

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2023

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Annual Mass Count 2023

This Sunday 15th October is the last day of the annual Mass count which has been taken over four consecutive Sundays.

Thank you to all those who volunteered to take the count.

First Holy Communion 2023–2024

First Holy Communion classes began on Saturday 30th September. Those who attended the registration meeting now have a schedule for the classes which take place at 11am on Saturdays.

If you missed the registration meeting and would still like to register please contact Margaret Browne at:

swisscottagefhc@rcdow.org.uk

Children should be in Year 3.

Young Adults Group

The young adults group which meets occasionally after the 6pm Sunday Mass will start up again on Sunday 15th October. The meeting begins at about 7pm in the lower parish hall seminar room. 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. For more information contact Diego Cobian email: diegocobiang@gmail.com mobile: +34 603 10 67 55

Cardinal Vincent asks faithful to pray the Rosary for peace

While preaching at the church of the Holy Rosary in Marylebone Cardinal Vincent asked us to pray the Rosary asking for peace: 'Today I also ask your prayers that, at the intercession of Mary, the Holy Spirit may be a bringer of peace in the conflicts spreading at this time in Israel and Gaza. Having visited Gaza on two occasions, my heart goes out to its people who will now bear the consequences of the attack on Israel by Hamas militants.'

'Violence is never a solution. Retribution is never a contribution to peace. Please pray today for that peace. Pray for all who have lost their lives and for the immediate release of those taken hostage.'

'Pray especially for the small but active Catholic community in Gaza City who at this moment will be reaching out courageously to their neighbours, trying to offer shelter and support.'

‘Today please pray the great prayer of the Rosary that this conflict, in the homeland of Mary herself, will quickly come to an end.’

World Mission Day

Sunday 22 October is World Mission Day and there will be a retiring collection that Sunday for the work of Missio, the Holy Father’s charity for overseas mission, which helps the churches too poor or too young to support themselves.

Collections

During the pandemic it was not possible to pass the collection basket around the church during the Offertory. Since then the congregation’s offerings for the parish have been collected as people leave at the end of Mass. The time has come to return to the usual practice of taking a collection during the offertory as happens in many other parish churches. We aim to start this on Sunday 22nd October once the annual Mass count is finished. You can place cash and the offertory envelopes in the collection basket when it is passed around. If you give via the card reader just pass the basket on and remember to give your donation via the card reader in the Narthex.

The Offertory seems to be the appropriate moment during the Mass for a collection as the liturgy speaks of the faithful expressing their participation by bringing forward bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist but also other gifts to relieve the needs of the Church and of the poor.

October Magnificat

The special offer for the October Magnificat was so successful that we sold them all. If anyone has purchased Magnificat for the first time, finds it helpful and intends to continue buying it please talk with Maggie or one of the priests and we will increase our monthly order.

Parish Notes

October is the month of the holy Rosary. We now have an additional intention to include in our prayers. As mentioned above Cardinal Vincent has asked us to pray the Rosary asking for peace following the recent violent events in the Middle East.

The Synod of Bishops has begun in Rome and to help us understand more of the Holy Father’s thought about this meeting I include part of the homily which he preached at the beginning of the assembly.

Mgr Nicholas

The Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops

Part of the homily of Pope Francis 4th October 2023 at the beginning of the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

Dear brother Cardinals, brother Bishops, sisters and brothers, we are at the opening of the General Assembly of the Synod. Here we do not need a purely natural vision, made up of human strategies, political calculations or ideological battles. If the Synod allows this to happen, the “other one” will open the door to it. This we do not need. We are not here to carry out a parliamentary meeting or a plan of reformation. The Synod, dear brothers and sisters, is not a parliament. The Holy Spirit is the protagonist. We are not here to form a parliament but to walk together with the gaze of Jesus, who blesses the Father and welcomes those who are weary and oppressed. So let us start from the gaze of Jesus, which is a blessing and welcoming gaze.

