

# ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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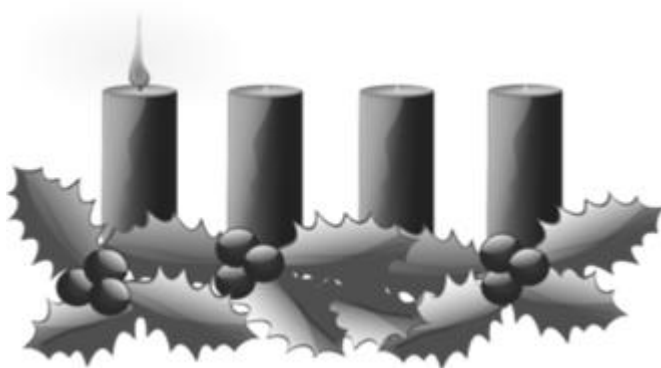
Also helping in the parish:

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## SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2023

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)



### Monthly Tea and Coffee

There will be tea and coffee in the parish hall after the 11am Mass on Sunday 3 December. This provides a monthly opportunity to get to know other parishioners after Mass; everyone is welcome.

### Parish Shop

Items from the Parish Shop (Repository) were on sale in the entrance to the church the past two Sundays. 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 and possibly after the 9.30am Mass too, if requested. Thank you to those who were involved in putting the goods on display at all the Sunday Masses for all their hard work.

### First Holy Communion Classes

These take place on Saturday mornings 11am until noon. There will be classes on Saturday 9th and 16th December followed by a break for Christmas. Classes begin again on Saturday 13th January.

## Looking Forward to Christmas— 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.

**Saturday 9 December** after the 10am Mass 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. 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.

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 24<sup>th</sup> December (4<sup>th</sup> 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 Magnificat

Unfortunately we are still waiting for the December Magnificats. Some Advent Companions (£3) are still available. Please

talk with Maggie or one of the priests if you would like to buy one.

### 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](mailto: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.

### Offertory Collections 5–26 November

Sunday offertory collection: £1,340.00  
(Envelopes: £329.68; Loose: £1,010.32)  
Contactless card machine: £791.04

### Grand total: £2,131.04

Special Collection for Sick and Retired priests: £238.10

Many thanks for your generous contributions to the upkeep of the Parish; the generous help of all the parishioners is required to keep the church as beautiful and welcoming as it is and of course to pay for all the heating, lighting and general maintenance.

### Club Lodwar November Prize Winners

1st	£166.40	15	Sue Sharman
2nd	£124.80	33	George Dean
3rd	£ 41.60	98	Joan Ross
4th	£ 41.60	74	Katherine Clarke
5th	£ 41.60	45	David Strinati

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!

### 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](mailto:diegocobiang@gmail.com) mobile: +34 603 10 67 55

### 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 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. Pope Francis was planning to attend the talks himself in order to call for action at COP28, but he had to call off his trip on the advice of doctors.

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.

### Advent

*A useful description of Advent from a Catholic Encyclopaedia which helps to explain why at the beginning of Advent the Liturgy of the Church dwells on the second coming of our Lord:*

During advent the faithful are admonished:

to prepare themselves worthily to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's coming into the world as the incarnate God of love,

thus to make their souls fitting abodes for the Redeemer coming in Holy Communion and through grace, and thereby to make themselves ready for His final coming as judge, at death and at the end of the world.

# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3<sup>rd</sup> December – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> (Readings. Year B)	<b>9.30am</b> Elizabeth Covenden (RIP) <b>11am Mass</b> Club Lodwar/People of Lodwar <b>6.00pm Mass</b> Fragala and Bernal Families (Wedding anniversaries)	The Church opens at 9.15am  <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 4<sup>th</sup> December</b> Advent feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Jeanette Francise-Tabet (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday.
<b>TUE 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> Advent feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Joshua Solomon (intentions)	
<b>WED 6<sup>th</sup> December</b> St Nicholas, Bishop	<b>10am Mass</b> Erik Karlsson (RIP anniversary)	
<b>THU 7<sup>th</sup> December</b> St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor	<b>10am Mass</b> Maria Fernanda (RIP anniversary)	
<b>FRI 8<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> <b>No Friday abstinence</b>	<b>10am Mass</b> People of the Parish	<b>10am to Noon</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>SAT 9<sup>th</sup> December</b> St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin	<b>10am Mass</b> Holy Souls	The Church opens at 9.30am <b>11am</b> First Holy Communion Class (9)

## Prayer Intentions:

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

**Anniversary:** Solweig Karlsson; Anton Noonan; Sofia Gomez de Angarita; Brigid Monaghan; Helen O' Neil; Cristina Panha; Jamil Tayar-Tabet; Erik Karlsson; Maria Fernanda

## 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:

25<sup>th</sup> December: **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

1<sup>st</sup> January: **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

7<sup>th</sup> January: **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**