

# ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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

Other Priests helping in the parish:

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 16TH JULY 2023

### 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

#### First Holy Communion 2023–2024

The school summer holidays are not too far away and we need to be thinking already about the classes to prepare children who are old enough for their first Holy Communion in 2024. There will be a registration meeting at 11am on Saturday 23 September for all those parents who wish to present their children for first Holy Communion. Children should be in Year 3.

The registration meeting will consist of an introduction to the syllabus and the role of the parents. It will also be an opportunity to talk with the catechists and register formally.

The classes for the children for the year 2023–2024 will start on Saturday 30th September (also at 11am).

For further information, contact Margaret Browne at: [swisscottagefhc@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:swisscottagefhc@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Help needed in the Parish

Thank you to those who have already expressed willingness to provide some help. As well as the tasks mentioned in previous newsletters, there are very many ways to help in the life of the parish, for example: reading at Mass, acting as a

steward, serving Mass, helping to count the collections, cleaning the church. The Covid lockdown had its effect on activities in the parish and the number of volunteers. During the coming months we need to build up the pool of volunteers in all areas of the life of the parish. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Fr Nicholas or one of the other priests.

#### Mass Intentions

To have a Mass offered for a particular intention please contact Maggie in the parish office (Tuesday or Friday mornings) or email her at [swisscottage@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:swisscottage@rcdow.org.uk)

Alternatively, use one of the brown Mass Intention envelopes in the Narthex and hand it to a priest, or put it through the letter box of the presbytery.

If you would like it for a specific day, bear in mind that some Mass times are very popular. Intentions for the 11am Sunday Mass, for example, are already allocated as far as 3rd September.

Also, with no 7am Mass over the summer, available slots are reduced. We recommend you book an intention as soon as possible if you want a specific day.

## World Youth Day 2023

World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with the Holy Father. This year it is taking place 1st–6th August in Lisbon, Portugal, and will reflect on the theme: “Mary arose and went with haste” (Lk 1:39).

If you can't attend the main event in Portugal itself and are aged 15–25, you can join WYD in London. This will be a one day celebration on Saturday 5th August 2023 from 11am–5pm in the church by Leicester Square (see below). The morning programme will include prayer, music, talks, group discussion followed by a lunch break; and the afternoon will continue with interactive activities aimed at putting faith into action. This will be followed by a time for Eucharistic Adoration, reflection and conclude with Mass at 4pm.

London venue: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX. Donations only. To register a group or individually, fill in the form: [bit.ly/wydlondon](http://bit.ly/wydlondon).

The event is organised by the Assumption Sisters' youth team in collaboration with other movements and groups.

## Young Adults Formation

The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW) is offering an opportunity to Catholic men and women aged 18 – 35 to live alongside their community in Norfolk for a week this summer.

As well as joining community prayers, meals and activities, young adults will receive formation on topics such Prayer, Scripture, Discernment and the Spirituality of Walsingham.

There is a choice of two dates: 14th – 21st August or 30th August – 6th September.

To find out more, please enquire by 31st July by emailing the COLW Sisters at [freetobe@walsinghamcommunity.org](mailto:freetobe@walsinghamcommunity.org)

Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4AZ.

Tel. 01362 421442.

[www.walsinghamcommunity.org](http://www.walsinghamcommunity.org)

## Laudato Si Group

A good number attended the showing a few weeks ago of the film THE LETTER, about the encyclical *Laudato Si'*. If you missed the film, you can find out more about the subject at

<https://www.laudatosi.va/en.html>

In the discussion after the film there was talk of doing something during the days before the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4th October to follow up the messages in the film. If you want to be involved, or just want to know more about *Laudato Si'*, please get in touch with [cath.attlee@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cath.attlee@blueyonder.co.uk)

## Parish Notes

*Fr Nicholas is away for his summer break until the end of July. Let's pray that he has a good rest and comes back refreshed.*

*Meanwhile, Fr Alvaro and myself will do our best to keep things going – as always relying on your generous prayers and assistance!*

*Fr Bernard*

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## From the Holy Father (12th July 2020)

In this Sunday's Gospel (cf. Mt 13:1-23), Jesus tells a great crowd the Parable – which we all know well – of the Sower, who casts seed over four different types of terrain. The Word of God, symbolised by the seeds is not an abstract Word, but is

Christ himself, the Word of the Father who became flesh in Mary's womb. Therefore, embracing the Word of God means embracing the personage of Christ; of Christ Himself.

