

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Also helping in the parish:

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SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2023

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

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. At present there is a two week gap in classes for half term.

If you would still like to register please contact Margaret Browne at:

swisscottagefhc@rcdow.org.uk

Children should be in Year 3.

Young Adults Group

The next young adults group meeting is scheduled for Sunday 12th November after the 6pm Sunday Mass.

The meetings begin 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

World Mission Day

Sunday 22 October is World Mission Day and there will be a retiring collection 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. Please place donations in the basket under the noticeboard in the Narthex after Mass on Sunday.

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. We are now returning to the usual practice of taking a collection during the Offertory, as happens in many other parish churches. We aim to start this Sunday 22nd October. 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.

Cardinal Vincent asks faithful to pray for peace

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has continued to urge the faithful to pray for peace as conflict escalates and the death toll rises in both Israel and Gaza. He originally suggested praying the Rosary for this intention.

In a statement released on 13th October, the Cardinal said: ‘A week into the terrible conflict in Israel and Gaza, I urge Catholics to sustain their prayers for peace. The horrific atrocities committed by Hamas in Israel warrant every condemnation. We continue to hold in our prayers those who were killed, the injured, those held hostage, their families and communities.

The situation facing the millions of civilians in Gaza also calls for effective humanitarian relief. We pray too for those killed, injured and displaced there.

At home I appeal for restraint and the total avoidance of hateful language and action, as the impact of this conflict is felt in communities here.’

November Magnificat

The November Magnificat (£5) is now available. Please talk with Maggie or one of the priests if you would like to buy one.

From Pope Francis

Part of the General Audience Wednesday 18 October 2023. The Holy Father continued his catechesis on the passion for evangelisation: the apostolic zeal of the believer, in this audience speaking of Saint Charles de Foucauld, the beating heart of charity in the hidden life.

Let us continue in our encounter with some Christian witnesses rich in zeal for proclaiming the Gospel. Apostolic zeal, the zeal for proclamation: and we are looking at

some Christians who have been an example of this apostolic zeal. Today I would like to talk to you about a man who made Jesus and his poorest brothers the passion of his life. I refer to Saint Charles de Foucauld, who “drawing upon his intense experience of God, made a journey of transformation towards feeling a brother to all” (Encyclical Letter *Fratelli tutti*, 286).

And what is the “secret” of Charles de Foucauld, of his life? After living a youth far from God, without believing in anything other than the disordered pursuit of pleasure, he confides this to a non-believing friend, to whom, after having converted by accepting the grace of God's forgiveness in Confession, he reveals the reason for his life. He writes: “I have lost my heart to Jesus of Nazareth”. Brother Charles thus reminds us that the first step in evangelising is to have Jesus inside one's heart; it is to “fall head over heels” for him. If this does not happen, we can hardly show it with our lives.

Charles did, to the extent that he goes from *attraction to Jesus* to *imitation of Jesus*. Advised by his confessor, he goes to the Holy Land to visit the places where the Lord lived and to walk where the Master walked. In particular, it is in Nazareth that he realises he must be formed in the school of Christ. He experiences an intense relationship with the Lord, spends long hours reading the Gospels, and feels like his little brother. And as he gets to know Jesus, the desire to make Jesus known arises in him; it always happens like this. When one of us gets to know Jesus better, the desire to make him known, to share this treasure, arises. In commenting on the account of Our Lady's visit to Saint Elizabeth, he makes him say, to Our Lady, to him: “I have given myself to the world... take me to the world”. Yes, but how is this done? Like Mary in the mystery of the Visitation: “in silence, by example, by life”. By life,

because “our whole existence”, writes Brother Charles, “must cry out the Gospel”. And very often our existence calls out worldliness, it calls out many stupid things, strange things, and he says: “No, all our existence must shout out the Gospel”.

He then decides to settle in distant regions to cry out the Gospel in the silence, living in the spirit of Nazareth, in poverty and concealment. He goes to the Sahara Desert, among non-Christians, and he goes there as a friend and a brother, bearing the meekness of Jesus the Eucharist. Charles lets Jesus act silently, convinced that the “Eucharistic life” evangelises. Indeed, he believes that Christ is the first evangeliser. And so he remains in prayer at Jesus’ feet, before the Tabernacle, for a dozen hours a day, sure that the evangelising force resides there and feeling that it is Jesus who will bring him close to so many distant brothers. And do we, I ask myself, believe in the power of the Eucharist? Does our going out to others, our service, find its beginning and its fulfilment there, in adoration? I am convinced that we have lost the sense of adoration: we must regain it, starting with us consecrated persons, bishops, priests, nuns and all consecrated persons. “Waste” time before the tabernacle, regain the sense of adoration.

Charles de Foucauld wrote: “Every Christian is an apostle”, and reminds a lay friend that “there need to be laypeople close to priests, to see what the priest does not see, who evangelise with a proximity of charity, with goodness for everyone, with affection always ready to be given”. The saintly laypeople, not climbers, but those laypeople, that layman, that laywoman, who love Jesus, make the priest understand that he is not a functionary, he is a mediator, a priest. How we priests need to have beside us those laypeople who truly believe, and who teach us the way by their witness.

Charles de Foucauld, with this lay experience, foreshadows the times of [Vatican Council II](#); he intuitively understands the importance of the laity and understands that the proclamation of the Gospel is up to the entire people of God. But how can we increase this participation? The way Charles de Foucauld did: by kneeling and welcoming the action of the Spirit, who always inspires new ways to engage, meet, listen and dialogue, always in collaboration and trust, always in communion with the Church and pastors.

Saint Charles de Foucauld, a figure who is a prophecy for our time, bore witness to the beauty of communicating the Gospel through the apostolate of meekness: considering himself a “universal brother” and welcoming everyone, he shows us the evangelising force of meekness, of tenderness. Let us not forget that God’s style is summarised in three words: proximity, compassion and tenderness. God is always near, he is always compassionate, he is always tender. And Christian witness must take this road: of proximity, compassion and tenderness. And this is how he was, meek and tender. He wanted everyone he met to see, through his goodness, the goodness of Jesus. Indeed, he used to say that he was a “servant to someone much better than me”. Living Jesus’ goodness led him to forge fraternal friendships with the bonds of friendship with the poor, with the Tuareg, with those furthest from his mentality. (...)

So finally, let us ask ourselves whether we bring Christian joy, Christian meekness, Christian tenderness, Christian compassion, Christian proximity. Thank you.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Tel: 020 7435 1388

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

22nd October – 28th October 2023

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 22nd October 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Readings. Year A)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass For Peace in the Holy Land 6.00pm Mass Karen and Terry Vincent (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions 7pm Young Adults' Group
MON 23rd October St John of Capistrano, Priest	10am Mass Silvia Salazar (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
TUE 24th October St Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop	10am Mass Nicholas Birch (intentions)	
WED 25th October feria	10am Mass Bernard and Ita Looney (intentions)	
THU 26th October Ss Chad and Cedd, Bishops	10am Mass Jim and Hildegard Charles (intentions)	
FRI 27th October feria Friday abstinence	10am Mass For Peace in Ukraine	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 28th October SS SIMON and JUDE, Apostles	10am Mass Marie Sobotta-Tabet (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am No First Holy Communion Class (Half-term)

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 COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)