

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2023

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

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.

Young Adults Group

The young adults group meets this Sunday 12th November after the 6pm Sunday Mass. The speaker is Jack Valero founder of Catholic Voices. The meeting begins 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 mobile: +34 603 10 67 55

First Holy Communion Classes

These take place on Saturday mornings 11am until noon.

Repository

Items from the Repository will be on sale in the Narthex on Sunday 19th and 26th November after the morning Masses. This is an opportunity above all to buy devotional objects related to Advent and Christmas.

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.

Some dates for your diary

The next Seniors' coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 13 December** and will take the form of a Seniors' pre-Christmas party.

There will be tea and coffee after the 11am Mass on **Sunday 3 December**.

We are planning to have a Carol Concert on **Wednesday 20 December** at 7.30pm followed by a gathering in the parish hall. More details to follow closer to the time.

A card with the times of Masses at Christmas is being printed and should arrive soon. It may be helpful for advanced planning to know already that on Sunday 24th December (4th Sunday of Advent) Mass will be at 9.30am and 11.00am. In the evening the 6pm Mass will be the Vigil Mass of Christmas, the Mass during the Night will be at 10pm. The Christmas Day Mass will be at 11am.

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 and recorded the envelopes are placed in a basket near the altar 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.

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.

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.

From Westminster Youth Ministry

Westminster Youth ministry sent the following information about their activities:

Advent Summit

This Advent all young people in the diocese are invited to join Westminster Youth Ministry on Saturday 2nd December from 2pm to 5pm. This afternoon of prayer and adoration will be themed around 'the dwelling place' with speakers including Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Emmanuelle McFarlane-Barrow. Confessions will be available throughout. The event will take place at Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Queensway. See poster in the Narthex or email youth@rcdow.org.uk if you are interested in bringing a group. You can sign up at <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/advent-summit-2/>

Upper Room

The closing date for the Upper Room Leadership Programme is **16th November**. This 8 month programme, starting in December, is open to young people 18-23 of age who are interested in growing in discipleship, spiritual formation, and practical training, culminating in the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. It's an opportunity to journey with 20 other young Catholics in developing your unique

vocation, gifts and identity in community. Again there is a poster in the Narthex or you can visit

<https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/programmes/upper-room-leadership-programme/>.

Some considerations about the Last Things

During November when we pray for those who have died these few paragraphs from the Encyclical Spe Salvi by Pope Benedict XVI seem relevant and may encourage us to re-read it.

No. 35(...) Only the great certitude of hope that my own life and history in general, despite all failures, are held firm by the indestructible power of Love, and that this gives them their meaning and importance, only this kind of hope can then give the courage to act and to persevere. (...) The Kingdom of God is a gift, and precisely because of this, it is great and beautiful and constitutes the response to our hope. And we cannot—to use the classical expression—“merit” Heaven through our works. Heaven is always more than we could merit, just as being loved is never something “merited”, but always a gift. However, even when we are fully aware that Heaven far exceeds what we can merit, it will always be true that our behaviour is not indifferent before God and therefore is not indifferent for the unfolding of history. We can open ourselves and the world and allow God to enter: we can open ourselves to truth, to love, to what is good. This is what the saints did, those who, as “God’s fellow workers”, contributed to the world’s salvation (cf. *1 Cor 3:9; 1 Th 3:2*).

No. 47. Some recent theologians are of the opinion that the fire which both burns and saves is Christ himself, the Judge and Saviour. The encounter with him is the decisive act of judgement. Before his gaze all falsehood melts away. This encounter with him, as it burns us, transforms and

frees us, allowing us to become truly ourselves. All that we build during our lives can prove to be mere straw, pure bluster, and it collapses. Yet in the pain of this encounter, when the impurity and sickness of our lives become evident to us, there lies salvation. His gaze, the touch of his heart heals us through an undeniably painful transformation “as through fire”. But it is a blessed pain, in which the holy power of his love sears through us like a flame, enabling us to become totally ourselves and thus totally of God. In this way the inter-relation between justice and grace also becomes clear: the way we live our lives is not immaterial, but our defilement does not stain us for ever if we have at least continued to reach out towards Christ, towards truth and towards love. Indeed, it has already been burned away through Christ’s Passion. At the moment of judgement we experience and we absorb the overwhelming power of his love over all the evil in the world and in ourselves. The pain of love becomes our salvation and our joy. It is clear that we cannot calculate the “duration” of this transforming burning in terms of the chronological measurements of this world. The transforming “moment” of this encounter eludes earthly time-reckoning—it is the heart’s time, it is the time of “passage” to communion with God in the Body of Christ. (...) The incarnation of God in Christ has so closely linked the two together—judgement and grace—that justice is firmly established: we all work out our salvation “with fear and trembling” (*Phil 2:12*). Nevertheless grace allows us all to hope, and to go trustfully to meet the Judge whom we know as our “advocate”, or *parakletos* (cf. *1 Jn 2:1*).

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**12th November – 18th November 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 12th November 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (Readings. Year A)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Gladys Naranjo (intentions) 6.00pm Mass George Adegbola (in thanksgiving)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 13th November feria	10am Mass Duarte Costa Pereira (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
TUE 14th November feria	10am Mass Hugo Játiva (RIP)	After 10am Mass Womens' Mini - Retreat
WED 15th November St Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor	10am Mass Heidi Ram (intentions)	
THU 16th November St Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop	10am Mass Holy Souls	
FRI 17th November St Hilda, Abbess Friday abstinence	10am Mass George Adegbola (in thanksgiving)	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 18th November The Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles	10am Mass Brigid Monaghan (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.30am 11am First Holy Communion Class (6)

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; Brigid Monaghan

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:

26th November: **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe**

3rd December: 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8th December: **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**