

# 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)

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 23RD JULY 2023

### 16TH 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)

## Magnificat – August

The August *Magnificat* has now arrived. Please ask Maggie, or one of the priests, if you would like to buy a copy (£5). (Can be paid via the card reader in the entrance or by putting cash in the Newspaper/Leaflet box.)

## Parish Notes

*Fr Nicholas is away for his summer break until the end of July. Meanwhile, Fr Alvaro and I will do our best – with your help and prayers – to keep things going.*

*Fr Bernard*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Today's Gospel

The image of the field where the good seed of the Gospel has been sown generously, but where the enemy has sown weeds, is an invitation to consider the Church. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (no. 827) teaches that the Church, “clasping sinners to her bosom, at once holy and always in need of purification, follows constantly the path of penance and renewal. All members of the Church, including her ministers, must acknowledge that they are sinners. In everyone, the weeds of sin will still be mixed with the good wheat of the Gospel until the end of time. Hence the Church gathers sinners already caught up in Christ’s salvation but still on the way to holiness.”

The parable of the wheat and the weeds confronts us with the problem of the co-existence of good and evil. “The situation is clear—the field is fertile and the seed is good; the Lord of the field has scattered the seed at the right moment and with great skill. He even has watchmen to make sure that the field is protected. If, afterwards, there are weeds among the wheat, it is because men have failed to respond, because they—and Christians in particular—have fallen asleep and allowed the enemy to approach.” (St Josemaría, *Christ is Passing By*, no. 123)

This should move us to contrition. But not to pessimism: grace is more powerful than sin, though its action may at times be less visible.

Jesus’ parable makes clear that evil does not come from God, but from the enemy, the evil one, who is astute and sows evil in the midst of good, and in a way that makes it difficult for us to separate the two clearly, although the just Judge will be able to do so. But we shouldn’t look for Him to

intervene immediately to uproot evil, because God is patient and merciful.

The servants are eager to uproot the weeds. But God, as Pope Francis says, “with patience and mercy watches over the ‘field’ of each person’s life; he sees much better than we do the filth and the evil, but he also sees the seeds of good and waits with trust for them to grow. God is patient, he knows how to wait. This is so beautiful: our God is a patient father, who always waits for us and waits with his heart in hand to welcome us, to forgive us. He always forgives us if we go to him.” (Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 20 July 2014).

God is patient because he knows that even the heart that has long been stained by many sins can change and begin to bear good fruit. Saint Augustine, commenting on this parable, adds his experience as a shepherd of souls when he tells us that “many are at first weeds and later become wheat.” Hence we need the healthy patience that is never indifference before evil: “If these persons, when they are evil, were not tolerated patiently, they would never reach the praiseworthy change in their life.”

The owner of the field doesn’t confuse good with evil. He knows what is healthy and what is harmful, but he doesn’t allow his servants to act hastily, in order to allow time for mercy. Jesus teaches us to restrain our impetuosity and learn how to wait. What is now evil can become something good. Conversion is always possible, and we should foster the hope that it will come about.

(Based on a commentary by Fr Francisco Varo)

# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 23<sup>rd</sup> July – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage/>

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Readings. Year A)	<b>9.30am</b> Esrom Ephrem Haileselassie (recently deceased) <b>11am Mass</b> Jim and Hildegard Charles (intentions) <b>6pm Mass</b> People of the Parish	The Church opens at 9.15am <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 24<sup>th</sup> July</b> St Sharbel Makhlof, Priest	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Margaret Fitzgerald (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
<b>TUE 25<sup>th</sup> July</b> ST JAMES, Apostle	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Una Hatfield (RIP)	
<b>WED 26<sup>th</sup> July</b> Ss Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life	
<b>THU 27<sup>th</sup> July</b> feria	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Rose Marie and Erland Karlsson (intentions)	
<b>FRI 28<sup>th</sup> July</b> feria <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Marie Sobotta-Tabet (RIP)	<b>10am to Noon</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>SAT 29<sup>th</sup> July</b> Ss Martha, Mary and Lazarus	<b>10am Mass</b> Joseph Kelly (intentions)	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; Esrom Haileselassie

**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