1. Let us look at the first aspect: a gaze that blesses. Though having experienced rejection and having seen around him so much hardness of heart, Christ does not let himself be imprisoned by disappointment, he does not become bitter, he does not cease to praise; his heart, founded on the primacy

of the Father, remains serene even in the storm.

This gaze of the Lord that blesses also invites us to be a Church that, with a glad heart, contemplates God's action and discerns the present. And which, amid the sometimes agitated waves of our time, does not lose heart, does not seek ideological loopholes, does not barricade itself behind preconceived notions, does not give in to convenient solutions, does not let the world dictate its agenda. This is the spiritual wisdom of the Church, summarised with serenity by Saint John XXIII: "It is necessary first of all that the Church should never depart from the sacred patrimony of truth received from the Fathers. But at the same time she must ever look to the present, to the new conditions and new forms of life introduced into the modern world which have opened new avenues to the Catholic apostolate" (*Address for the Solemn Opening of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, 11 October 1962*).

Jesus' gaze that blesses invites us to be a Church that does not face today's challenges and problems with a divisive and contentious spirit but, on the contrary, turns its eyes to God who is communion and, with awe and humility, blesses and adores him, recognising him as its only Lord. We belong to him and – let us remember – we exist only to bring him to the world. (...) This is the fundamental question. And this is the primary task of the Synod: to refocus our gaze on God, to be a Church that looks mercifully at humanity. A Church that is united and fraternal – or at least seeks to be united and fraternal – that listens and dialogues; a Church that blesses and encourages, that helps those who seek the Lord, that lovingly stirs up the indifferent, that opens paths in order to draw people into the beauty of faith. A Church that has God at its centre and, therefore, is not divided internally and is never harsh

externally. A Church that takes a risk in following Jesus. This is how Jesus wants the Church, his Bride, to be.

2. After reflecting on the gaze that blesses, let us now look at the welcoming gaze of Christ. While those who think themselves wise fail to recognise the work of God, Jesus rejoices in the Father because he reveals himself to the little ones, the simple, the poor in spirit (...) Throughout his life, Jesus takes on this welcoming gaze toward the weakest, the suffering and the discarded. To them in particular, he addresses the words we heard: "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28).

This welcoming gaze of Jesus also invites us to be a welcoming Church, not one with closed doors. In such a complex time as ours, new cultural and pastoral challenges emerge that call for a warm and kindly inner attitude so that we can encounter each other without fear. (...)

And if God's holy people with their shepherds from all over the world have expectations, hopes and even some fears about the Synod we are beginning, let us continue to remember that it is not a political gathering, but a convocation in the Spirit; not a polarised parliament, but a place of grace and communion. The Holy Spirit often shatters our expectations to create something new that surpasses our predictions and negativity. Perhaps I can say that the more fruitful moments of the Synod are those connected to prayer, an atmosphere of prayer, through which the Lord works in us. Let us open ourselves to him and call upon him, the protagonist, the Holy Spirit. Let us allow him to be the protagonist of the Synod! And let us walk with him, in trust and with joy.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tel: 020 7435 1388

15th October – 21st October 2023

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 15th October 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Readings. Year A)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Helen Conlon (RIP) 6.00pm Mass Sofia Gomez de Angarita (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions 7pm Young Adults' Group
MON 16th October feria	10am Mass Patrick Cheal and the Cheal family (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
TUE 17th October St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr	10am Mass Donor's private intention	
WED 18th October ST LUKE, Evangelist	10am Mass Antonio Valdez (RIP)	
THU 19th October Ss John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogue, Priests, and Companions	10am Mass Kathleen Tarling (intentions)	
FRI 20th October feria Friday abstinence	10am Mass Persecuted Christians	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 21st October Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday	10am Mass Maggie Ainsworth (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.30am No First Holy Communion Class

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: Josephine Tayar-Tabet; Hana Ramia; Junior Manuel Agogo; Colomba Kako; Helen Conlon; Solweig Karlsson; Anton Noonan; Sofia Gomez de Angarita

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:

1st November: **ALL SAINTS**

2nd November: THE COMMERORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)