

# ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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## SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

### 31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

#### November Dead List

On All Souls's Day 2 November we prayed for all 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. Once any money has been removed the envelopes are placed in a basket near the altar at least when Mass is celebrated.

Masses will be celebrated for those on the November Dead List especially during the month of November and over the coming year. The Mass intention will be announced as being for the Holy Souls.

**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.

**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 can place donations in the basket labelled “Sick and Retired Priests' Fund” in

the Narthex in front of the noticeboard. Donation envelopes can be found at the back of the church and left in the same basket. 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.

### **First Holy Communion Classes**

After the break for half term these are continuing on Saturday mornings at 11am.

### **Seniors' Coffee Morning**

The Seniors' coffee took place last week. There will be a longer gap until the next one as that will be the Seniors' pre-Christmas party on Wednesday 13 December.

### **Offertory Collections 1–29 October**

Sunday offertory collection: £1,884.02  
(Envelopes: £595.91; Loose: £1,288.11)  
Contactless card machine: £1,109.16

### **Grand total: £2,993.18**

Many thanks for your generous contributions to the upkeep of the Parish.

### **Club Lodwar October Prize Winners**

1st	£163.20	6	Emmanuel Kanabe
2nd	£122.40	90	Evelyn McNally
3rd	£ 40.80	24	Gillian Hodgson
4th	£ 40.80	106	Mary Bilton
5th	£ 40.80	105	Vicky Czernizewska

Thank you for supporting Club Lodwar's Vulnerable Children's Fund. Membership is open and applications are available in the Narthex near the right hand exit door.

### **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 18 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

### **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.

### **November Magnificat**

We have now sold all the November Magnificats. Some of the Advent Companions (£3) are still available. Please talk with Maggie or one of the priests if you would like to buy one.

### **Womens' mini-retreat**

The October "Mini-Retreat" for women will be held on **Tuesday November 14th** from the 10am Mass until 12.40pm, including a time for Eucharistic adoration, followed by coffee in the Hall. It is a time set aside to look at our lives in God's presence. You are welcome for all or part of it. Themes: Without fear of life, without fear of death; Christ the King.

## 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)

## From Pope Francis

*Part of the General Audience Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October in St Peter's Square. The Holy Father continued his catechesis about the passion for evangelisation: the apostolic zeal of the believer.*

Today I will talk to you about two brothers, very famous in the east, to the point of being called “the apostles of the Slavs”: Saints Cyril and Methodius. Born in Greece in the ninth century into an aristocratic family, they renounced a political career to devote themselves to monastic life. But their dream of a secluded existence was short-lived. They were sent as missionaries to Great Moravia, which at the time included various peoples, already partly evangelised, but among whom many pagan customs and traditions survived. Their prince asked for a teacher to explain the Christian faith in their language.

Cyril and Methodius' first task was therefore to study the culture of those peoples in depth. Always the same refrain: faith must be inculturated and the culture evangelised. Inculturation of faith, evangelisation of culture, always. Cyril asked if they have an alphabet; they told him they did not. He replied: “Who can write a speech on water?” Indeed, to

proclaim the Gospel and to pray, one needed a proper, suitable, specific tool. So, he invented the Glagolitic alphabet. He translated the Bible and liturgical texts. People felt that the Christian faith was no longer ‘foreign’, but rather it became their faith, spoken in their mother tongue. Just think: two Greek monks giving an alphabet to the Slavs. It is this openness of heart that rooted the Gospel among them. Those two had no fear, they were courageous. (...)

Looking at the witness of these two evangelisers, whom [Saint John Paul II](#) chose as co-patrons of Europe and on whom he wrote the Encyclical [\*Slavorum Apostoli\*](#), let us look at three important aspects.

First of all, *unity*. The Greeks, the Pope, the Slavs: at that time, there was an undivided Christianity in Europe, which collaborated in order to evangelise.

A second important aspect is *inculturation*, of which I said something earlier: evangelising the culture and inculturation show that evangelisation and culture are closely connected. One cannot preach the Gospel in an abstract, distilled way, no: the Gospel must be inculturated and it is also an expression of culture.

A final aspect is *freedom*. Preaching requires freedom, but freedom always needs courage; a person is free to the extent that they are courageous and do not let themselves be shackled by many things that take away their freedom.

Brothers and sisters, let us ask Saints Cyril and Methodius, apostles of the Slavs, that we may be instruments of “freedom in charity” for others. To be creative, to be constant and to be humble, with prayer and with service.

**ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH****31st Sunday in Ordinary Time**5<sup>th</sup> November – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 5<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b>31st Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Readings. Year A)	<b>9.30am</b> Deceased Members of Club Lodwar <b>11am Mass</b> Sofia da Silva (RIP anniversary) <b>6.00pm Mass</b> James Patrick McNally (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.15am  <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 6<sup>th</sup> November</b> feria	<b>10am Mass</b> George Adegbola (in thanksgiving)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
<b>TUE 7<sup>th</sup> November</b> St Willibrord, Bishop	<b>10am Mass</b> Robinson Emmanuel (recently deceased)	
<b>WED 8<sup>th</sup> November</b> feria	<b>10am Mass</b> People of the Parish	
<b>THU 9<sup>th</sup> November</b> THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA	<b>10am Mass</b> Jeanette Francise-Tabet (recently deceased)	
<b>FRI 10<sup>th</sup> November</b> St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>10am Mass</b> Holy Souls	<b>10am to Noon</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>SAT 11<sup>th</sup> November</b> St Martin of Tours, Bishop	<b>10am Mass</b> Fr Dominic Mc Kenna (recently deceased)	The Church opens at 9.30am <b>11am</b> First Holy Communion Class (5)

**Prayer Intentions:****Recently deceased:** Alex Solomon-Tabet; Ken Brown; Fr Dominic McKenna; Jeanette Francise-Tabet; Robinson Emmanuel**Anniversary:** 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 ADVENT8<sup>th</sup> December: **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**