

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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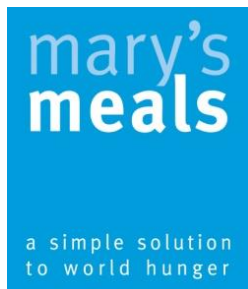
Fr Paul Hayward

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SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2023

25TH 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 unused 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 the opportunity to leave foreign coins and notes (and also old UK coins and notes that are no longer legal tender) either in the collection basket together with the ordinary collection, or in the collection basket under the noticeboard in the Narthex. If you do not have 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!

First Holy Communion 2023–2024

First Holy Communion classes will begin on **Saturday 30th September at 11am.**

If you missed the registration meeting on Saturday 23 September and would still like to register please contact Margaret Browne at: swisscottagefhc@rcdow.org.uk

Children should be in Year 3.

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/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

If you are new to the parish it may help to know that 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 (top floor). This enables parents with small children who become restless to follow the Mass from there if they so wish.

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 the continued growth since the dip caused by the pandemic.

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

Young Adults Group

The young adults group which met occasionally after the 6pm Sunday Mass last academic year will hopefully start up again on Sunday 15th October. The group is for young adults (between 21 and 30 years of age). The aim is to have a monthly social meeting with informal discussions about philosophical, anthropological and sociological questions related to the faith.

More information and contact details to follow in the next newsletter.

Parish Notes

Please pray for the children preparing for First Holy Communion and their families. 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.

Regarding weekday Masses we are not going to restart the 7am Mass, at least not every day. We will for example aim to have 7am Mass on Holy Days of Obligation. Discussions continue.

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 not a decision taken lightly. It is clear that many parishes have had to cut back on the number of Masses in recent times. Working practices have also changed resulting in very small numbers at early morning Masses.

Mgr Nicholas

From Pope Francis

Some excerpts from Pope Francis' General Audience on Wednesday, 13 September, during which he reflected on the life of Blessed José Gregorio Hernández Cisneros 1864-1919

Truly, charity was the North Star that oriented the existence of Blessed José Gregorio: a good and joyful person with a cheerful disposition, he was endowed with a marked intelligence. He became a physician, a university professor, and a scientist. But he was first and foremost a doctor close to the weakest, so much so that he was known in his homeland as “the doctor of the poor”. He cared for the poor, always. To the riches of money he preferred the riches of the Gospel, spending his existence to aid the needy. José Gregorio

saw Jesus in the poor, the sick, migrants and the suffering. And the success he never sought in the world, he received, and continues to receive, from the people, who call him “saint of the people”, “apostle of charity”, “missionary of hope”. (...)

José Gregorio was a humble man, a kind and helpful man. At the same time he was driven by an inner fire, a desire to live in the service of God and neighbour. Driven by this ardour, he tried to become a religious and a priest several times, but various health problems prevented him from doing so. Physical frailty did not, however, lead him to close in on himself, but rather to become a doctor who was even more sensitive to the needs of others. (...) This is apostolic zeal: it does not follow one’s own aspirations, but openness to God’s designs. And so the Blessed understood that, through caring for the sick, he would put God’s will into practice, comforting the suffering, giving hope to the poor, witnessing to the faith not in words but by example. So, by way of this interior path, he came to accept medicine as a priesthood: “the priesthood of human pain” (...)

But let us ask ourselves however: where did José Gregorio get all this enthusiasm, all this zeal? It came from a certainty and a strength. The certainty was God’s grace. He wrote that if there are good and bad people in the world, the bad are such because they themselves have become bad: but the good are such with God’s help (27 May 1914). (...) And this was the strength he drew on: intimacy with God. He was a man of prayer — there is the grace of God and intimacy with the Lord. He was a man of prayer who participated at Mass.

And in contact with Jesus, who offers himself on the altar for all, José Gregory felt called to offer his life for peace. The First World War was underway. It was 29

June 1919: a friend came to visit him and found him very happy. José Gregorio had indeed learned that the treaty ending the war had been signed. His offering had been accepted, and it was as if he foresaw that his work on earth was done. That morning, as usual, he had been at Mass. He went down the street to bring medicine to a person who was sick. But as he was crossing the road, he was hit by a vehicle. He was taken to hospital and died saying Our Lady’s name. This is how his earthly journey ended, on a road while performing a work of mercy, and in a hospital, where he had made his work a masterpiece, as a doctor.

Brothers, sisters, in the presence of this witness let us ask ourselves: How do I — face-to-face with God present in the poor near me, face-to-face with those in the world who suffer the most — react? And how does the example of José Gregorio affect me? He spurs us to engagement in the face of the great social, economic, and political issues of today. So many people talk about them, so many complain about them, so many criticise and say that everything is going wrong. But that is not what Christians are called to do. Instead, they are called to deal with it, to get their hands dirty: first of all, as Saint Paul told us, to pray (*cf. 1 Tim 2:1-4*), and then, not to engage in gossip — idle chatter is a plague — but to promote good, and to build peace and justice in truth. (...)

Let us press on along the path of Blessed José Gregorio: a layman, a doctor, a man of daily work, who was driven by apostolic zeal to perform charity works throughout his whole life.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**24th September – 30th September 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 24th September 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Readings. Year A)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Heidi Ram (intentions) 6.00pm Mass Elizabeth Covenden (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 25th September feria	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Marti Ambauen (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
TUE 26th September Ss Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs	No 7am Mass 10am Mass David Hamill Jr (RIP)	
WED 27th September St Vincent de Paul, Priest	No 7am Mass 10am Mass For vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life	
THU 28th September St Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Marie Sobotta-Tabet (RIP)	
FRI 29th September SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL and RAPHAEL, Archangels Friday abstinence	No 7am Mass 10am Mass Alice Liddell and Francis Ugwu (intentions)	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 30th September St Jerome, Priest & Doctor	10am Mass Joyce Cheal and the Kent family (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am 11am First Holy Communion Class (1)

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:

9th October: ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, Priest
 13th October: ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, Patron of the Diocese