

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

The readings at Mass this Sunday talk to us of the authority of Jesus' teaching. Moses foretold that God would raise up a great prophet from among the people in the future who would speak in God's name. We will read from the Gospel of St Mark at Sunday Mass this year. St Mark tells us that at the beginning of Jesus' public life people were amazed. He was preaching in the Synagogue at Capernaum. His teaching was very different from that of the scribes: he spoke with authority. He then confirmed his authority by his deeds, freeing a poor man from the power of the devil. Moses tells us "to him you must listen".

St Valentine's Day Mass

Since this year Ash Wednesday falls on 14th February, St Valentine's Day, 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, starting approximately at 6.45pm.

All married couples, especially the recently married, and those preparing for marriage

are most welcome to attend. This event has in the past been a highpoint of the year, an opportunity to meet other married couples of different ages and benefit from each other's friendship and support.

There will be a list left on the table in the Narthex. If planning to attend please add your name to the list so we have an approximate idea of the numbers coming.

Parish Film Club

The film club is starting up again this week on **Wednesday 31st 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: 31st January, 21st February, 28th February and 20th March. Some of the long gaps are due to other events (e.g. 14th February is Ash Wednesday and 13th March is the next Seniors' Coffee Morning). Please add your name to the list in the Narthex if you are planning to attend.

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 information about future events please contact Diego Cobian email: diegocobiang@gmail.com mobile: +34 603 10 67 55

Collection for the Holy Land

The retiring collection taken earlier this month in this parish to support the social outreach of the Latin Patriarchate in the Holy Land during the present crisis raised £542.36. Many thanks to all those who contributed. As the needs are great Cardinal Nichols has encouraged continued support either for the Latin Patriarchate or The Friends of the Holy Land or via 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.

February Magnificat

Magnificat is a monthly publication containing the readings and prayers for Mass, with a meditation from the great spiritual writers of the Church, the Morning and Evening Prayer of the Church and much else. The February Magnificat (£5) is now available. Please talk with Maggie or one of the priests if you would like to buy one. You can pay using the card reader in the entrance or by putting cash in the collection box in the wall of the Narthex marked Newspaper/leaflet.

Tea and Coffee 4th February

There will be tea and coffee after the 11am Mass on Sunday 4th February on the lower floor of the parish hall. It provides an opportunity to get to know fellow parishioners better, as also to buy items from

the parish shop (repository), also located on the lower ground floor.

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 2nd February.

First Holy Communion Classes

Classes continue on Saturday morning 11.00am to 12 noon.

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. Please help to make newcomers aware of this helpful area in the parish hall.

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.

Commentary on Sunday's Gospel

From the Angelus Address of Pope Benedict XVI in St Peter's Square 29 January 2021

This Sunday's Gospel (Mk 1:21-28) presents to us Jesus, who was preaching on the Sabbath in the Synagogue of Capernaum, the little town on the Sea of Galilee where Peter and his brother Andrew lived. His teaching, which gave rise to wonder among the people, was followed by the deliverance of "a man with an unclean spirit" (v. 23), who recognised Jesus as "the Holy One of God", that is, the Messiah. In a short time his fame spread across the region which he passed through proclaiming the Kingdom of God and healing the sick of every kind: words and action. St John Chrysostom pointed out that the Lord "varies the mode of profiting his hearers, after miracles entering on words, and again from the instruction by his words passing to miracles" (*Hom. in Matthæum* 25, 1: PG 57, 328).

The words Jesus addresses to the people immediately give access to the will of the Father and to the truth about themselves. This was not the case for the scribes who instead had to make an effort to interpret the Sacred Scriptures with countless reflections. Moreover Jesus united the efficacy of the word with the efficacy of the signs of deliverance from evil. St Athanasius notes that "for his charging evil spirits and their being driven forth, this deed is not of man, but of God"; indeed the Lord "drove away from men all diseases and infirmities"

Those "who saw his power... will no longer doubt whether this be the Son and Wisdom and Power of God?" (*Oratio de Incarnatione Verbi* 18,19: PG 25, 128 BC. 129 B).

The divine authority is not a force of nature. It is the power of the love of God that creates the universe and, becoming incarnate in the Only-Begotten Son, descending into our humanity, heals the world corrupted by sin. Romano Guardini wrote: "Jesus' entire existence is the translation of power into humility... here is the sovereignty which lowers itself into the form of a servant" (*Il Potere*, Brescia 1999, 141-142).

Authority, for human beings, often means possession, power, dominion and success. Instead for God authority means service, humility and love; it means entering into the logic of Jesus who stoops to wash his disciples' feet (cf. Jn 13:5), who seeks man's true good, who heals wounds, who is capable of a love so great that he gives his life, because he is Love. In one of her Letters St. Catherine of Siena wrote: "It is necessary for us to see and know, in truth, with the light of the faith, that God is supreme and eternal Love and cannot want anything but our good" (*Ep. 13 in: Le Lettere*, vol. 3, Bologna 1999, 206).



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Tel: 020 7435 1388

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

28th January – 3rd February 2024

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 28th January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Readings. Year B)	9.30am Yemi and Ogi Adegbite (in thanksgiving) 11am Mass Margaret King (RIP) 6pm Mass People of the Parish	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 29th January Feria	10am Mass Marie Sobotta-Tabet (RIP)	Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday Church closes about 1pm on Mondays, other weekdays about 6pm
TUE 30th January Feria	10am Mass Vicky Waterhouse (intentions)	
WED 31st January St John Bosco, Priest	10am Mass Joan Aldridge (intentions)	10.45am Film club
THU 1st February Feria	10am Mass Pat Gibson (intentions)	
FRI 2nd February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD Friday abstinence	10am Mass Raj Ram (RIP)	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 3rd February Saints Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury	10am Mass Holy Souls	The Church opens at 9.30am 11am – 12pm First Holy Communion Class (14)

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:

14th February: **ASH WEDNESDAY (Day of Fasting and Abstinence)**

18th February: **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

19th March: **SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**