

# ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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## SUNDAY 27TH AUGUST 2023

### 21ST 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 Summer Picnic

From Westminster Youth Ministry: we are bringing a taste of Lisbon to London for young people (12-35) who were unable to attend World Youth Day this year.

Following the theme of World Youth Day: 'Mary arose and went with haste' (Lk 1:39) we will be exploring how we can rise up,

certain that God's plan is the best one for our lives.

Join us for a day filled with fun, prayer, testimonies and Mass with Bishop Paul McAleenan on Saturday, 2 September 2023 (11 am – 4 pm) at SPEC Retreat Centre, 125 Waxwell Lane, Pinner HA5 3EP. Sign up at <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/world-youth-day-summer-picnic/>

#### September Magnificat Special Offer

We have received 10 extra copies of the September Magnificat which means we are able to offer it for £2.50 a copy instead of £5. This might be a good opportunity for those who would like to try out this wonderful resource. You can pay using the card reader in the entrance or by putting cash in the Newspaper/leaflet box.

#### The Laudato Si Group

The Season of Creation runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September - 4<sup>th</sup> October (the feast of St Francis of Assisi). Pope Francis has issued the following Message for the Season of Creation : (full text available at <https://laudatosimovement.org/news/message-of-pope-francis-for-creation-day-2023/>)

If you would like to know more about the Season of Creation see <https://seasonofcreation.org/> and to receive information about future events please get in touch with [cath.attlee@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cath.attlee@blueyonder.co.uk)

### **Tea and Coffee after Mass**

There will be tea and coffee after the 11am Mass on Sunday 3 September, providing an opportunity to get to know other parishioners better. The repository will be open for those who would like to buy devotional items.

The next Seniors' coffee morning will be after the 10am Mass on Wednesday 6 September.

### **Area for young children during Sunday Mass**

During the 9.30am and 11am Masses on Sundays we generally open the parish hall and project a view of the sanctuary onto the screen in the seminar room on the top floor. This enables parents with small children who become restless to follow the Mass from there if they so wish.

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### **Parish Notes**

*As I mentioned in the previous newsletter Fr Alvaro Tintoré the Chaplain of Netherhall House has now moved to Manchester. He had been helping in the parish during this past year. 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.*

*This coming Monday is the memorial of St Augustine of Hippo the great philosopher and theologian who died in 430AD, I have included below part of an address by Pope Benedict XVI in the hope it may be helpful.*

*Fr Nicholas*

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### **About St Augustine of Hippo**

*Benedict XVI gave a series of addresses about St Augustine during his weekly general audiences. Here are some extracts from one given on 27 February 2008.*

St Augustine was a passionate seeker of truth: he was from the beginning and then throughout his life. The first step of his conversion journey was accomplished exactly in his progressive nearing to Christianity. Actually, he had received from his mother Monica, to whom he would always remain very closely bound, a Christian education, and even though he lived an errant life during the years of his youth, he always felt a deep attraction to Christ, having drunk in with his mother's milk the love for the Lord's Name, as he himself emphasises (*cf. Confessions, III, 4, 8*). But also philosophy, especially that of a Platonic stamp, led him even closer to Christ, revealing to him the existence of the Logos or creative reason. Philosophy books showed him the existence of reason, from which the whole world came, but they could not tell him how to reach this Logos, which seemed so distant. Only by reading St Paul's Epistles within the faith of the Catholic Church was the truth fully revealed to him. This experience was summarised by Augustine in one of the most famous passages of the Confessions: he recounts that, in the torment of his reflections, withdrawing to a garden, he suddenly heard a child's voice chanting a rhyme never heard before: *tolle, lege, tolle, lege*, "pick up and read, pick up and read" (*VIII, 12, 29*). He then remembered the conversion of Anthony, the Father of Monasticism, and carefully returned to the Pauline codex that he had recently read, opened it, and his glance fell on the passage of the Epistle to the Romans where the Apostle exhorts to abandon the works of the flesh and to be clothed with Christ (*cf. 13:*

13-14). He understood that those words in that moment were addressed personally to him; they came from God through the Apostle and indicated to him what he had to do at that time. Thus, he felt the darkness of doubt clearing and he finally found himself free to give himself entirely to Christ: he described it as "your converting me to yourself" (*Confessions*, VIII, 12, 30). This was the first and decisive conversion.

