

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

Maresfield Gardens London NW3 5SU Tel: 020 7435 1388

Email: swisscottage@rcdow.org.uk

Web page: parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage

Web camera: www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage

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

Other Priests helping in the parish:

Fr Bernard Marsh bernardmarsh@rcdow.org.uk

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

SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST 2023

20TH 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

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 in 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 beginning of a new school year at the beginning of September is a good moment 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. Thank you.

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 far ahead.

Also, over the summer, there are fewer Masses celebrated. 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 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

Parish Notes

This coming Tuesday, one week after the celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption, the Church celebrates another feast, the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin. In this way we follow the Glorious mysteries of the Holy Rosary: after the Assumption comes the Coronation of the Virgin Mary.

Thank you for your prayers and best wishes last week on the 40th anniversary of my priestly ordination. Many of those present at the 10am Mass on the Assumption attended a very pleasant celebration afterwards in the parish hall and garden. These celebrations are a great opportunity to come together and get to know other parishioners. If there is good weather, we should still be able to use the garden for the

social gathering after the 11am Mass on Sunday 3rd September and at the Seniors' Coffee morning on Wednesday 6th September.

Fr Alvaro Tintoré the Chaplain of Netherhall House has been helping the parish during this past year, often celebrating the Sunday evening Mass and building up the group of young adults who meet after that Mass. Fr Alvaro is moving to be Chaplain of Greygarth Hall in Manchester on the 25th August. Their gain and our loss. The new chaplain of Netherhall House is Fr Paul Hayward, already known to some in the parish. Once Fr Paul settles in he will no doubt help in the parish in a similar way.

Fr Nicholas

From the Holy Father

In his General Audience 9th August in Rome Pope Francis spoke about the World Youth Day he had recently attended in Portugal.

In the past few days, I went to Portugal for the 37th World Youth Day. This World Youth Day in Lisbon, which took place after the pandemic, was considered by all to be a gift from God, who set in motion once again the hearts and footsteps of young people from all over the world: many young people from all over the world — many of them — to encounter one another and to encounter Jesus.

As we well know, the pandemic had a severe impact on social behaviour: isolation that often degenerated into closure, and young people were particularly affected. With this World Youth Day, God gave a “push” in the other direction. It marked a new beginning of the great pilgrimage of young people across the continents, in the name of Jesus Christ. And it was not a coincidence that this happened in Lisbon, a

city overlooking the ocean, a city that is a symbol of the great maritime explorations. And so, at World Youth Day, the Gospel proposed the example of the Virgin Mary to young people. At the most critical time, she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth, and the Gospel says Mary “arose and went with haste” (Lk 1:39). I like to invoke Our Lady in this way”, Our Lady “in haste” who always does things with haste. She never makes us wait because she is the mother of everyone. In this way, Mary guides the pilgrimage of young people who follow Jesus today, in the third millennium, just as she did a century ago in Portugal, at Fatima, when she spoke to three children, and entrusted them with a message of faith and hope for the Church and the world. That is why I returned to Fatima during World Youth Day, to the place where the apparition took place, and, together with some young people who are sick, I prayed to God that he would heal the world from the diseases of the soul: pride, lies, enmity, violence are diseases of the soul, and the world is ailing from these diseases. And we renewed our consecration, the consecration of Europe, of the world, to Mary, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I prayed for peace because there are many wars all over the world, so many.

The young people of the world came to Lisbon in large numbers and with great enthusiasm. I met them in small groups and some had many problems. The group of young Ukrainians brought stories that were painful. It was not a holiday, a tourist trip and not even a spiritual event for its own sake. World Youth Day is an encounter with the living Christ through the Church: young people go to encounter Christ. It is true that where there are young people, there is joy, there is a bit of all these things! My visit to Portugal, on the occasion of World Youth Day, benefited from the

festive atmosphere of this wave of young people. I thank God for this, thinking especially of the Church in Lisbon who, in exchange for the great effort made in organising and hosting it, will receive new energies to continue her new journey, to cast her nets once again with apostolic zeal. The youth of Portugal are already today a vital presence, and now, after this “transfusion” received from Churches around the world, they will become even more so. And many young people passed through Rome on their way back from Lisbon. We are seeing them here too. There are some who participated in this Day. There they are! Wherever there are young people, there is noise. They are good at making it!

While in Ukraine and other places in the world there is fighting, and while in certain hidden halls war is being planned — this is bad, war is being planned! — World Youth Day showed everyone that another world is possible, a world of brothers and sisters, where the flags of all peoples fly together, next to each other, without hatred, without fear, without closing up, without weapons! The message of the young people was clear: will the “mighty of the earth” listen to it, I wonder? Will they listen to this youthful enthusiasm that wants peace? It is a parable for our time, and even today Jesus says: “He who has ears, let him hear. He who has eyes, let him see!” Let us hope that the entire world will listen to this World Youth Day and watch this beauty of the young, going forward.

(...)

Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, may the Lord bless the young people of the entire world and may he bless the Portuguese people. Let us pray together to Our Lady, all together, that she may bless the Portuguese people.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH**20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Tel: 020 7435 1388

20th August – 26th August 2023<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage/>

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 20th August 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Readings. Year A)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Simon Ulcickas (RIP) 6.00pm Mass Junior Manuel Agogo (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 21st August St Pius X, Pope	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Emily Patrick (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday
TUE 22nd August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Esrom Ephrem (recently deceased)	
WED 23rd August St Rose of Lima, Virgin	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Denis Unsworth (recently deceased)	
THU 24th August ST BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Christine Green (recently deceased)	
FRI 25th August St Louis Friday abstinence	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Hugo and Carlos Jativa (intentions)	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 26th August Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God, Priest	10am Mass Dalfarra - De Gregori family (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; Junior Manuel Agogo

Confessions:

Monday to Friday (before and after 10am Mass)

Saturday: before and after 10am Mass

Sunday: 10.30am and 5.30pm (before Mass)

Forthcoming liturgical celebrations:

8th September: THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY