

# St Thomas More – Parish Newsletter

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## SUNDAY 18th June 11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)



Dei Prelature. For many years we have marked the feast of St Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei, with a more solemn Mass and an invited preacher. This year the Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm Monday 26 June, with confessions from 7pm. Fr Paul Hayward will be the main celebrant and preacher. It is an opportunity learn more about the life and teaching of a priest described by St John II as *the saint of the ordinary*.

### **Seminars on Catholic Anthropology: Understanding yourself in today's world**

Over this weekend 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

### **Forthcoming Parish Activities and News**

#### **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, similar to the monthly tea and coffee sessions after Sunday Mass.

#### **Feast of St Josemaría Escrivá Monday 26 June 7.30pm**

The parish of St Thomas More is entrusted to the pastoral care of priests of the Opus

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.at/ehllV](https://shorturl.at/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? Thank you to those who have already expressed willingness to provide some help. I will leave this item in the Newsletter for some time to maximise the number of people who see it.

**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.

### **Magnificat — June**

Copies of the June *Magnificat* (£5) are still 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](mailto:swisscottage@rcdow.org.uk)

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

If requesting a Mass to be celebrated on a specific day please bear in mind that some times are particularly popular, for example the 11am Sunday Mass. Intentions for that Mass have already been fixed up to 23 July.

### **Other Items**

#### **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](http://www.theascentuk.co.uk)

### **CAFOD News**

The CAFOD Westminster Office sent the following items for the parish newsletter.

#### **Update on the conflict in Sudan:**

Violent conflict continues in Sudan and thousands of people are running out of food, water and medicine. Working as part of the Caritas network, your previous donations to CAFOD are enabling our teams to provide practical help to families who have escaped to neighbouring countries, including South Sudan. Please join Pope Francis in praying for peace in Sudan. Find out more on the CAFOD website: [cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/sudan-conflict](http://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/sudan-conflict)

There is also a job advert – CAFOD Diocese of Westminster Community Participation Co-ordinator – Full time role. Involves both recruitment and support of existing team of Volunteers. To inspire and resource volunteers to work with parish and school communities to enable them to participate in

the Church's mission to overcome poverty and injustice in partnership with CAFOD. Further details on web page. [cafod.org.uk/jobs](http://cafod.org.uk/jobs) (Closing Date 25/6)

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### **From a Homily by St Josemaría Escrivá on the Feast of the Sacred Heart**

*This extract from one of the Saint's homilies is relevant for this month of June, the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

Note that God does not say: "In exchange for your own heart, I will give you a will of pure spirit." No, he gives us a heart, a human heart, like Christ's. I don't have one heart for loving God and another for loving people. I love Christ and the Father and the Holy Spirit and our Lady with the same heart with which I love my parents and my friends. I shall never tire of repeating this. We must be very human, for otherwise we cannot be divine.

Human love, the love we experience on earth when it is really genuine, helps us to savour divine love. That is how we grasp the love by which we rejoice in God and which we will share in heaven when the Lord is "everything to everyone." If we begin to understand God's love, we will feel impelled to become increasingly more compassionate, more generous, more dedicated.

We must give what we receive, we must teach what we learn. Very simply, without any kind of conceit, we must help others to share in the knowledge of God's love. As you go about your work, doing your job in society, each of you can and should turn your occupation into a real service. Your work should be done well, mindful of others' needs, taking advantage of all advances in technology and culture. Such work fulfils a very important function and is useful to the whole of humanity, if it is motivated by generosity, not selfishness, and directed to the welfare of all, not our own advantage, if it is filled with the Christian sense of life. Through your work, through the whole network of human

relations, you ought to show the charity of Christ and its concrete expression in friendship, understanding, human affection and peace. Just as Christ "went about doing good" throughout Palestine, so must you also spread peace in your family circle, in civil society, on the job, and in your cultural and leisure activities. This will be the best proof that the kingdom of God has reached your heart. As St John wrote: "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren."

But no one can live out this love unless he is taught in the school of the heart of Jesus. Only if we watch and contemplate the heart of Jesus will we ensure that our heart is freed from hatred and indifference. Only in this way will we know how to react as Christians to the pain and sufferings of others

Do you remember the scene St Luke depicts when Jesus is approaching Naim? Jesus crosses paths again with a crowd of people. He could have passed by or waited until they called him. But he didn't. He took the initiative, because he was moved by a widow's sorrow. She had just lost all she had, her son.

The evangelist explains that Jesus was moved. Perhaps he even showed signs of it, as when Lazarus died. Jesus Christ was not, and is not, insensitive to the suffering that stems from love. He is pained at seeing children separated from their parents. He overcomes death so as to give life, to reunite those who love one another. But at the same time, he requires that we first admit the pre-eminence of divine love, which alone can inspire genuine Christian living.

*(From the Homily Finding Peace in the Heart of Christ, in Christ is Passing By no. 166)*

# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

18<sup>th</sup> June – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 18<sup>th</sup> June</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Readings. Year A)	<b>9.30am</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass</b> George and Bozena Dean (intentions) <b>6pm Mass</b> Fr Ian Dickie (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.15am <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>3.00pm – 5.45pm</b> Anthopology Conference <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 19<sup>th</sup> June</b> St Romauld, Abbot	<b>7am Mass</b> Priest's intention <b>10am Mass</b> Maria Garcia (RIP)	The Church opens at 6.50am Monday to Friday for 7am Mass (entry via Church car park). Main doors open at 9.30am
<b>TUE 20<sup>th</sup> June</b> St Alban, Protomartyr	<b>7am Mass</b> Irene Cole (RIP) <b>10am Mass</b> For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life	
<b>WED 21<sup>st</sup> June</b> St Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious	<b>7am Mass</b> Claire Ekins (RIP anniversary) <b>10am Mass</b> Frances Brown (RIP)	
<b>THU 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b> SS JOHN FISHER, Bishop, and THOMAS MORE, Martyrs	<b>7am Mass</b> Persecuted Christians <b>10am Mass</b> Holy Souls	<b>10.45am</b> Social Gathering in garden of hall following Mass today.
<b>FRI 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b> St Etheldreda, Virgin  <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>7am Mass</b> For peace in Ukraine <b>10am Mass</b> Deceased members of the Naughton family (RIP)	<b>10am to Noon</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>SAT 24<sup>h</sup> June</b> <b>THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST</b>	<b>10am Mass</b> George Patrick Cheal (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am

## 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; Claire Ekins

## 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:

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

15<sup>th</sup> August: **THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**