The African rhetorician reached this fundamental step in his long journey thanks to his passion for man and for the truth, a passion that led him to seek God, the great and inaccessible One. Faith in Christ made him understand that God, apparently so distant, in reality was not that at all. He in fact made himself near to us, becoming one of us. In this sense, faith in Christ brought Augustine's long search on the journey to truth to completion. Only a God who made himself "tangible", one of us, was finally a God to whom he could pray, for whom and with whom he could live. This is the way to take with courage and at the same time with humility, open to a permanent purification which each of us always needs. But with the Easter Vigil of 387, as we have said, Augustine's journey was not finished. He returned to Africa and founded a small monastery where he retreated with a few friends to dedicate himself to the contemplative life and study. This was his life's dream. Now he was called to live totally for the truth, with the truth, in friendship with Christ who is truth: a beautiful dream that lasted three years, until he was, against his will, ordained a priest at Hippo and destined to serve the faithful, continuing, yes, to live with Christ and for Christ, but at the service of all. This was very difficult for him, but he understood from the beginning that only by living for others, and not simply for his private

contemplation, could he really live with Christ and for Christ.

Thus, renouncing a life solely of meditation, Augustine learned, often with difficulty, to make the fruit of his intelligence available to others. He learned to communicate his faith to simple people and thus learned to live for them in what became his hometown, tirelessly carrying out a generous and onerous activity (...)

But there is a last step to Augustine's journey, a third conversion, that brought him every day of his life to ask God for pardon. Initially, he thought that once he was baptised, in the life of communion with Christ, in the sacraments, in the Eucharistic celebration, he would attain the life proposed in the Sermon on the Mount: the perfection bestowed by Baptism and reconfirmed in the Eucharist. During the last part of his life he understood that what he had concluded at the beginning about the Sermon on the Mount - that is, now that we are Christians, we live this ideal permanently - was mistaken. Only Christ himself truly and completely accomplishes the Sermon on the Mount. We always need to be washed by Christ, who washes our feet, and be renewed by him. We need permanent conversion. Until the end we need this humility that recognises that we are sinners journeying along, until the Lord gives us his hand definitively and introduces us into eternal life. It was in this final attitude of humility, lived day after day, that Augustine died. (...)

(...) Let us pray, therefore, that we can follow the example of this great convert every day of our lives, and in every moment of our life encounter the Lord Jesus, the only One who saves us, purifies us and gives us true joy, true life.

# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

27<sup>th</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 27<sup>th</sup> August</b> <b>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Readings. Year A)	<b>9.30am</b> Anne Osakwe (intentions) <b>11am Mass</b> Gina da Silva (intentions) <b>6.00pm Mass</b> People of the Parish	The Church opens at 9.15am  <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 28<sup>th</sup> August</b> St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b> <b>10am Mass</b> Johnny and Marie Claire Dina (Wedding anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday, <u>but today it will close after the 10am Mass</u>
<b>TUE 29<sup>th</sup> August</b> The Passion of St John the Baptist	<b>No 7am Mass</b> <b>10am Mass</b> George Adegbola (intentions)	
<b>WED 30<sup>th</sup> August</b> St Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward, Martyrs	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life	
<b>THU 31<sup>st</sup> August</b> St Aidan, Bishop, and the Saints of Lindisfarne	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Josh Solomon (intentions)	
<b>FRI 1<sup>st</sup> September</b> feria <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>No 7am Mass</b>  <b>10am Mass</b> Cath Attlee (thanksgiving)	<b>10am to Noon</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>SAT 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b> Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday	<b>10am Mass</b> Adeline McGill Brown (RIP)	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:

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