

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2023

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Repository

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

First Holy Communion Classes

These take place on Saturday mornings 11am until noon.

November Magnificat

We 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.

Young Adults Group

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

Looking Forward to Christmas

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.

Saturday 9 December we will put up Christmas decorations in the parish hall in preparation for the Seniors' Christmas event and the Carol Service. If you can spare even a little time to help in any way, it would be a great help.

Saturday 16 December we will decorate the Christmas tree and the Narthex after the 10am Mass, again it would be great to have some volunteers to help with that.

A card with the times of Masses at Christmas has been printed and will be available 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 List of the Deceased

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 List of the Deceased, 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.

#RedWednesday – 22nd November 2023

St George's RC Cathedral, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HR

6pm: Holy Mass 7.15pm: #RedWednesday Award 7.45pm: ACN Reception

Aid to the Church in Need invites you to help 'Break the Silence' on and pray for persecuted Christians in Africa and around the world. Holy Mass will be celebrated by H.E. Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, with Archbishop John Wilson of Southwark and a special guest from Nigeria who has been the victim of terrorist violence. The Cathedral will be lit up red inside and out. To reserve individual and group space/s: www.acnuk.org/events

#RedWednesday is an opportunity for UK Christians to express their support for persecuted Christians worldwide. Throughout the day we encourage everyone to wear an item of red (representing martyrdom) and to help us achieve our target of 100k Decades of the Rosary and £100k 'Matched' Challenge for Africa. For more information: www.acnuk.org/redwednesday

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/>

Some more considerations about the Last Things

During November, it is customary to consider the so-called Last Things. Last week I included some paragraphs from the Encyclical Spe Salvi by Pope Benedict XVI about purgatory. This week I offer some of his considerations about heaven and eternal life.

No. 10 I would like to begin with the classical form of the dialogue with which the rite of Baptism expressed the reception of an infant into the community of believers and the infant's rebirth in Christ. First of all the priest asked what name the parents had chosen for the child, and then he continued with the question: "What do you ask of the Church?" Answer: "Faith". "And what does faith give you?" "Eternal life". According to this dialogue, the parents were seeking access to the faith for their child, communion with believers, because they saw in faith the key to "eternal life". Today as in the past, this is what being baptised, becoming Christians, is all about: it is not just an act of socialisation within the community, not simply a welcome into the Church. The parents expect more for the one to be baptised: they expect that faith, which includes the corporeal nature of the Church and her sacraments, will give life to their child—eternal life. Faith is the substance of hope.

No. 12 (...) In some way we want life itself, true life, untouched even by death; yet at the same time we do not know the thing

towards which we feel driven. We cannot stop reaching out for it, and yet we know that all we can experience or accomplish is not what we yearn for. This unknown "thing" is the true "hope" which drives us, and at the same time the fact that it is unknown is the cause of all forms of despair and also of all efforts, whether positive or destructive, directed towards worldly authenticity and human authenticity. The term "eternal life" is intended to give a name to this known "unknown". Inevitably it is an inadequate term that creates confusion. "Eternal", in fact, suggests to us the idea of something interminable, and this frightens us; "life" makes us think of the life that we know and love and do not want to lose, even though very often it brings more toil than satisfaction, so that while on the one hand we desire it, on the other hand we do not want it. To imagine ourselves outside the temporality that imprisons us and in some way to sense that eternity is not an unending succession of days in the calendar, but something more like the supreme moment of satisfaction, in which totality embraces us and we embrace totality—this we can only attempt. It would be like plunging into the ocean of infinite love, a moment in which time—the before and after—no longer exists. We can only attempt to grasp the idea that such a moment is life in the full sense, a plunging ever anew into the vastness of being, in which we are simply overwhelmed with joy. This is how Jesus expresses it in Saint John's Gospel: "I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (16:22). We must think along these lines if we want to understand the object of Christian hope, to understand what it is that our faith, our being with Christ, leads us to expect.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**19th November – 25th November 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 19th November 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Readings. Year A)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Isabel Jimenez-Acquarone (intentions) 6.00pm Mass Jamil Tayar-Tabet (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 20th November feria	10am Mass Deceased members of Piscoya and Hermoza families	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
TUE 21st November The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10am Mass Helen O'Neil (RIP anniversary)	
WED 22nd November St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr	10am Mass Esrom Ephrem (RIP)	
THU 23rd November St Clement 1, Pope & Martyr	10am Mass Cristina Pancha (RIP anniversary)	
FRI 24th November St Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs Friday abstinence	10am Mass Maria Antonietta Gregori (RIP)	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 25th November St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr	10am Mass Holy Souls	The Church opens at 9.30am 11am First Holy Communion Class (7)

Prayer Intentions:**Recently deceased:** Alex Solomon-Tabet; Ken Brown; Fr Dominic McKenna; Jeanette Francis-Tabet; Robinson Emmanuel**Anniversary:** Colomba Kako; Helen Conlon; Solweig Karlsson; Anton Noonan; Sofia Gomez de Angarita; Brigid Monaghan; Helen O' Neil; Cristina Pancha; Jamil Tayar-Tabet**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 ADVENT8th December: **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**