

# 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)

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## SUNDAY 30TH JULY 2023

### 17TH 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 letterbox 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 Mass celebrated on 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).

## Collections from 2nd–23rd July

Sunday offertory collection: £1,351.69

(Envelopes: £406.54

Loose: £945.15 )

Contactless card machine: £502.41

**Grand total: £1,854.10**

Many thanks for your generous contributions to the upkeep of the Parish.

## Club Lodwar July Prize Winners

1st	£163.20	73	Pauline Ainsworth
2nd	£122.40	14	Lawrence Ching
3rd	£40.80	106	Mary Bilton
4th	£40.80	30	Victoria Loh
5th	£40.80	65	Janine Barber

Thank you for supporting Club Lodwar's Vulnerable Children's Fund. Membership is still available.

## Catholic Children's Society

We have received a letter thanking us for the Crib Offering last Christmas, which amounted to £103.39. Thank you.

## The 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). (You can pay using the card reader in the entrance or by putting cash in the Newspaper/Leaflet box.)

## Advance notice: Mass on 10th August

Please note that **Thursday 10th August** the Mass will be at 10.30am, not the usual time of 10am. This will be the funeral for Esrom Ephrem, a young man who used to serve Mass in the Parish.

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## Parish Notes

*Fr Nicholas returns from his summer break on Monday (31st July). We look forward to welcoming him back!*

*Fr Bernard*

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## The week ahead

This week we celebrate two very beautiful feasts (well, all feasts are beautiful really).

Friday 4th August is the feast of **St John Vianney** (the *Curé D'Ars*). Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney was born in 1786 in the village of Dardilly in France. After serving a time in the army during the Napoleonic period, he entered seminary to become a priest. He struggled greatly with all his studies, especially Latin. Many, including his formation directors and instructors in the seminary and his own bishop, had very serious doubts that this man lacking strong intellectual gifts, would ever be suitable for the priesthood. However, John Vianney persevered and was finally ordained priest in 1815. His bishop, judging this new priest as a man of few gifts, sent him to the remotest backwater village of his diocese, the village of Ars. There Fr John Vianney spent the rest of his life – except for one brief period when he tried to flee the duties and pressures of parish life to find a quiet place where he could pray in peace and solitude. That was not God's plan for him and he soon returned to Ars.

He was greatly dedicated to his priesthood and to serving his people. He preached in a very simple manner, had a great love of the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady, and also a special devotion to St Philomena. Through his work as a confessor he brought about a spiritual renewal that touched not only the people of his parish but all of France. He regularly spent 14 to 18 hours a day in the confessional *surviving* on only a few hours of sleep and a diet of boiled potatoes. As word spread of his extraordinary abilities as a confessor, thousands, including bishops and aristocracy, made the journey to Ars in order to receive his spiritual counsel. Thus a man who started life as one who few thought

would ever achieve anything became, by the time of his death in 1859, the instrument for thousands of conversions. He is, for us today, an example of how God works wonderfully through those who dedicate their lives to him and who seek to do his will. St John Vianney, a humble parish priest, is regarded by the Church as one of its great figures simply because he was faithful. His feast is a good day to pray for the holiness of all priests.

St John Vianney was canonised by Pope Pius XI in 1925.

The following day, Saturday 6th August, is celebrated as the **Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major** in Rome. It is one of the four Roman basilicas known as patriarchal churches and dates back to the 5th century. Constructed in the immediate aftermath of the Council of Ephesus (431), which solemnly proclaimed Mary Mother of God, it is one of the first churches to be dedicated to Our Lady. The story has it that Mary herself indicated, to the wealthy aristocrat who wanted to use his money for the church, the site where the church was to be built. Our Lady appeared to him in a dream, saying it was to be where snow would fall the following day, in spite of it being mid-summer.

This magnificent Church houses the reliquary of the Holy Crib, the much venerated early icon of the Virgin Mary (entitled *Salus Populi Romani*), and many beautiful mosaics of Old Testament scenes.

St John Paul II requested that an oil lamp burn day and night under the icon of the *Salus Populi Romani*, as witness to his great devotion to the Madonna. And Pope Francis often prays there: he famously “escaped” privately from the Vatican early in the morning of the day after his election to invoke Mary's prayers.

# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tel: 020 7435 1388

30<sup>th</sup> July – 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 30th July</b> <b>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Readings. Year A)	<b>9.30am</b> Emilie and Michael Twaddle (wedding anniversary) <b>11am Mass</b> Anton John (recently deceased) <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 31st July</b> St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Adeline McGill Brown (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday
<b>TUE 1<sup>st</sup> August</b> St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Esrom Ephrem (recently deceased)	
<b>WED 2<sup>nd</sup> August</b> St Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Maj-Lis Karlsson (RIP anniversary)	
<b>THU 3<sup>rd</sup> August</b> feria	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Ifede Adegbite (in thanksgiving)	
<b>FRI 4<sup>th</sup> August</b> St John Vianney, Priest <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Sam Alan Boodoosingh (RIP anniversary)	<b>10am to Noon</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>SAT 5<sup>th</sup> August</b> The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major	<b>10am Mass</b> Fr Andrew Byrne (50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination)	The Church opens at 9.30am

### Prayer Intentions:

**Recently deceased:** Edouardo Arboleda; Duarte Costa Pereira; Joseph Chagoury-Tabet; Violeta Astudillo; Nunzio Spina; Esrom Ephrem; Anton John

**Anniversary:** Mario Miranda Cruz; Alex Bento; Mike Humberstone; Claire Ekins; Joe Casey; Richard F Pearson; David Ainsworth; Maj- Lis Karlsson; Sam Alan Boodoosingh

### 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:

15th August: **THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** Holy day of Obligation