

# ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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## SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2023

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

#### All Saints Day

Wednesday 1 November is the solemnity of All the Saints and a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be three Masses celebrated that day to facilitate attendance at Mass. Mass will be celebrated at **7am, 10am and 6pm.**

“By keeping the memorials of the saints - first of all the holy Mother of God, then the apostles, the martyrs, and other saints - on fixed days of the liturgical year, the Church on earth shows that she is united with the liturgy of heaven. She gives glory to Christ for having accomplished his salvation in his glorified members; their example encourages her on her way to the Father.”

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1195*

#### All Souls' Day

Thursday 2nd November is the Commemoration of all the faithful departed.

#### November Dead List

At the start of November we commemorate the Faithful Departed in a special way. Nevertheless, during the whole month it is customary to offer many Masses and prayers for those souls undergoing final purification.

Envelopes are available for parishioners to write a list of those whom they would like to be remembered, together, if you wish, with an offering.

Please do not leave these envelopes in the church but hand them in at the presbytery, or to one of the priests.

Those on the November Dead List will be prayed for especially during the month of November and over the coming year.

**A Plenary Indulgence**, applicable only to the souls in Purgatory, is granted to any of the faithful who:

- on one of the days from 1-8 November devoutly visit a cemetery or simply pray mentally for the dead;

- on All Souls' Day visit a church or chapel with devotion and there recite the Our Father and the Creed.

**A Partial Indulgence**, applicable only to the souls in Purgatory, is granted to any of the faithful who:

- devoutly visit a cemetery, or who simply pray mentally for the dead;

- recite devoutly Lauds or Vespers of the Office of the Dead, or the invocation

“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...”

## **Sick and Retired Priests' Fund**

On Sunday 5th November there will be a retiring collection for the sick and retired priests of our diocese.

Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. Last year, the Diocese of Westminster provided care to 82 retired priests, at a cost of £850,000. Caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential costs and give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met.

You will find a donation envelope at the back of the church. Please take one home, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. You can also donate online at [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations) - the envelopes and posters feature a QR Code that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. You may also wish to consider becoming a Patron of our Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. If so, please take a leaflet home today. And please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill. Thank you.

## **Baptism Preparation Classes**

The date of the next class is Saturday 4th November, restarting after the break for half term.

## **Seniors' Coffee Morning**

The Seniors' coffee morning will take place after the 10am Mass on **Wednesday 1st November**. It will provide an opportunity to celebrate All Saints. Please sign the list in the Narthex if you intend to come. This will facilitate the catering.

## **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 was collected as people left at the end of Mass. We have now returned to the practice of taking a collection during the Offertory. 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.

## **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. 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.

## **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](mailto:diegocobiang@gmail.com) mobile: +34 603 10 67 55

## **Annual Architects' Mass**

This year's Architects Mass will be on the Friday 10th November at 6.30pm at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and

St Gregory, Warwick Street, London W1B 5LZ, followed by a light reception. The nearest tube is Piccadilly Circus. You are warmly invited to the Mass and reception afterwards. Architects and allied professions and architectural students are welcome to this annual Mass. Please feel free to pass on the invitation to any friends and colleagues who might be interested. Queries and RSVP to [architects.mass@outlook.com](mailto:architects.mass@outlook.com)

### **About the Feast of All Saints**

*From a homily preached by Pope Benedict XVI 1st November 2005 in St Peter's, Rome*

Our Eucharistic celebration began with the exhortation: "Let us all rejoice in the Lord". The liturgy invites us to share in the heavenly jubilation of the Saints, to taste their joy. The Saints are not a small caste of chosen souls but an innumerable crowd to which the liturgy urges us to raise our eyes. This multitude not only includes the officially recognized Saints, but the baptized of every epoch and nation who sought to carry out the divine will faithfully and lovingly. We are unacquainted with the faces and even the names of many of them, but with the eyes of faith we see them shine in God's firmament like glorious stars.

Today, the Church is celebrating her dignity as "Mother of the Saints, an image of the Eternal City" (A. Manzoni), and displays her beauty as the immaculate Bride of Christ, source and model of all holiness. She certainly does not lack contentious or even rebellious children, but it is in the Saints that she recognises her characteristic features and precisely in them savours her deepest joy.

In the first reading, the author of the Book of Revelation describes them as "a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues" (Rv 7: 9).

This people includes the Saints of the Old Testament, starting with the righteous Abel and the faithful Patriarch, Abraham, those of the New Testament, the numerous early Christian Martyrs and the Blesseds and Saints of later centuries, to the witnesses of Christ in this epoch of ours.

They are all brought together by the common desire to incarnate the Gospel in their lives under the impulse of the Holy Spirit, the life-giving spirit of the People of God.

But "why should our praise and glorification, or even the celebration of this Solemnity, mean anything to the Saints?". A famous homily of St Bernard for All Saints' Day begins with this question. It could equally well be asked today. And the response the Saint offers us is also timely: "The Saints", he says, "have no need of honour from us; neither does our devotion add the slightest thing to what is theirs.... But I tell you, when I think of them, I feel myself inflamed by a tremendous yearning" (Disc. 2, Opera Omnia Cisterc. 5, 364ff.).

This, then, is the meaning of today's Solemnity: looking at the shining example of the Saints to reawaken within us the great longing to be like them; happy to live near God, in his light, in the great family of God's friends. Being a Saint means living close to God, to live in his family. And this is the vocation of us all, vigorously reaffirmed by the Second Vatican Council and solemnly proposed today for our attention. (...)

The example of the Saints encourages us to follow in their same footsteps and to experience the joy of those who trust in God, for the one true cause of sorrow and unhappiness for men and women is to live far from him.

# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
29<sup>th</sup> October – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage/>

Tel: 020 7435 1388

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 29<sup>th</sup> October</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Readings. Year A)	<b>9.30am</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass</b> Ken Brown (recently deceased) <b>6.00pm Mass</b> For Peace in Ukraine	The Church opens at 9.15am  <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 30<sup>th</sup> October</b> feria	<b>10am Mass</b> George Tarling (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
<b>TUE 31<sup>st</sup> October</b> feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Nikki Willis (in thanksgiving)	
<b>WED 1<sup>st</sup> November</b> <b>ALL SAINTS</b> Holy Day of Obligation	<b>7am Mass</b> For Peace in the Holy Land <b>10am Mass</b> Bella Tabet (intentions) <b>6pm Mass</b> People of the Parish	<b>After 10am Mass</b> Seniors' Coffee morning
<b>THU 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b> THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)	<b>10am Mass</b> All deceased parishioners and clergy of the Parish	
<b>FRI 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b> St Martin de Porres, Religious <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>10am Mass</b> Holy Souls	<b>10am to Noon</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>SAT 4<sup>th</sup> November</b> St Charles Borromeo, Bishop	<b>10am Mass</b> Anne Birch (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.30am <b>11am</b> First Holy Communion Class (4)

## Prayer Intentions:

**Recently deceased:** Esrom Ephrem; Anton John; Christine Green; Phil Argent; Denis Unsworth; Alex Solomon-Tabet; Ken Brown

**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:

26<sup>th</sup> November: **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe**

3<sup>rd</sup> December: 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8<sup>th</sup> December: **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**