

St Thomas More – Parish Newsletter

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Parish Priest: Mgr Nicholas Morrish nicholasmorrish@rcdow.org.uk

Other priests helping in parish:

Fr Bernard Marsh bernardmarsh@rcdow.org.uk

Fr Álvaro Tintoré alvaro.tintore@netherhall.org.uk

SUNDAY 9th July

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

No Early Morning Mass from 10 July

Please note that as in previous years, due to the absence of priests during the summer months, there will be no 7am Mass from 10th July throughout the summer. The only weekday Mass will be at 10am.

Peter's Pence

Thank you to all those who donated to Peter's Pence last weekend. This world-wide annual collection supports the work of the Holy See in and from Rome.

Preparation for First Holy Communion

The school summer holidays are not too far away but 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 on **Saturday 23 September at 11am** 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, the role of the parents and provide 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

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.

July "mini Retreat" for women

This will take place on Tuesday 11th July beginning after the 10am Mass till 12.40pm. It includes a time of Eucharistic adoration. Coffee in the Hall follows. The mini retreat is a time set aside to look at our lives in God's presence. You are welcome for all or part of it.

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

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. These can be handed to a priest or put through the letter box of the presbytery.

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 as far as 3rd September.

Also bear in mind that over the summer there is no 7am weekday Mass and therefore it will be more difficult for a Mass to be offered on a specific day.

Club Lodwar June 2023 Prize Winners

1st	£163.20	108	Rita Ayers
2nd	£122.40	105	Vicky Czernizsewska
3rd	£40.80	41	Joe Hunt
4th	£40.80	36	Iris Moore
5th	£40.80	109	Eithne Deboer

The Draw was held via Zoom June 2023. Thank you for your support. Membership is still available.

Summer Absences

I shall be away from the parish from Monday 10th July until the end of the

month. During that time Fr Bernard and Fr Alvaro will celebrate the Masses and can be contacted using the email addresses above. Fr Bernard will be away part of August.

Mgr Nicholas

Other Items

World Youth Day

World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with Pope Francis, taking place in Lisbon, Portugal this summer 1st—6th August to reflect on the theme: "Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39).

If you can't attend the main event and are aged 15-25, you can join WYD in London - a day celebration on Saturday 5th August 2023 from 11am-5pm in the church by Leicester Square. 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, followed by a time for Eucharistic Adoration, reflection and conclude with Mass from 4-5pm.

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.

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

Sea Sunday

Sunday 9th July is Sea Sunday when we are invited pray for all those who live and work at sea. Sea farers and fishers play a vital role in our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the past year more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health.

Stella Maris is the maritime agency of the Catholic Church. Its teams of chaplains provide practical help and pastoral care to seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world. For more information or to donate to this cause see the poster on the noticeboard or visit www.stellamaris.org.uk

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From the Holy Father

On Wednesday 24 May 2023 during his General Audience in St Peter's Square Pope Francis spoke about the passion for evangelisation: the apostolic zeal of the believer, referring in this case to the Korean Martyr Andrew Kim Tae-gon. Some extracts from that audience:

Today we are going to find a great example of a Saint with the passion for evangelisation in a land far away, namely the Korean Church. Let us look at Saint Andrew Kim Tae-gon, a martyr and Korea's first priest. But, the evangelisation of Korea was done by the laity! It was the baptised laity who transmitted the faith. There were no priests because they had none. They came later, so the first evangelisation was done by the laity. Would we be capable of something like that? (...)

About 200 years ago, the Korean land was the scene of a very severe persecution: Christians were persecuted and annihilated. At that time, believing in Jesus Christ in Korea meant being ready to bear witness unto death. (...)

Given the highly intimidating context, the saint was forced to approach Christians in a discreet manner, and always in the presence of other people, as if they had been talking to each other for a while. Then, in order to confirm his interlocutor's Christian identity, Saint Andrew would implement these devices: first, there was a previously agreed upon sign of recognition: you will meet with this Christian and he will have this sign on his outfit or in his hand, after which he would surreptitiously ask the question — but under his breath — “Are you a disciple

of Jesus?” Since other people were watching the conversation, the saint had to speak in a low voice, saying only a few words, the most essential ones. Thus, for Andrew Kim, the expression that summed up the whole identity of the Christian was “disciple of Christ”. “Are you a disciple of Christ?” — but in a soft voice because it was dangerous. It was forbidden to be a Christian.

Indeed, being a disciple of the Lord means following him, following his path. And the Christian is by nature one who preaches and bears witness to Jesus. Every Christian community receives this identity from the Holy Spirit, and so does the whole Church, since the day of Pentecost (cf. Vatican Council II, Decree *Ad Gentes*, 2). And it is from this Spirit that we receive passion, passion for evangelisation, this great apostolic zeal. It is a gift of the Spirit. And even if the surrounding context is not favourable — like the Korean context of Andrew Kim — the passion does not change. On the contrary, it becomes even more valuable. Saint Andrew Kim and other Korean believers have demonstrated that witnessing to the Gospel in times of persecution can bear much fruit for the faith.

No matter how difficult the situation may be — and indeed, at times it may seem to leave no room for the Gospel message — we must not give up and we must not forsake pursuing what is essential in our Christian life: namely, evangelisation. This is the path. And each of us can think: “But how can I evangelise”? Well look at these great ones, and think about your own small context. Do we think about it in relation to our own small context: evangelising the family, evangelising friends, talking about Jesus — but talking about Jesus and evangelising with a heart full of joy, full of strength. And this is given by the Holy Spirit. (...) ask him for that grace, the grace of apostolic courage, the grace to evangelise, to always carry the message of Jesus forward.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9th July – 15th July 2023

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 9th July 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Readings. Year A)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Joe Casey (RIP anniversary) 6pm Mass Helen Birch (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 10th July feria	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Violeta Astudillo (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
TUE 11th July ST BENEDICT, Abbot, Patron of Europe	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Thomas Powell (RIP)	
WED 12th July feria	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Peter Mc Poland (RIP)	
THU 13th July St Henry	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Duarte Costa Pereira (RIP)	
FRI 14th July St Camillus de Lellis, Priest Friday abstinence	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Bella Tabet (intentions)	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 15th July St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor	10am Mass Richard F Pearson (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.30am

Prayer Intentions:

Recently deceased: Rita McNally; Mick Morrise Tabet; Edouardo Arboleda; Duarte Costa Pereira; Joseph Chagoury-Tabet; Violeta Astudillo

Anniversary: Arthur Gibson; Laura Deschamps; Mario Miranda Cruz; Alex Bento; Mike Humberstone; Claire Ekins; Joe Casey; Richard F Pearson

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