

# 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 13TH AUGUST 2023

### 19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (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](mailto:swisscottagefhc@rcdow.org.uk)

#### World Youth Day 2023

The World Youth Day (WYD) seems to have done a lot of good. There were an estimated 1.5 million people for the main event. Please continue to pray for the many thousands of young people from around the world who 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.

#### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Each Friday there is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament starting immediately after the 10am Mass. It finishes with Benediction at 11.50. This provides a time for adoration and quiet prayer each week. Do tell other people about it. You are welcome for all or part of it.

#### Help needed in the Parish

Thank you to those who have already expressed willingness to provide some help and all those who already help in the parish on different capacities. There are 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, or perhaps new ways which you may like to suggest based on your own expertise. 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.

### **The Laudato Si Group**

A good number attended the showing some time 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**

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**

*This week we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a beautiful day in the middle of this month of August. We consider the Assumption frequently in the glorious mysteries of the Rosary. A week after the Assumption the feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin corresponds to the final glorious mystery.*

*15<sup>th</sup> August is the anniversary of my priestly ordination. This year it will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, please keep me in your prayers and also Fr Stefan who was ordained on the same day but three years later.*

*As mentioned last week both Fr Alvaro and I will be here during August but Fr Bernard will be away until the end of the month.*

*Fr Nicholas*

\*\*\*\*\*

## From World Youth Day

Joy is not to be found in a locked library, even though study is necessary! Joy lies somewhere else. It is not kept under lock and key, but must be sought, must be discovered. It has to be found in dialogue with others, where we share these roots of joy that we have received. And this, at times, is tiring. Let me ask you a question: do you sometimes get tired? Think about what happens when we become tired: we have no wish to do anything; we throw in the towel (as we say in Spanish), because we have no desire to carry on and we give up, stop walking and fall. Do you believe that those who fall in life, who have experienced failure, who even commit serious or grave mistakes, that their lives are over? No! So what are they to do? They are to get back up! Now there is something very profound that I would like you to take away with you and remember: those who come from the Alps, who like to climb mountains, have a very beautiful song that goes like this: “In the art of climbing the mountain, what matters isn’t not to fall, but not to remain fallen”. This is beautiful!

Those who remain fallen have already withdrawn from life, have shut down, closed off from hope and desire, and remain on the ground. And when we see any friends of ours who have fallen, what are we to do? Lift them up. When we need to lift someone up, or help them, do you notice how we are to do it? We look down on them. That is the only time, the only time that we are allowed to look down upon others, when we are offering to help them up. Yet, we often see people looking down on us, or over our shoulder, from above! How sad. Instead, the only way, the only situation in which it is permissible to look down on others is... well, you tell me, out loud: to help them up.

That, then, is something like how life’s journey proceeds, how we are to keep moving forwards. In life, in order to accomplish things, we have to train ourselves to journey on. Sometimes, we do not feel like carrying on, we do not feel like making the effort; we copy in exams because we do not feel like studying or we did not get the results we wanted. I am not sure if any of you like football... I do! Think of how much training is needed in order to score a goal; how much effort is required to achieve a certain result. In life, too, we cannot always do what we want, but we must do what leads us to respond to the vocation we sense deep within us – and everyone has their own vocation. Keep on walking. And if we fall, we get back up, or someone will help us get back up; let us not remain fallen; and let us train ourselves, train in order keep moving forward. All this is possible, not because we take a course on walking – there are no courses that can teach us how to journey in life – instead we learn, we learn from our parents, our grandparents, we learn from friends, giving each other a helping hand. We learn about life, and that trains us in how to journey onwards.

I leave you with these thoughts. Carry on; if you fall, get back up; walk with a goal in mind, and train each day of your lives. Nothing is free in life, everything has to be paid for. Only one thing is free: the love of Jesus! So, with this free gift that we have – the love of Jesus – and with the desire to carry on the journey, let us walk in hope, let us be mindful of our roots, and move forwards, without fear. Do not be afraid. Thank you!

*Pope Francis Vigil with Young People,  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023*

# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tel: 020 7435 1388

13<sup>th</sup> August – 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 13th August</b> <b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Readings. Year A)	<b>9.30am</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass</b> Fernando family (in thanksgiving) <b>6.30pm Mass</b> Nunzio Spina (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.15am  <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 14th August</b> St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest & Martyr	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Maria Bento (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday, <b>but will open at 6.50am on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>TUE 15th August</b> <b>THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> (Holy Day of Obligation)	<b>7am Mass</b> Cathy Tarling (intentions) <b>10am Mass</b> Duarte Costa Pereira (RIP) <b>7pm Mass</b> Fr Stefan and Mgr Nicholas (anniversary of Ordination)	Please note there are <b>three</b> Masses today
<b>WED 16th August</b> St Stephen of Hungary	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Bernadette Rush (intentions)	
<b>THU 17th August</b> feria	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Francis Ching (RIP)	
<b>FRI 18th August</b> feria <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Persecuted Christians	<b>10am to Noon</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>SAT 19th August</b> Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday	<b>10am Mass</b> Anne Osakwe (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.30am

### Prayer Intentions:

**Recently deceased:** Duarte Costa Pereira; Joseph Chagoury-Tabet; Violeta Astudillo; Nunzio Spina; Esrom Ephrem; Anton John; Christine Green; Phil Argent; Denis Unsworth

**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:

8<sup>th</sup> September: THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY