

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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

Also helping in the parish:

Fr Bernard Marsh bernardmarsh@rcdow.org.uk

Fr Paul Hayward paul.hayward@netherhall.org.uk

SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2023

22ND 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

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.

Seniors' Coffee Morning

The Seniors' coffee morning will take place after the 10am Mass on Wednesday 6 September. Please sign the list in the Narthex if you intend to come. This will facilitate the catering.

September Magnificat Special Offer

There are still a few copies of the September Magnificat available. Having received 10 extra copies of the September Magnificat we are able to offer it for £2.50 a copy instead of £5. Please ask Maggie or one of the priests. You can pay using the card reader in the entrance or by putting cash in the collection box in the wall of the Narthex marked Newspaper/leaflet.

The Laudato Si Group

The Season of Creation runs from 1st September - 4th October (the feast of St Francis of Assisi). "Let Justice and Peace Flow" is the theme of this year's ecumenical Season of Creation, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: "Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (5:24). 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

We hope to include an intention related to the Season of Creation in the bidding prayers at Mass each Sunday. There is information available in the Narthex, including prayers for the novena before the feast of St Francis.

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.

Talk at St Mary's Hampstead: "Beauty and Sorrow: Tolkien's Journey of Faith."

Sunday 10 September 2023, 4-5pm, St Mary's Church, 4 Holly Walk, Hampstead, London NW3 6QU

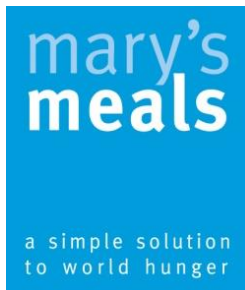
Dr Holly Ordway is the Cardinal Francis George Professor of Faith and Culture at the Word on Fire Institute, and Visiting Professor of Apologetics at Houston Christian University. She holds a PhD in English from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and is the author of *Tolkien's Faith: a Spiritual Biography* and the award-winning Tolkien's *Modern Reading: Middle-earth Beyond the Middle Ages*.

A unique opportunity to hear insights from a world leading scholar on Tolkien and the influences that shaped his faith.

If you are planning on attending in person please email the Parish Administrator at hampstead@rcdow.org.uk to book your place. You are welcome to livestream the lecture by visiting

<https://www.churchservices.tv/hampstead>

Mary's Meals—foreign currency



September is a time when many people have returned from holidays abroad and may have foreign currency. **Mary's Meals** would like to

invite you to collect all your foreign currency* no matter how old or obscure. Next weekend there will be envelopes at the back of church for you to take home and put all your foreign coins and notes into. Clear out your drawers and have a look under the sofa. Currently the charity feeds over 2.4 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education – by giving Mary's Meals your foreign coins and notes you can help feed the next hungry child. Mary's Meals feeds in over 18 countries. Because of our low costs we can do this for as little as £19.15 per child per year! *We will also take UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender

Parish Notes

If it not a Sunday we would have celebrated the feast of Pope Gregory the Great on 3rd September. He is the Pope who sent missionaries to convert England at the end of the 6th century. His feast therefore has a particular importance for us and reminds us of the need for a re-Christianisation of this country. This coming Friday is the

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which of course could also be called her birthday and therefore a day for celebration.

The 7am weekday Mass will start again later this month. I will make an announcement in the next newsletter once the plan for the month is finalised.

Mgr Nicholas

From Pope Francis on the Season of Creation

*Some excerpts from the letter of Pope Francis
13th May 2023*

How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation? What can we, particularly as Christian communities, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life? We must do this by resolving to transform our hearts, our lifestyles, and the public policies ruling our societies.

First, let us join the mighty river by transforming our hearts. This is essential for any other transformation to occur; it is that “ecological conversion” which Saint John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator. Furthermore, we should realize that an integral approach to respect for the environment involves four relationships: with God, with our brothers and sisters of today and tomorrow, with all of nature, and with ourselves.

As to the first of these relationships, Pope Benedict XVI spoke of the urgent need to recognise that creation and redemption are inseparably linked: “The Redeemer is the Creator and if we do not proclaim God in his full grandeur – as Creator and as Redeemer – we also diminish the value of

the redemption”. Creation refers both to God’s mysterious, magnificent act of creating this majestic, beautiful planet and universe out of nothing and to the continuing result of that act, which we experience as an inexhaustible gift. During the liturgy and personal prayer in “the great cathedral of creation”, let us recall the great Artist who creates such beauty, and reflect on the mystery of that loving decision to create the cosmos.

Second, let us add to the flow of this mighty river by transforming our lifestyles. Starting from grateful wonder at the Creator and his creation, let us repent of our “ecological sins”, as my brother, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, has urged. These sins harm the world of nature and our fellow men and women. With the help of God’s grace, let us adopt lifestyles marked by less waste and unnecessary consumption, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable. Let us be as mindful as we can about our habits and economic decisions so that all can thrive – our fellow men and women wherever they may be, and future generations as well. Let us cooperate in God’s ongoing creation through positive choices: using resources with moderation and a joyful sobriety, disposing and recycling waste, and making greater use of available products and services that are environmentally and socially responsible.

Lastly, for the mighty river to continue flowing, we must transform the public policies that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow. Economic policies that promote scandalous wealth for a privileged few and degrading conditions for many others, spell the end of peace and justice. It is clear that the richer nations have contracted an “ecological debt” that must be paid (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 51).

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**3rd September – 9th September 2023

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	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 3rd September 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Readings. Year A)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Club Lodwar/People of Lodwar 6.00pm Mass Mgr Nicholas Morrish (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 4th September St Cuthbert, Bishop	No 7am Mass 10am Mass George Mark Tarling (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
TUE 5th September feria	No 7am Mass 10am Mass For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life	
WED 6th September feria	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Iris Moore (intentions)	10.45am Seniors' Coffee
THU 7th September feria	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Paul Covenden (in thanksgiving)	
FRI 8th September THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Friday abstinence	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Rita Rogan (intentions)	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 9th September St Peter Claver, Priest	10am Mass Mgr Richard Stork (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am

Prayer Intentions:

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

Anniversary: Joe Casey; 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:

14th September: THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

29th September: SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL and RAPHAEL, Archangels