

# ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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## SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2024

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

### Sunday of the Word of God

#### Sunday of the Word of God

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter *Misericordia et misera* at the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy, desired that “every Christian community, on one Sunday of the liturgical year, could renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and more widely diffused. It would be a Sunday given over entirely to the word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people”. With the Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis*, Pope Francis instituted the Sunday of the Word of God, arranging its celebration on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time.

The Archbishop in charge of the Dicastery for Evangelisation writes: *It is a profoundly pastoral initiative with which Pope Francis wants to make it clear how important it is in the daily life of the Church and our communities to refer to the Word of God, a Word that is not confined to a book, but which remains ever alive and becomes a concrete and tangible sign. Each local community will be able to find the most*

*suitable and effective ways to live this Sunday to the fullest, helping the people of God «to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred Scriptures» (Aperuit illis, 15). The Sunday of the Word of God allows Christians to reinvigorate once again Jesus’ tenacious invitation to listen to and cherish his Word, in order to offer the world a witness of hope that will enable them to move beyond the difficulties of the present moment.*

#### Film Club

The film club is starting up again on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 10.45am after the 10am Mass. The plan is to project a number of religious films and programmes on certain Wednesdays before Easter. More details to follow. The initial plan is to meet on the following Wednesdays: 31<sup>st</sup> January, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 28<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> March. Some of the long gaps are due to other events (14<sup>th</sup> February is Ash Wednesday and 13<sup>th</sup> March is the next Seniors’ Coffee Morning). Closer to the time there will be a list in the Narthex to sign if you would like to attend.

## 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

Last Sunday evening: Prof. Luis G. Franceschi, Assistant Secretary General of the Commonwealth gave a well received talk about *Catholics and Public Service*. For information about future events please contact: [diegocobiang@gmail.com](mailto:diegocobiang@gmail.com)

## Collection for the Holy Land

Cardinal Nichols is aware that we have just had a collection to support the work of the Latin Patriarchate in the Holy Land during the present crisis. He writes: *"In the last few days I have heard directly, via Zoom, from the Parish Priest of the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza City and from the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate. The situation they face is grave and most demanding. We were told that there are still 600 people sheltering and being cared for in the parish compound, together with over 50 seriously disabled and vulnerable children. Water and food can be bought in the local markets at much inflated prices. With the damage inflicted on this site some time ago now, cooking hot meals is only possible three times a week. The parish is also providing for 200 people in the Orthodox property as well as for local Muslim neighbours.*

*The situation in the West Bank is also grave with more than 100,000 families losing income because of various factors, as well as the absence of all visitors and pilgrims. The Patriarchate is able to provide assistance. It can make funding directly*

*available to the parish leadership and is providing food etc to many in the West Bank."*

His words show what the money collected so far will be used for as well as encourage further donations either for the Latin Patriarchate or for The Friends of the Holy Land or CAFOD.

## Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes

On Saturday 10th February at 2.30pm the Cardinal will celebrate the annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes in the Cathedral which will include anointing of the sick. Please note that anyone who requires the sacrament and any helpers will need tickets. If this is the case please contact Fr. Nicholas who can ask for tickets for this parish.

## Annual Mass for Matrimony in Westminster Cathedral

The annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on Saturday 25th May at 2.30pm for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries. Full information and an invitation will be issued shortly, but in the meantime parishes have been invited to note the date and begin to advertise this very popular and important celebration.

## Crib Collection

We will continue to use the candle stand in the St Thomas More Chapel for donations to the Westminster Catholic Children's Society until the 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

## First Holy Communion Classes

Classes continue on Saturday morning 11.00am to 12 noon.

## 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](mailto: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.

### **Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity 18 – 25 January**

*The Octave of prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18<sup>th</sup> January to the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul on 25<sup>th</sup> January. It is recognised that this objective "transcends human powers and gifts" and therefore we implore the gift of unity from God in prayer.*

*From the Vatican II document Lumen Gentium no. 8*

This is the one Church of Christ which in the Creed is professed as one, holy, catholic and apostolic, which our Saviour, after His Resurrection, commissioned Peter to shepherd, and him and the other apostles to extend and direct with authority, which He erected for all ages as "the pillar and mainstay of the truth". This Church constituted and organised in the world as a society, subsists in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the Bishops in communion with him, although many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside of its visible structure. These elements, as gifts belonging to the Church of Christ, are forces impelling toward catholic unity.

*From the Vatican II Decree Unitatis Redintegratio no. 1*

The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council. Christ the Lord founded one Church and one Church only.

However, many Christian communions present themselves to men as the true inheritors of Jesus Christ; all indeed profess to be followers of the Lord but differ in mind and go their different ways, as if Christ Himself were divided. Such division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalises the world, and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every creature.

But the Lord of Ages wisely and patiently follows out the plan of grace on our behalf, sinners that we are. In recent times more than ever before, He has been rousing divided Christians to remorse over their divisions and to a longing for unity. Everywhere large numbers have felt the impulse of this grace, and among our separated brethren also there increases from day to day the movement, fostered by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for the restoration of unity among all Christians. This movement toward unity is called "ecumenical." Those belong to it who invoke the Triune God and confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour, doing this not merely as individuals but also as corporate bodies. For almost everyone regards the body in which he has heard the Gospel as his Church and indeed, God's Church. All however, though in different ways, long for the one visible Church of God, a Church truly universal and set forth into the world that the world may be converted to the Gospel and so be saved, to the glory of God

# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Tel: 020 7435 1388

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

21<sup>st</sup> January – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 21<sup>st</sup> January</b> <b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  (Readings. Year B)	<b>9.30am</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass</b> Jim and Hildegard Charles (intentions) <b>6pm Mass</b> Owen and Marie and family (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.15am <b>10.30am</b> Confessions  <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b> St Vincent, Deacon and Martyr	<b>10am Mass</b> Pat Gibson (intentions)	Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday  Church closes about 1pm on Mondays, other weekdays about 6pm
<b>TUE 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b> Feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Ana Strbac (intentions)	
<b>WED 24<sup>th</sup> January</b> St Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	<b>10am Mass</b> The Smith family (intentions)	
<b>THU 25<sup>th</sup> January</b> THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE	<b>10am Mass</b> Nick Aldridge (RIP anniversary)	
<b>FRI 26<sup>th</sup> January</b> Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops, Bishop <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>10am Mass</b> Holy Souls	<b>10am to Noon</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>SAT 27<sup>th</sup> January</b> Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<b>10am Mass</b> Mabel Bull (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.30am  <b>11am – 12pm</b> First Holy Communion Class (13)

### Prayer Intentions:

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

**Anniversary:** Cristina Pancha; Jamil Tayar-Tabet; Erik Karlsson; Maria Fernanda; José Miguel Vargas Alvoraz; Mark Sharman; Mabel Bull; Nick Aldridge

### 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:

2<sup>nd</sup> February: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

14<sup>th</sup> February: **ASH WEDNESDAY**