

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Also helping in the parish:

Fr Bernard Marsh

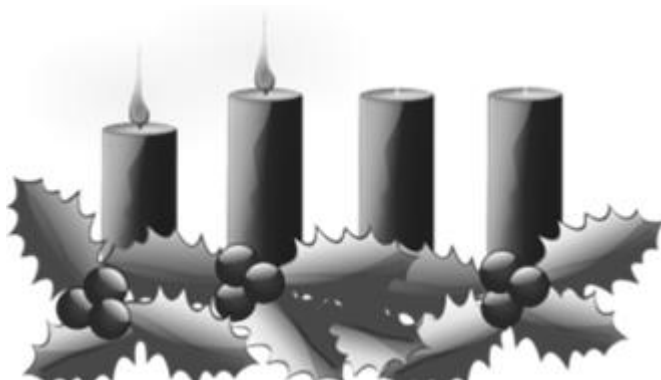
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SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2023

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)



Seniors' Pre-Christmas Celebration

The next Seniors' coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 13 December** and will take the form of a Seniors' pre-Christmas party. It begins at 10.45am after the 10am Mass (Memorial of St Lucy)

Parish Shop

Items from the Parish Shop (Repository) were on sale in the entrance to the church the last two Sundays in November. There was a lot of interest. The shop (which can be found on the ground floor of the parish centre) will be open these coming weeks if you need to buy small cribs, Christmas

cards etc. It will be open after the 11am Mass.

First Holy Communion Classes

These take place on Saturday mornings 11am until noon. The class on Saturday 16th December will be followed by a break for Christmas. Classes begin again on Saturday 13th January.

Women's Monthly Morning of Recollection

The December 'mini-retreat' for women will be held on **Tuesday December 12th** from the 10am Mass till 12.40pm preached by Fr Bernard Marsh. It includes a time for

Eucharistic adoration and is followed by coffee in the Hall. It is a time set aside to look at our lives in God's presence and prepare for Christmas. You are welcome for all or part of it. *Themes: Preparing the coming of the Lord; loving our neighbour as God does*

Preparing for Christmas

The crib will be installed during the week in front of the altar as last year.

Saturday 16 December we will decorate the Christmas tree and the Narthex after the 10am Mass and it would be great to have some volunteers to help with that. The Christmas decorations need to be brought upstairs from the storage rooms in the hall and used to give a festive feel to the church entrance, which will hopefully help attract people to the church over the Christmas season.

Carol Service at St Thomas More

There will be a **Carol Service** on **Wednesday 20 December** at 7.30pm followed by a gathering in the parish hall. The Carol Service will consist of a series of readings, hymns, choral pieces and prayers. It should be a good way to prepare for a prayerful Christmas and appeal to those who like singing Christmas Carols and listening to the choir. Everyone is welcome. Please take some of the publicity on display in the Narthex

The Christmas Service Cards with the times of Masses at Christmas are available in the Narthex. Please note 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.

December Magnificat

Unfortunately we are still waiting for the December Magnificats. There have been

delays with several deliveries these past weeks.

Mass intentions during Christmas season

Please be aware that we already have more Mass intentions waiting to be allocated than there are days left in December! If your Mass intention is for someone who has recently died, is seriously ill, or an anniversary, we shall try to allocate a Mass for you, but it will not always be possible as the number of Masses is limited.

Please speak to Maggie Ainsworth in the Parish Office (Tuesday or Friday mornings) or email her at swisscottage@rcdow.org.uk about any Masses you wish to be offered on a specific day especially if it is in December. Alternatively please use the brown Mass intention envelopes in the Narthex. These can be handed to a priest or put through the letterbox of the presbytery.

Club Lodwar

Thank you for your support. Membership is still available and would make a very nice Christmas gift. Applications are available in the Narthex. A Christmas card comes with a new membership!

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

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/>

Until 12 December world leaders are meeting 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. 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

SVP Vinnie Packs

A message from Siobhán Garibaldi the St Vincent de Paul Vinnie Pack Project Coordinator: "The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support. We rely on donations to keep the project going, so your support is really appreciated."

Advent

Some thoughts about Advent from a homily preached by Pope Benedict XVI back in 2009:

Dear brothers and sisters, let us experience intensely the present in which we already receive the gifts of the Lord, let us live it focused on the future, a future charged with hope. In this manner Christian Advent becomes an opportunity to reawaken within ourselves the true meaning of waiting, returning to the heart of our faith which is the mystery of Christ, the Messiah who was expected for long centuries and was born in poverty, in Bethlehem. In coming among us, he brought us and continues to offer us the gift of his love and his salvation.

Present among us, he speaks to us in many ways: in Sacred Scripture, in the liturgical year, in the saints, in the events of daily life, in the whole of the creation whose aspect changes according to whether Christ is behind it or whether he is obscured by the fog of an uncertain origin and an uncertain future. We in turn may speak to him, presenting to him the suffering that afflicts us, our impatience, the questions that well up in our hearts. We may be sure that he always listens to us! And if Jesus is present, there is no longer any time that lacks meaning or is empty. If he is present, we may continue to hope, even when others can no longer assure us of any support, even when the present becomes trying.

Dear friends, Advent is the season of the presence and expectation of the eternal. For this very reason, it is in a particular way a period of joy, an interiorised joy that no suffering can diminish. It is joy in the fact that God made himself a Child. This joy, invisibly present within us, encourages us to journey on with confidence. A model and support of this deep joy is the Virgin Mary, through whom we were given the Infant Jesus. May she, a faithful disciple of her Son, obtain for us the grace of living this liturgical season alert and hardworking, while we wait. Amen!

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Tel: 020 7435 1388

10th - 16th December 2023

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 10th December 2nd Sunday of Advent (Readings. Year B)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass José Miguel Vargas Alvoraz (RIP anniversary) 6.00pm Mass Aaron and Amanda and family (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 11th December Advent feria	10am Mass Nick Aldridge (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
TUE 12th December Our Lady of Guadalupe	10am Mass Joan Ross (recently deceased)	After 10am Mass Womens' Mini Retreat
WED 13th December St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	10am Mass Duarte Costa Pereira (RIP)	After 10am Mass Seniors' pre-Christmas Party
THU 14th December St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor	10am Mass Holy Souls	
FRI 15th December Advent feria Friday abstinence	10am Mass Persecuted Christians	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 16th December Advent feria	10am Mass Abena (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.30am 11am First Holy Communion Class (10)

Prayer Intentions:

Recently deceased: Alex Solomon-Tabet; Ken Brown; Fr Dominic McKenna; Jeanette Francise-Tabet; Robinson Emmanuel; Joan Ross

Anniversary: Solweig Karlsson; Anton Noonan; Sofia Gomez de Angarita; Brigid Monaghan; Helen O' Neil; Cristina Pancha; Jamil Tayar-Tabet; Erik Karlsson; Maria Fernanda; José Miguel Vargas Alvoraz

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:

25th December: **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

1st January: **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

7th January: **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**