

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY 2024

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

Peace Sunday

Ordinary Time

The season of Christmas has now finished and we have started that part of the Church's liturgical year known as ordinary time.

Nevertheless, the Crib will remain in place a few more weeks, until 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which is connected with Christmas in that the child Jesus was presented in the temple 40 days after his birth.

You are welcome to come and pray before the crib during the day. At times, for security reasons, the doors leading from the Narthex to the church may need to be locked.

However, when this is the case, if the front doors of the church are open, you can still come in and pray from the Narthex. When the Crib lights are on it is possible to see it from the entrance (and on-line via the web camera).

Of course every day in ordinary time can be special. The special days of Christmas are over; now the exciting challenge is to put into practice all that we resolved over Christmas and the New Year.

Mary's Meals Collection

We now have the result for the foreign and out-of-date currency collected some time ago from St Thomas More parish. It took some time to get the currency to Mary's Meals. The charity originally sent one box for the money they expected to be collected from us. The response to the appeal was so enthusiastic we had to ask for two extra boxes and eventually sent three, each weighing about 5kg. Once the currency had been processed, the charity eventually received £1,242.62 plus an additional £70 that was sent separately. Mary's Meals have found that the foreign currency initiative is an attractive and effective way to raise funds in London parishes.

Mr Gerrard McMahon from Mary's Meals wrote thanking everyone in the parish for your generosity:

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity in response to its Foreign Currency initiative. It raised a terrific £1242.62 which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 64 children one good meal every school

day for a whole year because of your support. Please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all.

Peace Sunday

Sunday 14th January is Peace Sunday. From Archbishop Malcom McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool and National President of Pax Christi in England and Wales: *"When I wrote to promote Peace Sunday 2023, I said that 2022 had been a year of war and rumours of war. As we approach the end of 2023, the last twelve months have been no different. The war between Russia and Ukraine continues, as do conflicts around the globe.*

As I write this, the conflict in Palestine and Israel has erupted once more into terrible violence and suffering with thousands dying, injured and displaced.

Advocating for a just peace in Palestine and Israel is a part of the ongoing work of Pax Christi, alongside building a culture of nonviolence, campaigning against war, nuclear weapons and the arms trade.

Supporting its members and the church, Pax Christi produces resources on peace and nonviolence issues, organises events and vigils, represents the Catholic Church in the peace movement and works with young people in both schools and churches.

The theme for Peace Sunday is Pope Francis' theme for the World Day of Peace - 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. I am sure you will agree that it is a highly relevant theme as Governments across the world, including our own, wrestle with the ethics and consequences of significant and potentially dangerous developments in technology. Pope Francis' overriding concern is that artificial intelligence should be used in the service of humanity and the protection of our common home and not to fuel injustice and inequality or to fuel division and violent conflict.

Finally, Peace Sunday is an important opportunity for Pax Christi to raise funds. Our small team of staff and volunteers are highly dedicated and work hard to support and encourage us all in working for peace. I greatly appreciate the support our parish communities give through collections and donations and would ask that you take this opportunity to support us this year."

St Valentine's Day Mass

Since Lent starts on St Valentine's Day this year, we have moved our traditional celebration of Christian Marriage forward a few days. It will be on **Friday 9th February 2024**. Mass will be celebrated at **6pm**, followed by a reception in the Hall. All married couples, especially the recently married, and those preparing for marriage are welcome to attend.

Young Adults Group

Sunday 14 January, after 6pm Mass. Talk: *Catholics and Public Service*, Prof. Luis G. Franceschi, Assistant Secretary General of the Commonwealth. As a distinguished thinker, educator, diplomat and writer, Prof. Franceschi's profound expertise offers a distinctive insight into the potential role of faith in public life.

To notify interest or for more details: diegocobiang@gmail.com

Collection for the Holy Land

Thank you to all those who contributed to the collection for the relief for those suffering from the conflict in the Holy Land. The collection will be forwarded to the Latin Patriarch as a response to his appeal.

