

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Also helping in the parish:

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SUNDAY 10TH MARCH 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Year B)

Mothers' Day

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 13th March at 10.45am** after the 10am Mass. Following on from last week the plan is to project the second part of a film about the life of St Josephine Bakhita.

March Morning of Recollection for Women

The March Morning of Recollection for Women will be held on Tuesday 12th March from the 10am Mass until 12.40pm, including a time for Eucharistic adoration. It is followed by coffee in the parish centre. A recollection is a brief time of prayer to look at our lives in God's presence. You are welcome for all or part of it.

Themes: Charity in Lent: affection and mercy; friendship and trust.

First Holy Communion Classes

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

Repository Items

Devotional items for Lent and Easter from the parish shop (repository) will once again be on sale in the Narthex after the morning Masses this Sunday.

Adult Baptism

There is now a small group of adults in the parish interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, with a view to being baptised. At present meetings are held fortnightly at 4.30pm on Sundays. If you know anyone who is considering baptism in the Catholic Church do mention this to them and encourage them to contact Fr Nicholas for more details.

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.

March Magnificat

Unfortunately we have not yet received these in the post. Apologies to those who normally buy one.

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 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.*

Choral Eucharistic Healing Service

A choral Eucharistic Healing Service will take place at the church of St Dominic's,

Haverstock Hill 7.15pm Saturday 16th March. This service proved to be popular last year. See the poster on the parish notice board for more details. Individual blessings are offered as well as the possibility of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Parish Notes

Please note that I shall be away from the parish 12 -18 March, attending some in-service training for priests. During that time Fr Bernard and Fr Paul will celebrate Mass and look after the parish. You can contact Fr Bernard using the phone or email details provided on the front page of the newsletter. Hopefully I will return with fresh ideas and be able to share with you the insights of the other priests attending.

Mgr Nicholas

Commentary on Sunday's Gospel Reading

Some points from the Catechism of the Catholic Church refer to Sunday's Gospel (John 3:14-21) and may help to understand it better:

No.219 God's love for Israel is compared to a father's love for his son. His love for his people is stronger than a mother's for her children. God loves his people more than a bridegroom his beloved; his love will be victorious over even the worst infidelities and will extend to his most precious gift: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."

No.444 The Gospels report that at two solemn moments, the Baptism and the Transfiguration of Christ, the voice of the Father designates Jesus his "beloved Son". Jesus calls himself the "only Son of God", and by this title affirms his eternal pre-existence. He asks for faith in "the name of the only Son of God". In the centurion's exclamation before the crucified Christ, "Truly this man was the Son of God", that Christian confession is already heard. Only in the Paschal mystery can the believer give the title "Son of God" its full meaning.

No.458 The Word became flesh so that thus we might know God's love: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

No.678 Following in the steps of the prophets and John the Baptist, Jesus announced the judgement of the Last Day in his preaching. Then will the conduct of each one and the secrets of hearts be brought to light. Then will the culpable unbelief that counted the offer of God's grace as nothing be condemned. Our attitude to our neighbour will disclose acceptance or refusal of grace and divine love. On the Last Day Jesus will say: "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

No.679 Christ is Lord of eternal life. Full right to pass definitive judgement on the works and hearts of men belongs to him as redeemer of the world. He "acquired" this right by his cross. The Father has given "all judgement to the Son". Yet the Son did not come to judge, but to save and to give the life he has in himself. By rejecting grace in this life, one already judges oneself, receives according to one's works, and can even condemn oneself for all eternity by rejecting the Spirit of love.

No.432 The name "Jesus" signifies that the very name of God is present in the person of his Son, made man for the universal and definitive redemption from sins. It is the divine name that alone brings salvation, and henceforth all can invoke his name, for Jesus united himself to all men through his Incarnation, so that "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Tel: 020 7435 1388

10th March-16th March 2024

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 10th March Fourth Sunday of Lent (Readings. Year B)	9.30am Amanda Ellis (intentions) 11am Mass Deceased members of Herbert family (RIP) 6pm Mass People of the Parish	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 11th March Lent Feria	10am Mass Rose Marie Karlsson and family (intentions)	Church opens at 9.30am Monday to Saturday Church closes about 1pm on Mondays, other weekdays about 6pm
TUE 12th March Lent Feria	10am Mass Joan Ross (RIP)	10.45am Womens' Mini-Retreat
WED 13th March Lent Feria	10am Mass Duarte Costa Pereira (RIP)	10.45am Film Club (5)
THU 14th March Lent Feria	10am Mass Ike Osakwe and family (in Thanksgiving)	
FRI 15th March Lent Feria Friday abstinence	10am Mass Nina Salifu (intentions)	10.30 – 12 noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6pm Stations of the Cross
SAT 16th March Lent Feria	10am Mass Helen Birch (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.30am 11am-12pm First Holy Communion Class (18)

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; Helen Birch

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:

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

24th March: **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**