

# ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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## SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Year B)

#### Stations of the Cross

Please note that Stations of the Cross will take place in the church every Friday of Lent at 6pm. For those who have not attended before, the stations last about half an hour.

#### Some suggestions for Lent

We have now begun the liturgical season of Lent. A Church document explains that “All Christ’s faithful are obliged by divine law, - each in his or own way, to do penance. However, so that all may be joined together in a certain common practice of penance, days of penance are prescribed. On these days the faithful are in special manner to devote themselves to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity and to deny themselves, by fulfilling their obligations more faithfully ...” Lent is such a penitential time in the Church’s year.

Many people think of “giving something up” for Lent. This is a good and an easy-to-remember approach to Lent. But here are some additional suggestions:

-Try to identify a spiritual book to read, perhaps a life of a favourite saint, or one of those books specially written to accompany us through Lent.

-Attend Mass more often.

-Talk to people about the importance the Mass has in our lives and encourage them to attend Sunday Mass.

-Resolve to set aside more regular time for prayer each day

- Abstain from social media occasionally

-Find time to keep in touch with those who are elderly, or living on their own.

-Attend the Stations of the Cross in the parish or do them on one’s own

-Meditate on the Passion of our Lord

#### Funeral Friday 23 February 2024

The funeral of Mrs Joan Ross, a parishioner known to many in the parish, will take place on **Friday 23 February at 10am**. There will be tea and coffee in the parish hall after the Mass for her friends to exchange memories. Meanwhile a small group will attend the final committal at the crematorium. Please note that there will be no exposition of the Blessed Sacrament that Friday.

#### Cardinal’s Lenten Appeal 2024

If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal’s Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese.

Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of its services, such as Marriage & Family Life, Youth Ministry and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. Archbishop Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the appeal, with whatever they can afford. Donation envelopes will be provided in the entrance to the church during Lent. We will make use of one of the collection boxes in the wall of the Narthex for this purpose. You can also use the QR code to make your donation online. However, it is not possible to use the card reader in the Narthex for this appeal due to difficulties with regard to gift aid issues. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Parish Film Club**

The Parish Film plans to project a number of religious films and programmes on certain Wednesdays before Easter. The next meeting is on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 10.45am after the 10am Mass. The plan is watch the first part of a film about St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio). The second part will be shown on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

### **First Holy Communion Classes**

First Holy Communion classes start again after the break for half-term on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 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 Offering envelopes in the Narthex to request a Mass and provide the information requested. These envelopes 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.

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, bear in mind that it is not unusual for Masses to be offered several weeks after they have been requested.

Please do not use the Mass Offering envelopes for general donations to the church, as there are separate larger blue donation envelopes for this purpose.

### **Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony**

**Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm.**

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

The Cardinal writes: *This occasion is one where joy, gratitude and also the deep emotions of a shared journey are celebrated. During the liturgy the couples will be invited, in a simple way, to renew their marital commitment and we shall pray for them and their families. The Mass will be an opportunity to acknowledge the joys and blessings of marriage, while remaining*

*mindful of the need for healing and compassion for those who have experienced upset and suffering in their married life. The order of service will contain information on opportunities for enrichment, support and healing, highlighting agencies and movements who work to support marriage and family life both within the Diocese and nationally.*

### **CAFOD Lent Fast Day**

The CAFOD Lent Fast day is on Friday 23 February. There will be a retiring collection for the work of CAFOD the Catholic Aid Agency on Sunday 25 February. Donations can also be given using the envelopes in the entrance to the church or online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk). The money raised is to support families around the world and help them with the resources to feed their families in a sustainable way.

### **The Pope's Lenten Message**

*Some excerpts from the Pope's Message for Lent 2024.*

God has not grown weary of us. Let us welcome Lent as the great season in which he reminds us: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Ex 20:2). Lent is a season of conversion, a time of freedom. Jesus himself, as we recall each year on the first Sunday of Lent, was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. For forty days, he will stand before us and with us: the incarnate Son. Unlike Pharaoh, God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters. The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken.

This, however, entails a struggle, as the book of Exodus and the temptations of Jesus in the desert make clear to us. The voice of God, who says, "You are my Son, the

Beloved" (Mk 1:11), and "You shall have no other gods before me" (Ex 20:3) is opposed by the enemy and his lies. Even more to be feared than Pharaoh are the idols that we set up for ourselves; we can consider them as his voice speaking within us. To be all-powerful, to be looked up to by all, to domineer over others: every human being is aware of how deeply seductive that lie can be. It is a road well-travelled. We can become attached to money, to certain projects, ideas or goals, to our position, to a tradition, even to certain individuals. Instead of making us move forward, they paralyse us. Instead of encounter, they create conflict. Yet there is also a new humanity, a people of the little ones and of the humble who have not yielded to the allure of the lie. Whereas those who serve idols become like them, mute, blind, deaf and immobile (cf. Ps 114:4), the poor of spirit are open and ready: a silent force of good that heals and sustains the world.

It is time to act, and in Lent, to act also means to pause. To pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. Love of God and love of neighbour are one love. Not to have other gods is to pause in the presence of God beside the flesh of our neighbour. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us.

## ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## First Sunday of Lent

Tel: 020 7435 1388

18<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 18<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>First Sunday of Lent</b>  (Readings. Year B)	<b>9.30am</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass</b> Bindu Tarapatla (intentions) <b>6pm Mass</b> Holy Souls	The Church opens at 9.15am <b>10.30am</b> Confessions  <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 19<sup>th</sup> February</b> Lent Feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Carmine Albano (intentions)	Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday  Church closes about 1pm on Mondays, other weekdays about 6pm
<b>TUE 20<sup>th</sup> February</b> Lent Feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Monsignor Nicholas Morrish (intentions)	<b>After 10am Mass</b> Womens' Mini-Retreat
<b>WED 21<sup>st</sup> February</b> Lent Feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Emilie Karlsson (intentions)	<b>10.45am</b> Film Club (2)
<b>THU 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b> THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE	<b>10am Mass</b> Ify and Nonso Osakwe (in thanksgiving)	
<b>FRI 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b> Lent feria <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>10am Mass</b> Funeral Mass of Mrs Joan Ross	<b>No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>6pm</b> Stations of the Cross
<b>SAT 24<sup>th</sup> February</b> Lent feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Pat Gibson (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.30am  <b>11am-12pm</b> First Holy Communion Class (15)

### Prayer Intentions:

**Recently deceased:** Joan Ross; Maria Maguire; Mervyn Agnew; Fr Terry Murray OMI; Brian Ainsworth

**Anniversary:** 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:

19<sup>th</sup> March: **SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

24<sup>th</sup> March: **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**