

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY 7TH APRIL 2024

Second Sunday of Easter (or of divine mercy) (Year B)

Sunday of Divine Mercy

The Second Sunday of Easter is also called Divine Mercy Sunday. Liturgically the Easter Octave has always been centred on the theme of Divine Mercy and forgiveness. Divine Mercy Sunday points us to the merciful love of God that lies behind the whole Paschal Mystery — the whole mystery of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ — made present for us in the Eucharist. In this way, it also sums up the whole Easter Octave. As Pope John Paul II pointed out in his Regina Caeli address on Divine Mercy Sunday, 1995: "the whole octave of Easter is like a single day," and the Octave Sunday is meant to be the day of "thanksgiving for the goodness God has shown to man in the whole Easter mystery."

April Morning of Recollection for women

The April "Mini Retreat" or recollection for Women will be held on Tuesday 9th April from the 10am Mass till 12.40pm, including a time for Eucharistic adoration, followed by coffee in the Hall. It is a time set aside, after Easter, to look at our lives in God's presence. You are welcome for all or part of it.

Themes: The Risen Jesus: Christ is alive.

Love for the World: Service

Sunday 7th April: Tea and Coffee

There will be tea and coffee after the 11am Mass on Sunday 7th April in the hall on the lower floor of the parish centre. It provides an opportunity to get to know fellow parishioners better and to buy items from the parish shop (repository), also located on the lower ground floor.

Seniors' Coffee Morning

The next Seniors' Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 10th April after the 10am Mass.

Collections 26th March – 2nd April

Easter Offering: £924.78 (Envelopes: £240; Loose: £684.78)

Contactless Card Machine: £275.80

Total: £1,200.58

Offertory collection: £91 (envelopes)

Contactless Card Machine: £606.40

Total: £697.40

The Easter Offerings, together with the Christmas offerings, go towards the upkeep of the parish clergy. Thank you very much for your generous contributions.

Collection for the Holy Places

Thank you for contributing to the annual collection for the Holy Places. This year at St Thomas More we raised £668.63.

Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, Prefect of the Dicastery for Eastern Churches, wrote to all the Bishops of the Church at the beginning of Lent to encourage a generous response to the Good Friday collection. He explained that this collection 'Pro Terra Sancta' was born out of the desire of the Popes to maintain a strong bond between the faithful across the world and the Holy Places. It is the main source of material support for Christian life in the Holy Land and a tool for the universal Church to express solidarity with the ecclesial communities of the Middle East.

The funds, traditionally collected on Good Friday, are administered by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land to preserve the Sacred Places and promote the Christian presence through its many pastoral, education, welfare, health and social facilities in Jerusalem, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Turkey, Iran and Iraq.

Club Lodwar March 2024 Prize Winners

1 st	£163.20	78	Fiamma Truvert
2 nd	£122.40	75	Erland Karlsson
3 rd	£ 40.80	63	Jeremy Sharman
4 th	£ 40.80	108	Rita Ayers
5 th	£ 40.80	70	Theresa Purtell

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

Gift Aid and Planned Giving

The new boxes of envelopes for the next tax year starting on 7th April are **ready to be**

collected. Please ask our Finance Officer, Yolaine, or one of the priests for your box.

If there has been any change in your situation (new address, change in tax status, change of name), please kindly contact Yolaine at: swisscottagefin@rcdow.org.uk as soon as possible.

If you are a UK Income or Capital Gains Taxpayer, please sign a Gift Aid Declaration and support our parish in this free, easy way (donating either via online transfers to the parish bank account, standing order, weekly envelopes or using the Contactless devices). Gift Aid means our parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you. Thank you!

First Holy Communion Classes

The First Holy Communion classes will resume on Saturday 20th April.

Please note First Holy Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday 16th June** at the 11am Mass. Please put this date in your diary, and come if you are able so that the children and their families feel supported by the whole parish.

