for coffee afterwards! You are welcome for all or part of it.

Feast of St Thomas More 22 June

We celebrate the feast of St Thomas More, our patronal saint on Thursday 22 June together with St John Fisher. To mark this special day in the parish there will be an informal get-together in the garden after the 10am Mass.

Feast of St Josemaría Escrivá 26 June

A more solemn Mass will be celebrated on the Feast of St Josemaría Escrivá at 7.30pm Monday 26 June. Confessions from 7pm.

Magnificat — June

Copies of the June *Magnificat* (£5) are 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 or placing cash in the newspaper and leaflet collection slot

Confessionals

Confessions are once again being heard in the confessionals in the church. They are located towards the back on the right hand side. This means the office near the Narthex can once again function as an office.

Mass intentions

If you would like to have a Mass offered for a particular intention please contact Maggie in the parish office (Tuesday & Friday mornings) or email her at swisscottage@rcdow.org.uk

Alternatively, please use the brown Mass Intention envelopes in the Narthex.

Other Events

Corpus Christi Procession

The Annual Corpus Christi Procession from Warwick Street to Spanish Place via the Ukrainian Cathedral takes place on Sunday 11 June. The procession departs from Warwick Street at 3pm. Details can be found at: www.catholiclondon.org or see the poster in the Narthex.

Post Confirmation Course

So, I've been confirmed - now what?

If you'd like to continue learning about your faith in a relaxed and fun environment, sign up for the ASCENT.

Bookings are now open for the group based in Brentwood starting in October and full details can be found at

www.theascentuk.co.uk

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From a Homily by St Josemaria Escriva on the Feast of Corpus Christi

Let's turn our eyes to the holy Eucharist, toward Jesus. He is here with us, he has made us a part of himself: "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (I Cor 12,27) God has decided to stay in the tabernacle to nourish us, strengthen us, make us divine and give effectiveness to our work and efforts. Jesus is at one and the same time the sower, the seed and the final result of the sowing: the bread of eternal life.

The miracle of the holy Eucharist is being continually renewed and it has all Jesus' personal traits. Perfect God and perfect man, Lord of heaven and earth, he offers himself to us as nourishment in the most natural and ordinary way. Love has been awaiting us for almost two thousand years. That's a long time and yet it's not, for when you are in love time flies.

I remember a lovely poem, one of the songs collected by Alfonso X the Wise. It's a legend about a simple monk who begged our Lady to let him see heaven, even if only for a moment. Our Lady granted him his wish and the good monk found himself in paradise. When he returned, he could not recognise the monastery — his prayer, which he had thought very short, lasted three centuries. Three centuries are nothing to a person in love. That's how I explain Christ waiting in the Eucharist. It is God waiting for us, God who loves man, who searches us out, who loves us just as we are — limited, selfish, inconstant, but capable of discovering his infinite affection and of

giving ourselves fully to him.

Motivated by his own love and by his desire to teach us to love, Jesus came on earth and has stayed with us in the Eucharist. "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (Jn 13,1). That's how St John begins his account of what happened on the eve of the Passover when Jesus "took bread and after he had given thanks, broke it, and said, This is my body which is given up for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (I Cor 11, 23-25)

The Blessed Eucharist

Some teaching about the Blessed Eucharist from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

1378 Worship of the Eucharist. In the liturgy of the Mass we express our faith in the real presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine by, among other ways, genuflecting or bowing deeply as a sign of adoration of the Lord. "The Catholic Church has always offered and still offers to the sacrament of the Eucharist the cult of adoration, not only during Mass, but also outside of it, reserving the consecrated hosts with the utmost care, exposing them to the solemn veneration of the faithful, and carrying them in procession." (*St Paul VI, Mysterium fidei*, 56)

1380 (...) In his Eucharistic presence he remains mysteriously in our midst as the one who loved us and gave himself up for us, and he remains under signs that express and communicate this love:

"The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease." (*St John Paul II, Dominicae cenae*, 3)

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CORPUS CHRISTI

11th June – 17th June 2023

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 11th June THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Readings. Year A)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Alex Bento (RIP anniversary) 6pm Mass For the children who have made their First Holy Communion today	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 12th June feria	7am Mass For peace in Ukraine 10am Mass For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life	The Church opens at 6.50am Monday to Friday for 7am Mass (entry via Church car park). Main doors open at 9.30am
TUE 13th June St Anthony of Padua, Priest & Doctor	7am Mass For all those sick in the Parish 10am Mass Duarte Costa Pereira (RIP)	10.45am Womens' Mini Retreat
WED 14th June feria	7am Mass For Peace in Sudan 10am Mass Maria Garcia (RIP)	
THU 15th June feria	7am Mass For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life 10am Mass Mike Humberstone (RIP anniversary)	
FRI 16th June THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS No Friday abstinence	7am Mass Smith family (intentions) 10am Mass Persecuted Christians	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 17th June The Immaculate Heart of Mary	10am Mass Donor's private intention	The Church opens at 9.30am 3.00pm – 5.45pm Anthropology Conference

Prayer Intentions:

Recently deceased: Rita McNally; Mick Morris Tabet; Edouardo Arboleda; Duarte Costa Pereira

Anniversary: Camillo de Castiglioni; Peter Monaghan; Arthur Gibson; Laura Deschamps; Mario Miranda Cruz; Alex Bento; Mike Humberstone

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:

22nd June: **SS JOHN FISHER, Bishop & THOMAS MORE, Martyrs Solemnity in the Parish**

24th June: **THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**

29th June: **SS PETER and PAUL, Apostles (Holy Day of Obligation)**