

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST 2023

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD (Year A)

First Holy Communion 2023–2024

A reminder that classes to prepare children who are old enough for their first Holy Communion in 2024 will begin at the end of September. 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

World Youth Day 2023

A reminder also that World Youth Day (WYD) with the theme “Mary arose and went with haste” (Lk 1:39) takes place over this weekend. Please pray for the many thousands of young people from around the world gathered together with Pope Francis. In the past the WYD has had a decisive

impact in the lives of those attending and led to new growth in the Church.

August “Mini Retreat” for Women

Theme: God’s Light and Hope for all.

This will be held on **Tuesday August 8th** from the 10am Mass until 12.40pm. It includes a time for Eucharistic adoration, followed by coffee in the Hall. It is a time set aside to look at our lives in God’s presence. You are welcome for all or part of it.

Mass on Thursday 10th August

Please note that on **Thursday 10th August** 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 and therefore known to many parishioners. He contributed a lot during his teenage years to the life of the parish. Please pray for him and for his grieving family.

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

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.

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 Assis 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

Magnificat – August

There are a few copies of the August *Magnificat* still available. 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.)

Parish Notes

I returned from a summer break refreshed by some country air, looking forward to August as a time to prepare for the autumn term when much happens in the life of the – parish. I wish all those who manage to get away during August a good rest. The good news is that there is in fact plenty happening in August, for example two baptisms in what is generally a quiet month. Hopefully another sign of growth of in the parish

During this month both Fr Alvaro and I will be here but it will be Fr Bernard's turn to be absent from this coming Sunday.

Fr Nicholas

The Transfiguration: some considerations

Today, the Eucharist which we are preparing to celebrate takes us in spirit to Mount Tabor together with the Apostles Peter, James and John, to admire in rapture the splendour of the transfigured Lord. In the event of the Transfiguration we contemplate the mysterious encounter between history, which is being built every day, and the blessed inheritance that awaits us in heaven in full union with Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

We, pilgrims on earth, are granted to rejoice in the company of the transfigured Lord when we immerse ourselves in the things of above through prayer and the celebration of the divine mysteries. But, like the disciples, we too must descend from Tabor into daily life where human events challenge our faith. On the mountain we saw; on the paths of life we are asked tirelessly to proclaim the Gospel which illuminates the steps of believers.

This deep spiritual conviction guided the whole ecclesial mission of my venerable Predecessor, the Servant of God Paul VI, who returned to the Father's house precisely on the Feast of the Transfiguration (...). In the reflection he had planned to give at the Angelus on that day, 6 August 1978, he said: 'The Transfiguration of the Lord, recalled by the liturgy of today's solemnity throws a dazzling light on our daily life, and makes us turn our mind to the immortal destiny which that fact foreshadows'.

Yes! Paul VI reminds us: we are made for eternity and eternity begins at this very moment, since the Lord is among us and lives with and in his Church.

As we commemorate my unforgettable Predecessor in the see of Peter with deep emotion, let us pray that every Christian

will know how to draw courage and constancy from contemplating Christ, who 'reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature' (Heb 1:3), in order to proclaim and witness faithfully through his words and works.

May Mary, our tender and caring Mother, help us to be bright rays of the saving light of her Son Jesus.

*St Pope John Paul II Homily 6th August
1999*

The disciples' ascent up Mount Tabor leads us to reflect on the importance of disengaging from worldly matters, in order to make a journey toward heaven and to contemplate Jesus. It is a matter of being attentive to the careful and prayerful listening of Christ, the beloved Son of the Father, seeking intimate moments of prayer that allow for the docile and joyful welcoming of the Word of God. In this spiritual ascent, in this disengagement from worldly matters, we are called to rediscover the peaceful and regenerative silence of meditating on the Gospel, on the reading of the Bible, which leads to a destination rich in beauty, splendour and joy. When we meditate in this way, with the Bible in hand, in silence, we begin to feel this interior beauty, this joy that the Word of God engenders in us. In this perspective, the summer season is a providential time to cultivate our task of seeking and encountering the Lord. In this period, students are free of scholastic commitments and many families take their holidays; it is important that in the period of rest and disengagement from daily activities, we can reinforce our strengths of body and soul, by deepening our spiritual journey.

*Pope Francis Angelus Message 6 August
2017*

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Transfiguration of the Lord

6th August – 12th August 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 6th August The Transfiguration of the Lord (Readings. Year A)	9.30am Club Lodwar/People of Lodwar) 11am Mass Josephine Tayar-Tabet (RIP anniversary) 6.30pm Mass Hana Ramia (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 7th August St Sixtus II, Pope, and companions, Martyrs	No 7am Mass 10am Mass People of the Parish	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday
TUE 8th August St Dominic, Priest	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Phil Argent (recently deceased)	
WED 9th August ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS, Virgin and Martyr, Patron of Europe	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Christine Green (recently deceased)	
THU 10th August ST LAURENCE, Deacon and Martyr	No 7am Mass 10.30am Funeral Mass Esrom Ephrem)	Please note: Mass is at 10.30am today
FRI 11th August St Claire, Virgin Friday abstinence	No 7am Mass 10am Mass For Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 12th August Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday	10am Mass Joshua Ravenscroft (RIP))	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; Christine Green; Phil Argent
Anniversary: Joe Casey; Richard F Pearson; David Ainsworth; Maj- Lis Karlsson; Sam Alan Boodoosingh; Josephine Tayar-Tabet; Hana Ramia

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