

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Also helping in the parish:

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SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024 Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B)



Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

The Fourth Sunday of Easter we traditionally celebrate as Good Shepherd or Vocations Sunday. This is because in the Gospel of the day (from St. John's Gospel), Jesus speaks of himself as the Shepherd who is prepared to lay down his life for his sheep. We pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood.

Priest Training Fund

As announced last week there will be a retiring collection for the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic

priesthood. There are currently 49 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 13 of whom are from our own Diocese. We also have one seminarian in Valladolid and one at the Beda, presently on pastoral placement in Ruislip. There are also two on a propaedeutic year at Redemptoris Mater. Last year 3 deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. The Priest Training Fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd.

Gift Aid and Planned Giving

Thank you to all those who collected their boxes of gift aid envelopes for this new financial year and have begun to use them. 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 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!

Parish Film Club

The Parish Film Club will be showing a film about the Prophet Daniel on **Wednesday 24th April at 10.45am** after the 10am Mass.

First Holy Communion Classes

The First Holy Communion classes have started again after the Easter break.

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.

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 centre 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. Turn right after entering the church and go up one flight of stairs. Please help to make new families aware of this helpful area in the parish centre.

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.

Message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Some excerpts from Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Dear brothers and sisters!

Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life. Hearing that divine call, which is far from being an imposed duty—even in the name of a religious ideal—is the surest way for us to fulfil our deepest desire for happiness. Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find ourselves.

This Day, then, is always a good occasion to recall with gratitude to the Lord the faithful, persevering and frequently hidden efforts of all those who have responded to a call that embraces their entire existence. I think of mothers and fathers who do not think first of themselves or follow fleeting fads of the moment, but shape their lives through relationships marked by love and graciousness, openness to the gift of life and commitment to their children and their growth in maturity. I think of all those who carry out their work in a spirit of cooperation with others, and those who strive in various ways to build a more just world, a more supportive economy, a more equitable social policy and a more humane

society. In a word, of all those men and women of good will who devote their lives to working for the common good. I think too of all those consecrated men and women who offer their lives to the Lord in the silence of prayer and in apostolic activity, sometimes on the fringes of society, tirelessly and creatively exercising their charism by serving those around them. And I think of all those who have accepted God's call to the ordained priesthood, devoting themselves to the preaching of the Gospel, breaking open their own lives, together with the bread of the Eucharist, for their brothers and sisters, sowing seeds of hope and revealing to all the beauty of God's kingdom.

To young people, and especially those who feel distant or uncertain about the Church, I want to say this: Let Jesus draw you to himself; bring him your important questions by reading the Gospels; let him challenge you by his presence, which always provokes in us a healthy crisis. More than anyone else, Jesus respects our freedom. He does not impose, but proposes. Make room for him and you will find the way to happiness by following him. And, should he ask it of you, by giving yourself completely to him. (…)

The courage to commit

In this light, I would say once more, as I did at World Youth Day in Lisbon: "Rise up!" Let us awaken from sleep, let us leave indifference behind, let us open the doors of the prison in which we so often enclose ourselves, so that each of us can discover his or her proper vocation in the Church and in the world, and become a pilgrim of hope and a builder of peace! Let us be passionate about life, and commit ourselves to caring lovingly for those around us, in every place where we live. Let me say it again: "Have the courage to commit!" Father Oreste Benzi, a tireless apostle of charity, ever on the side of the poor and the defenceless,

used to say that no one is so poor as to have nothing to give, and no one is so rich as not to need something to receive.

Let us rise up, then, and set out as pilgrims of hope, so that, as Mary was for Elizabeth, we too can be messengers of joy, sources of new life and artisans of fraternity and peace.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 21 April 2024,
Fourth Sunday of Easter.*

Regina Caeli

V. O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia;

R. For he whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen as he said, alleluia;

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia;

R. For the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who by the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, granted joy to the whole world: grant, we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may lay hold of the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Easter

21st - 27th April 2024

Tel: 020 7435 1388

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 21st April FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Readings. Year B)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Mena O'Donnell (RIP) 6pm Mass Amanda Ellis (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 22nd April Easter feria	10am Mass Camillo de Castiglioni (RIP anniversary)	Church <u>opens</u> at 9.30am Monday to Saturday Monday: Church closes at 1pm
TUE 23rd April SAINT GEORGE, Martyr, Patron of England	10am Mass Maroun Ramia (RIP)	 Church closes about 6pm Tuesday – Friday
WED 24th April Saints Erkenwald and Mellitus	10am Mass Margaret Powell (intentions)	10.45am Film Club
THU 25th April SAINT MARK, Evangelist	10am Mass Mabel Bull (RIP)	
FRI 26th April Easter Feria Friday abstinence	10am Mass Michael Wong (RIP anniversary)	10.30am - 12noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 27th April Easter Feria	10am Mass Mary Troy (RIP)	11am -12pm First Holy Communion Class (21)

Prayer Intentions:

Recently deceased: Maria Maguire; Mervyn Agnew; Fr Terry Murray OMI; Brian Ainsworth; Vasil Chornay; Evenamede Afiavi, Sue Sharman
Anniversary: Patrick O'Donnell; Helen Birch; Frances Brown; Mick Morrise-Tabet; Antonio Valdez; Peggy Attlee; Camillo de Castiglioni; Michael Wong

Confessions:

Weekdays: before and after 10am Mass
Saturday: before and after 10am Mass
Sunday: 9.30am; 10.30am and 5.30pm (before Mass)

Forthcoming liturgical celebrations:

9th May: **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Holy Day of Obligation)**
18th May: **PENTECOST SUNDAY**