There are many ways to receive the Word of God. We may do so like a path, where birds immediately come and eat the seeds. This would be distraction, a great danger of our time. Beset by lots of small talk, by many ideologies, by continuous opportunities to be distracted inside and outside the home, we can lose our zest for silence, for reflection, for dialogue with the Lord, such that we risk losing our faith, not receiving the Word of God, as we are seeing everything, distracted by everything, by worldly things.

Another possibility: we may receive the Word of God like rocky ground, with little soil. There the seeds spring up quickly, but they soon wither away, because they are unable to sink roots to any depth. This is the image of those who receive the Word of God with momentary enthusiasm, though it remains superficial; it does not assimilate the Word of God. In this way, at the first difficulty, such as a discomfort or disturbance of life, that still-feeble faith dissolves, as the seed withers that falls among the rocks.

Again – a third possibility that of which Jesus speaks in the parable – we may receive the Word of God like ground where thorny bushes grow. And the thorns are the deceit of wealth, of success, of worldly concerns.... There, the word grows a little, but becomes choked, it is not strong, and it dies or does not bear fruit.

Lastly – the fourth possibility – we may receive it like good soil. Here, and only here the seed takes root and bears fruit. The seed fallen upon this fertile soil represents those who hear the Word, embrace

it, safeguard it in their heart and put it into practice in everyday life.

This Parable of the Sower is somewhat the 'mother' of all parables, because it speaks about listening to the Word. It reminds us that the Word of God is a seed which in itself is fruitful and effective; and God scatters it everywhere, paying no mind to waste. Such is the heart of God! Each one of us is ground on which the seed of the Word falls; no one is excluded! The Word is given to each one of us. We can ask ourselves: what type of terrain am I? Do I resemble the path, the rocky ground, the bramble bush? But, if we want, we can become good soil, ploughed and carefully cultivated, to help ripen the seed of the Word. It is already present in our heart, but making it fruitful depends on us; it depends on the embrace that we reserve for this seed.

Often one is distracted by too many interests, by too many enticements, and it is difficult to distinguish, among the many voices and many words, that of the Lord, the only one that makes us free. This is why it is important to accustom oneself to listening to the Word of God, to reading it. And I return once more to that advice: always keep with you a handy copy of the Gospel, a pocket edition of the Gospel, in your pocket, in your purse ... and so, every day, read a short passage, so that you become used to reading the Word of God, understanding well the seed that God offers you, and thinking about the earth that receives it.

May the Virgin Mary, perfect model of good and fertile soil, help us, with her prayer, to become willing soil without thorns or rocks, so that we may bear good fruit for ourselves and for our brothers and sisters.

# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

16<sup>th</sup> July – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 16<sup>th</sup> July</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Readings. Year A)	<b>9.30am</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass</b> Karen and Terry Vincent (Wedding anniversary) <b>6pm Mass</b> Owen Barry (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.15am <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 17<sup>th</sup> July</b> feria	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> David Ainsworth (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
<b>TUE 18<sup>th</sup> July</b> feria	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Margaret Meehan (intentions)	
<b>WED 19<sup>th</sup> July</b> feria	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life	
<b>THU 20<sup>th</sup> July</b> St Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Josh Soloman (intentions)	
<b>FRI 21<sup>st</sup> July</b> feria <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Bridget Herbert (RIP anniversary)	<b>10am to Noon</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>SAT 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b> ST MARY MAGDALENE	<b>10am Mass</b> George Tarling (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am

## Prayer Intentions:

**Recently deceased:** Rita McNally; Mick Morris Tabet; Edouardo Arboleda; Duarte Costa Pereira; Joseph Chagoury-Tabet; Violeta Astudillo; Nunzio Spina; Owen Barry

**Anniversary:** Laura Deschamps; Mario Miranda Cruz; Alex Bento; Mike Humberstone; Claire Ekins; Joe Casey; Richard F Pearson; David Ainsworth

## 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:

15<sup>th</sup> August: **THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** Holy day of Obligation