

# ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

Maresfield Gardens London NW3 5SU Tel: 020 7435 1388

Email: [swisscottage@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:swisscottage@rcdow.org.uk)

Web page: [parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage)

Web camera: [www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage](http://www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage)

Parish Priest: Mgr Nicholas Morrish [nicholasmorrish@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:nicholasmorrish@rcdow.org.uk)

Also helping in the parish:

Fr Bernard Marsh

[bernardmarsh@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:bernardmarsh@rcdow.org.uk)

Fr Paul Hayward

[paul.hayward@netherhall.org.uk](mailto:paul.hayward@netherhall.org.uk)

## SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2024

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Year B)

#### Lenten 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.

#### Parish Film Club

The Parish Film Club will continue to project some religious films and programmes during Lent. The next meeting is on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 10.45am** after the 10am Mass. Following the success of the film about St Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) which was seen over two sessions, the plan is watch the first part of a film about the life of St Josephine Bakhita.

#### First Holy Communion Classes

First Holy Communion classes take place on Saturdays in the parish centre 11.00am to 12 noon.

#### Sunday 3rd March: Tea and Coffee

There will be tea and coffee after the 11am Mass on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March on the lower floor of the parish hall. It provides an opportunity to get to know fellow parishioners better.

#### Repository Items

This Sunday devotional items for Lent and Easter from the parish shop (repository) will be on sale in the Narthex after each Mass.

#### 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 are 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.

## Offertory Collections 4 – 25 February –2024

Sunday offertory collection: £1,758.77  
(Envelopes: £598.00; Loose: £1,160.77)

Contactless card machine: £825.07

**Grand total: £2,583.84**

Many thanks for your generous contributions to the upkeep of the Parish.

### Club Lodwar February Prize Winners

1 <sup>st</sup>	£163.20	45	David Strinati
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£122.40	101	Philomena Casey
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£ 40.80	14	Lawrence Ching
4 <sup>th</sup>	£ 40.80	64	Susan Clarke
5 <sup>th</sup>	£ 40.80	79	Angela Fernando

Thank you for your support. Membership is still available. Applications are available in the church narthex or by request. Mass will be offered for Club Lodwar and the people of that Diocese in Kenya this Sunday

### CAFOD Lent Fast Day

The retiring collection last Sunday for the work of CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, raised £424. Jo Kitterick of CAFOD writes: *Thank you for giving to our collection for CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal last week. Our Collection is helping families like that of James the fisherman in Liberia and in many other countries, with resources so they can feed their families for good. Thank you. And please do continue to pray for CAFOD's work with our sisters and brothers around the world.*

### 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 Fr Nicholas 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.*

### **Commentary on Sunday's Gospel Reading**

*Some points from the Catechism of the Catholic Church provide a helpful commentary on this Sunday's Gospel reading about Jesus cleansing the Temple*

No.583 Like the prophets before him Jesus expressed the deepest respect for the Temple in Jerusalem. It was in the Temple that Joseph and Mary presented him forty days after his birth. At the age of twelve he decided to remain in the Temple to remind his parents that he must be about his Father's business. He went there each year during his hidden life at least for Passover. His public ministry itself was patterned by his pilgrimages to Jerusalem for the great Jewish feasts.

No.584 Jesus went up to the Temple as the privileged place of encounter with God. For him, the Temple was the dwelling of his Father, a house of prayer, and he was angered that its outer court had become a place of commerce. He drove merchants out of it because of jealous love for his Father: "You shall not make my Father's house a house of trade. His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'" After his Resurrection his apostles retained their reverence for the Temple.

No.585 On the threshold of his Passion Jesus announced the coming destruction of this splendid building, of which there would

not remain "one stone upon another". By doing so, he announced a sign of the last days, which were to begin with his own Passover. But this prophecy would be distorted in its telling by false witnesses during his interrogation at the high priest's house, and would be thrown back at him as an insult when he was nailed to the cross.

No.586 Far from having been hostile to the Temple, where he gave the essential part of his teaching, Jesus was willing to pay the Temple-tax, associating with him Peter, whom he had just made the foundation of his future Church. He even identified himself with the Temple by presenting himself as God's definitive dwelling-place among men. Therefore his being put to bodily death presaged the destruction of the Temple, which would manifest the dawning of a new age in the history of salvation: "The hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father."

No.587 If the Law and the Jerusalem Temple could be occasions of opposition to Jesus by Israel's religious authorities, his role in the redemption of sins, the divine work par excellence, was the true stumbling-block for them.

No.590 Only the divine identity of Jesus' person can justify so absolute a claim as "He who is not with me is against me"; and his saying that there was in him "something greater than Jonah, . . . greater than Solomon", something "greater than the Temple"; his reminder that David had called the Messiah his Lord, and his affirmations, "Before Abraham was, I AM", and even "I and the Father are one."

## ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Third Sunday of Lent

Tel: 020 7435 1388

3<sup>rd</sup> March- 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>SUN 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>  (Readings. Year B)	<b>9.30am</b> Club Lodwar/People of Lodwar <b>11am Mass</b> Mr T P Rao (RIP) <b>6pm Mass</b> People of the Parish	The Church opens at 9.15am <b>10.30am</b> Confessions  <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions
<b>MON 4<sup>th</sup> March</b> Lent Feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Letizia Goodfellow (RIP anniversary)	Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday  Church closes about 1pm on Mondays, other weekdays about 6pm
<b>TUE 5<sup>th</sup> March</b> Lent Feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Holy Souls	
<b>WED 6<sup>th</sup> March</b> Lent Feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Pat Gibson (intentions)	<b>10.45am</b> Film Club (4)
<b>THU 7<sup>th</sup> March</b> Lent Feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Evenamede Afiavi (recently deceased)	
<b>FRI 8<sup>th</sup> March</b> Lent Feria  <b>Friday abstinence</b>	<b>10am Mass</b> Joshua Solomon (intentions)	<b>10.30 – 12 noon</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  <b>6pm</b> Stations of the Cross
<b>SAT 9<sup>th</sup> March</b> Lent Feria	<b>10am Mass</b> Patrick O' Donnell (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.30am  <b>11am-12pm</b> First Holy Communion Class (17)

### Prayer Intentions:

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

**Anniversary:** José Miguel Vargas Alvoraz; Mark Sharman; Mabel Bull; Nick Aldridge; Letizia Goodfellow; Patrick O'Donnell

### 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**