

ST THOMAS MORE – PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Also helping in the parish:

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SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

First Holy Communion Classes

There is no First Holy Communion class on Saturday 4 May (Bank Holiday weekend).

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.

Parish Film Club

The film watched last week about the Prophet Daniel was very well received. Plans have yet to be finalised, but the aim is to show a film about once a month after the 10am Mass on a Wednesday.

Priest Training Fund

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. It is not too late to make a donation if you wish. Envelopes are available in the Narthex. The formation of priests is clearly of top priority for the future spiritual health of the Church. The response of prayer for vocations, love and concern for the clergy, and for the current seminarians is great to see and a very positive sign.

May Magnificat

The May Magnificat (£5) is now available. Please talk with Maggie or one of the priests if you would like to buy one. You can pay using the card reader in the entrance or by putting cash in the collection box in the wall of the Narthex marked Newspaper/leaflet.

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!

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.

Polling Station

If you live in the area you may already be aware that the parish hall will be used as a local Polling Station on Thursday 2 May from 7am – 10pm.

How Beauty draws us closer to God

How Beauty Draws Us Closer to God
lecture by Fr Patrick van der Vorst 7 PM,
Friday, 17th May 2024 St Patrick's Church,
Soho Square, London.

Fr. Patrick van der Vorst is a priest of the Archdiocese of Westminster, a former Director of Sotheby's Europe, and the founder of the evangelistic initiative www.Christian.Art. Fr. Patrick will explore how beauty elevates us to encounter the Divine, how the Church has historically sought to create art that facilitates this meeting, and how this can happen in our

visually overstimulated world.

The lecture will be followed by a Q&A and then refreshments will be available.

A thank you from CAFOD

Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Fast Day Appeal. Your generous donation of £464.30, given in love, will support families around the world and help them with the resources to feed their families for good and keep them safe.

I am the vine you are the branches

Some excerpts from a homily given by Pope Benedict XVI during a visit to Berlin 22 September 2011

In the parable of the vine, Jesus does not say: "You are the vine", but: "I am the vine, you are the branches" (*Jn 15:5*). In other words: "As the branches are joined to the vine, so you belong to me! But inasmuch as you belong to me, you also belong to one another." This belonging to each other and to him is not some ideal, imaginary, symbolic relationship, but – I would almost want to say – a biological, life-transmitting state of belonging to Jesus Christ. Such is the Church, this communion of life with Jesus Christ and for one another, a communion that is rooted in baptism and is deepened and given more and more vitality in the Eucharist. "I am the true vine" actually means: "I am you and you are I" – an unprecedented identification of the Lord with us, with his Church.

On the road to Damascus, Christ himself asked Saul, the persecutor of the Church: "Why do you persecute me?" (*Acts 9:4*). With these words the Lord expresses the common destiny that arises from his Church's inner communion of life with himself, the risen one. He continues to live in his Church in this world. He is present among us, and we with him. "Why do you persecute me?" It is ultimately at Jesus that persecution of his Church is directed. At the same time, this means that when we are

oppressed for the sake of our faith, we are not alone: Jesus Christ is beside us and with us.

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me ... for apart from me [i.e. separated from me, or outside me] you can do nothing” (*Jn 15:4f.*)(...)

The decision that is required of us here makes us keenly aware of the fundamental significance of our life choices. But at the same time, the image of the vine is a sign of hope and confidence. Christ himself came into this world through his incarnation, to be our root. Whatever hardship or drought befall us, he is the source that offers us the water of life, that feeds and strengthens us. He takes upon himself all our sins, anxieties and sufferings and he purifies and transforms us, in a way that is ultimately mysterious, into good branches that produce good wine. In such times of hardship we can sometimes feel as if we ourselves were in the wine-press, like grapes being utterly crushed. But we know that if we are joined to Christ we become mature wine. God can transform into love even the burdensome and oppressive aspects of our lives. It is important that we “abide” in Christ, in the vine. The evangelist uses the word “abide” a dozen times in this brief passage. This “abiding in Christ” characterizes the whole of the parable. In our era of restlessness and lack of commitment, when so many people lose their way and their grounding, when loving fidelity in marriage and friendship has become so fragile and short-lived, when in our need we cry out like the disciples on the road to Emmaus: “Lord, stay with us, for it is almost evening and darkness is all around us!” (cf. *Lk 24:29*), in this present era, the risen Lord gives us a place of refuge, a place of light, hope and confidence, a place of rest and security. When drought and death loom over the

branches, then in Christ we find future, life and joy. In him we always find forgiveness and the opportunity to begin again, to be transformed as we are drawn into his love.

To abide in Christ means, as we saw earlier, to abide in the Church as well. The whole communion of the faithful has been firmly incorporated into the vine, into Christ. In Christ we belong together. Within this communion he supports us, and at the same time all the members support one another. We stand firm together against the storm and offer one another protection. Those who believe are not alone. We do not believe alone, we believe with the whole Church of all times and places, with the Church in heaven and the Church on earth.

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

28th April - 4th May 2024

Tel: 020 7435 1388

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

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 28th April FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Readings. Year B)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Marie Sobbota-Tabet (RIP) 6pm Mass Thomas Dorey (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 29th April SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA, Virgin and Doctor of the Church	10am Mass Janice Powton (RIP)	Church <u>opens</u> at 9.30am Monday to Saturday Monday: Church closes at 1pm
TUE 30th April Easter Feria	10am Mass Mary V Pearson (intentions)	Church closes about 6pm Tuesday – Friday
WED 1st May Saint Joseph the Worker	10am Mass Peter Monaghan (RIP anniversary)	
THU 2nd May Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	10am Mass Nina Salifu (intentions)	
FRI 3rd May SAINTS PHILP AND JAMES, Apostles Friday abstinence	10am Mass Persecuted Christians	10.30am - 12noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 4th May THE ENGLISH MARTYRS	10am Mass Brenda Creane (intentions)	No First Holy Communion Class

Prayer Intentions:

Recently deceased: Fr Terry Murray OMI; Brian Ainsworth; Vasil Chornay; Evenamede Afiavi, Sue Sharman

Anniversary: Helen Birch; Frances Brown; Mick Morrise-Tabet; Antonio Valdez; Peggy Attlee; Camillo de Castiglioni; Michael Wong; Peter Monaghan

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)**

19th May: **PENTECOST SUNDAY**