Mass Intentions

Please use the brown Mass Offering envelopes in the Narthex to request a Mass and provide the information requested. Please write the date you would like the Mass celebrated, but this needs to be confirmed by the parish secretary. The completed envelope 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.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony

The Cardinal is inviting to a Mass in **Westminster Cathedral, 2:30pm, Saturday 25th May 2024** 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 deadline for the details to be sent is Monday 15th April.

On the Road to Emmaus

I love to speak of paths because we are travellers, journeying to our home in Heaven, our Father's land. But don't forget that, though a path may have some particularly difficult stretches, and may occasionally involve wading across a river or passing through an almost impenetrable wood, as a rule it will be quite passable and hold no surprises for us. The danger lies in routine, in imagining that God cannot be here, in the things of each instant, because they are so simple and ordinary!

There were two disciples on their way to Emmaus. They were walking along at a normal pace, like so many other travellers on that road. And there, without any fuss, Jesus appeared to them, and walked with them, his conversation helping to alleviate their tiredness. I can well imagine the scene, just as dusk was falling. A gentle breeze was blowing. All around were fields ripe with wheat, and venerable olive trees, their branches shimmering in the soft glowing light. Jesus joins them as they go along their way. Lord, how great you are, in everything! But you move me even more when you come down to our level, to follow us and to

seek us in the hustle and bustle of each day. Lord, grant us a childlike spirit, pure eyes and a clear head so that we may recognise you when you come without any outward sign of your glory.

The journey ends when they reach the village. The two disciples who, without realising it, have been deeply stirred by the words and love shown by God made Man, are sorry to see him leaving. For Jesus 'made as if to go on further'. This Lord of ours never forces himself on us. He wants us to turn to him freely, when we begin to grasp the purity of his Love which he has placed in our souls. We have to hold him back ('they pressed him') and beg him: 'Stay with us; it is towards evening, and it is far on in the day', night is coming on. That's just like us. Always short on daring, perhaps because we are insincere, or because we feel embarrassed. Deep down, what we are really thinking is: 'Stay with us, because our souls are shrouded in darkness and You alone are the light. You alone can satisfy this longing that consumes us.' For 'we know full well which among all things fair and honourable is the best: to possess God for ever.' And Jesus stays. Our eyes are opened, as were those of Cleopas and his companion, when Christ breaks the bread; and, though he vanishes once more from sight, we too will find strength to start out once more — though night is falling — to tell the others about him, because so much joy cannot be kept in one heart alone. The road to Emmaus: our God has filled this name with sweetness. Now the entire world has become an Emmaus, for the Lord has opened up all the divine paths of the earth.

St Josemaría Escrivá, Friends of God nos 313-314

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Second Sunday of Easter

31st March - 6th April 2024

Tel: 020 7435 1388

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 7th April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (or of Divine Mercy) (Readings. Year B)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Club Lodwar/People of Lodwar 6pm Mass Fumiko Kazunari (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 8th April THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	10am Mass Hildegard Charles (intentions)	Church <u>opens</u> at 9.30am Monday to Saturday Church closes at 1pm
TUE 9th April Easter Feria	10am Mass Christian Bonne (intentions)	Church closes about 6pm Tuesday – Friday
WED 10th April Easter Feria	10am Mass Nick Aldridge (RIP)	After 10am Mass Seniors' Coffee Morning
THU 11th April Saint Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr	10am Mass Raymond Acromond (intentions)	
FRI 12th April Easter Feria Friday abstinence	10am Mass Liz Beh (intentions)	10.30am - 12noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 13th April Saint Martin 1, Pope and Martyr	10am Mass Angela Fernando (intentions)	<u>No First Holy Communion Class</u>

Prayer Intentions:

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

Anniversary: Letizia Goodfellow; Patrick O'Donnell; Helen Birch; Frances Brown; Mick Morris-Tabet; Antonio Valdez

Confessions:

Weekdays: before and after 10am Mass
 Saturday: before and after 10am Mass
 Sunday: 9.30am; 10.30am and 5pm (before Mass)

Forthcoming liturgical celebrations:

23rd April: **SAINT GEORGE, Martyr, Patron of England**
 9th May: **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**