

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2023

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (Year A)

Repository

Items from the Repository will be on sale in the Narthex on Sunday 26th November after all the Masses. This is an opportunity 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

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

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

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.

We are planning to have a **Carol Service** 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 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 this 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.

COP28 Climate Change Congress

On 4 October Pope Francis issued a new document on the environment, **Laudate Deum**. The encyclical, which means "Praise be to you" is about human ecology and the issues of climate change, care for the environment and the defence of human life and dignity. You can read a summary at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/laudate-deum-summary/>

Between 30 November and 12 December world leaders will meet in Dubai to discuss tackling climate change at COP28. The COP28 climate summit will take place at the end of what is set to be the hottest year on record. The Pope is so determined to call for action at COP28 that he's going to attend the talks himself.

CAFOD have invited Catholics to take a number of actions to share Pope Francis' call for action:

- Prayer – both individual and collective prayers of intercession
- Write to your MP telling them of the Pope's concerns
- Join the march in London on Saturday 9th December to call for leaders at COP28 to act on Pope Francis' call.

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/>

From Pope Francis: evangelisation and joy

In his General Audience in St Peter's Square on Wednesday 15 November 2023, the Holy Father continued his catechesis about the passion for evangelisation: the apostolic zeal of the believer with some considerations about joy

The birth of Jesus, in history as in life, is the source of joy: think of what happened to the disciples of Emmaus, who could not believe their joy, and the others, then, the disciples all together, when Jesus goes to the Upper Room, could not believe their joy; the joy of having the risen Jesus. An encounter with Jesus always brings you joy, and if this does not happen to you, it is not a true encounter with Jesus.

And what Jesus does with the disciples tells us that the first who need to be evangelised are the disciples. The first who need to be evangelised are us: we Christians. And this is very important. Immersed in today's fast-paced and confused environment, we too indeed may find ourselves living our faith with a subtle sense of renunciation, persuaded that the Gospel is no longer heard and no longer worth striving to proclaim. We might even be tempted by the idea of letting "others" go their own way. Instead, this is precisely the time to return to the Gospel to discover that Christ "is forever young, he is forever a constant

source of newness" (cf. *Evangelii gaudium*, 11).

Thus, like the two at Emmaus, one returns to daily life with the enthusiasm of one who has found treasure: they were joyful, those two, because they had found Jesus, and he changed their lives. And one discovers that humanity abounds with brothers and sisters waiting for a word of hope. The Gospel is awaited even today. People of today are like people of all times: they need it. Even the civilisation of programmed unbelief and institutionalised secularity; indeed, especially the society that leaves the spaces of religious meaning deserted, needs Jesus. This is the right moment for the proclamation of Jesus. Therefore, I would like to say again to everyone: "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew". Do not forget this. And if anyone does not perceive this joy, they should ask themselves if they have found Jesus. An inner joy. The Gospel takes the path of joy, always, it is the great proclamation. "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed ... encounter with Jesus Christ (ibid., 1, 1.3) Each one of you, take a little time and think: "Jesus, you are within me. I want to encounter you every day. You are a Person, you are not an idea; you are a travelling companion, you are not a programme. You, Jesus, are the source of joy. You are the beginning of evangelisation. You, Jesus, are the source of joy!". Amen.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe

26th November – 2nd December 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 26th November OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe (Readings. Year A)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Simon Ulcickas (RIP) 6.00pm Mass Isabel Jimenez Acquarone (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 27th November feria	10am Mass Ken Brown (recently deceased)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
TUE 28th November feria	10am Mass Marie Sobotta-Tabet (RIP)	
WED 29th November feria	10am Mass Francis Ching (RIP)	
THU 30th November ST ANDREW, Apostle, Patron of Scotland	10am Mass Denis Francois Joseph Gaboury (RIP)	
FRI 1st December feria Friday abstinence	10am Mass Lizzy Cavalla (intentions)	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 2nd December Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday	10am Mass Holy Souls	The Church opens at 9.30am 11am First Holy Communion Class (8)

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; 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:

3rd December: 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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