

# ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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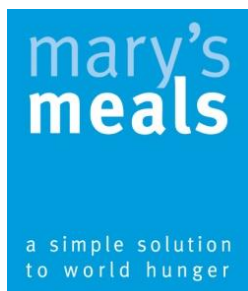
Fr Paul Hayward

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## SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

### 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. This weekend there will again be envelopes at the back of church for you to take home and put all your foreign coins and notes into. The envelopes can then be left in the collection basket together with the ordinary collection this week and the following Sunday 24th September). If you do not get one of the special envelopes currency can be left in an ordinary envelope as long as it is clearly marked MARY'S MEALS.

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

### First Holy Communion 2023–2024

Classes to prepare children who are old enough to do 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)

## The Laudato Si Group

The Season of Creation started on 1st September and runs to 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/messa-ge-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)

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.

### Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Open Evenings

The Cardinal Vaughan School will hold an open evening for Year 7 (First Form Pupils) on **Tuesday 19th September 2023**. The event is designed for parents and prospective pupils to attend. It will include an address from Mr Stubbings, the Headmaster, and a tour of the school. The

Headmaster will speak at 4.30pm and 6.00pm.

Full details are available on the website <https://www.cvms.co.uk/Admissions/>

### Annual Mass Count 2023

Starting Sunday 24th September, we will take the annual Mass Count over four consecutive Sundays.

This year’s count will hopefully give us a measure of growth since the pandemic finished.

I am looking for two volunteers for each Mass to take the count. There is a sign up list in the Narthex.

### Parish Notes

*Please pray that we have a numerous group of children for First Holy Communion this year. Once those classes are up and running it will be possible to see what can be done about general catechism classes and preparation for Confirmation.*

*Just a reminder that we are not offering a 7am weekday Mass at present. There have been quite a number of changes with regard to the availability of the other priests who help in the parish. Owing to a decreasing number of priests (because of deaths and ill health), Fr Bernard and Fr Paul have growing commitments elsewhere. I am still discussing with them what we can manage. We are blessed to have their help at Masses on Sunday. I realise that this reduction in the number of Masses will make it more difficult for those who go to Mass during the week and need an early Mass, so it is a difficult decision. It is clear that many parishes have had to cut back on the number of Masses in recent times.*

*Mgr Nicholas*

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## From Pope Francis

*Some excerpts from Pope Francis' General Audience on Wednesday, 30 August, during which he reflected on the life of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, the first native North American woman to be canonised.*

Born around the year 1656 in a village in Upstate New York, she was the daughter of an unbaptised Mohawk chief and an Algonquin Christian mother, who taught Kateri to pray and sing hymns to God. Many of us were also first introduced to the Lord in family settings, especially by our mothers and grandmothers. (...) Evangelism often begins this way: with simple, small gestures, such as parents helping their children learn to talk to God in prayer and telling them about His great and merciful love. And the foundation of faith for Kateri, and often for us as well, was laid in this way. She received it from her mother in dialect, the dialect of the faith.

When Kateri was four years old, a severe smallpox epidemic struck her people. Both of her parents and her younger brother died, and Kateri herself was left with scars on her face and vision problems. From then on, Kateri had to face many difficulties: the physical ones from the effects of smallpox, certainly, but also the misunderstandings, persecutions, and even death threats she suffered following her Baptism on Easter Sunday 1676. All this gave Kateri a great love for the Cross, the definitive sign of the love of Christ, who gave Himself to the end for us. Indeed, witnessing to the Gospel is not only about what is pleasing; we must also know how to bear our daily crosses with patience, trust, and hope. (...)

After being baptised, Kateri was forced to take refuge among the Mohawks in the Jesuit mission near the city of Montreal.

There she attended Mass every morning, devoted time to adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, prayed the Rosary, and lived a life of penance. These spiritual practices of hers impressed everyone at the Mission; they recognized in Kateri a holiness that was appealing because it stemmed from her deep love for God. This is proper to holiness: to attract. God calls us through attraction; He calls us with this desire to be close to us, and she felt this grace of divine attraction. At the same time, she taught the children of the Mission to pray; and through the constant fulfilment of her responsibilities, including caring for the sick and elderly, she offered an example of humble and loving service to God and neighbour. The faith is always expressed through service. The faith is not about putting on make-up, putting make-up on the soul; no, it is to serve.

(...)

Dear brothers and sisters, Kateri's life is further proof that apostolic zeal implies both union with Jesus, nourished by prayer and the sacraments, and the desire to spread the beauty of the Christian message through fidelity to one's particular vocation. Kateri's last words are very beautiful. Before she died, she said, "Jesus, I love you."

May we too, like Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, draw strength from the Lord and learn to do ordinary things in extraordinary ways, growing daily in faith, charity and zealous witness for Christ.

Let us not forget: Each one of us is called to holiness, to everyday holiness, to the holiness of the common Christian life. Each one of us has this calling. Let us go forward along this path. The Lord will not fail us.

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**ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH****24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Tel: 020 7435 1388

17<sup>th</sup> September – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage/>

|  | MASS  | OTHER ACTIVITIES  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>SUN 17<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b><br>(Readings. Year A)       | <b>9.30am</b><br>People of the Parish<br><b>11am Mass</b><br>Rita Nally (RIP)<br><b>6.00pm Mass</b><br>Colomba Kako (RIP anniversary) | The Church opens at 9.15am<br><br><b>10.30am</b><br>Confessions<br><b>5.30pm</b><br>Confessions |
| <b>MON 18<sup>th</sup> September</b><br>feria  | <b>No 7am Mass</b><br><b>10am Mass</b><br>Michael Cutting (intentions)  | The Church opens at 9.30am<br>Monday to Saturday.   |
| <b>TUE 19<sup>th</sup> September</b><br>St Januarius, Bishop & Martyr  | <b>No 7am Mass</b><br><b>10am Mass</b><br>Alex Solomon-Tabet (recently deceased)  |   |
| <b>WED 20<sup>th</sup> September</b><br>St Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs | <b>No 7am Mass</b><br><br><b>10am Mass</b><br>Patricia Herbert (intentions)   |   |
| <b>THU 21<sup>st</sup> September</b><br>ST MATTHEW, Apostle & Evangelist   | <b>No 7am Mass</b><br><br><b>10am Mass</b><br>Pedro Ballester (RIP)   |   |
| <b>FRI 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b><br>feria<br><b>Friday abstinence</b>  | <b>No 7am Mass</b><br><br><b>10am Mass</b><br>Helen Conlon (RIP anniversary)  | <b>10am to Noon</b><br>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament                                      |
| <b>SAT 23<sup>rd</sup> September</b><br>St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest   | <b>10am Mass</b><br>Kathleen Tarling (intentions)   | 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; Alex Solomon-Tabet  
**Anniversary:** Joe Casey; Maj- Lis Karlsson; Sam Alan Boodoosingh; Josephine Tayar-Tabet; Hana Ramia; Junior Manuel Agogo; Colomba Kako; Helen Conlon

**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:**

29<sup>th</sup> September: SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL and RAPHAEL, Archangels  
 9<sup>th</sup> October: ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, Priest