Crib Collection

Since the crib will stay up in the church until 2nd February, we will continue to use the candle stand in the Thomas More Chapel for donations to the Westminster Catholic Children's Society until then.

First Holy Communion Classes

Classes began on **Saturday 13th January**.

Mass Intentions

Please use the brown Mass intention envelopes in the Narthex to request a Mass. These can be handed to a priest or put through the letterbox of the presbytery. 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.

Please be aware that there is a backlog of Mass intentions. The number of Masses each week has decreased considerably as there is no longer a 7am weekday Mass. If your Mass intention is for someone who has recently died or is seriously ill, we shall try to allocate a Mass as soon as possible. However, in many cases Masses can only be offered several weeks after they have been requested.

Gift Aid sign up on the Contactless device

Please could Adewole (NW5 4PQ) kindly contact Yolaine, our Parish Finance Officer (swisscottagefin@rcdow.org.uk) as soon as possible? Unfortunately, the details provided on the device were not sufficient for the gift aid to be validated. Many thanks in advance!

World Day of Peace

From the Holy Father's Message for the World Day of Peace 1st January 2024, about Artificial Intelligence and Peace. The whole message runs to eight pages, these are just a few excerpts:

We rightly rejoice and give thanks for the impressive achievements of science and technology, as a result of which countless ills that formerly plagued human life and caused great suffering have been remedied. At the same time, techno-scientific advances, by making it possible to exercise hitherto unprecedented control over reality, are placing in human hands a vast array of options, including some that may pose a risk to our survival and endanger our common home.

The remarkable advances in new information technologies, particularly in the digital sphere, thus offer exciting opportunities and grave risks, with serious implications for the pursuit of justice and harmony among peoples. Any number of urgent questions need to be asked. What will be the consequences, in the medium and long term, of these new digital technologies? And what impact will they have on individual lives and on societies, on international stability and peace?

It is my prayer at the start of the New Year that the rapid development of forms of artificial intelligence will not increase cases of inequality and injustice all too present in today's world, but will help put an end to wars and conflicts, and alleviate many forms of suffering that afflict our human family. May Christian believers, followers of various religions and men and women of goodwill work together in harmony to embrace the opportunities and confront the challenges posed by the digital revolution and thus hand on to future generations a world of greater solidarity, justice and peace.

Dated 8 December 2023

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tel: 020 7435 1388

14th January – 20th January 2024

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 14th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Peace Sunday (Readings: Year B)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Amanda Ellis (intentions) 6pm Mass Amelia Florian (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 15th January Feria	10am Mass Sandi Bowden (RIP)	Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday Church closes about 1pm on Mondays, other weekdays about 6pm
TUE 16th January Feria	10am Mass Joan Aldridge (intentions)	
WED 17th January Feria	10am Mass Mary Troy (RIP)	
THU 18th January Feria	10am Mass Rita Rogan (intentions)	
FRI 19th January St Wulstan, Bishop Friday abstinence	10am Mass Holy Souls	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 20th January St Sebastian, Martyr	10am Mass Nunzio Spina (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am 11am – 12pm First Holy Communion Class (12)

Prayer Intentions:

Recently deceased: Alex Solomon-Tabet; Ken Brown; Fr Dominic McKenna; Jeanette Francise-Tabet; Robinson Emmanuel; Joan Ross; Maria Maguire; Mervyn Agnew; Fr Terry Murray OMI

Anniversary: Brigid Monaghan; Helen O'Neil; Cristina Pancha; Jamil Tayar-Tabet; Erik Karlsson; Maria Fernanda; José Miguel Vargas Alvoraz; Mark Sharman

Confessions:

Weekdays: before and after 10am Mass

Saturday: before and after 10am Mass

Sunday: 9.30am then 10.30am and 5.30pm (before Mass)

Forthcoming liturgical celebrations:

2nd February: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

14th February: **ASH WEDNESDAY**