



ST MATTHEW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NORTHWOOD

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF NORTHWOOD AND NORTHWOOD HILLS

'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations...' [Matt 28:19]

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (JANUARY 22ND - JANUARY 29TH)

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Called To Be Ambassadors.

On Friday, I spent the day at Douay Martyrs Catholic School for a governors' day. The morning was spent updating our safeguarding training. We then had tours of the school, but the highlight of the day was meeting with representatives of the 'Student Ambassadors'. These were students who had become part of working parties to improve life in the school, including issues such as Safeguarding, Anti Bullying, Diversity, Catholic Life and providing space for students to socialise such as a chill and chat space, different types of clubs and caring from the environment through concrete actions rather than just talking about it. As governors we were impressed by their passion and eloquence. We were even more astounded by the fact that there was a huge number of Student Ambassadors and that over 70 students from Year 7 had applied to become ambassadors. The day was rounded off with the school production of "The Little Shop of Horrors" which was a real showcase for the great teamwork that had gone into a splendid occasion.

As I travelled back on the Tube, I couldn't help reflect on the diversity of all those students, who had united in what the school calls "The Douay Way" in which they aim "To create a Christ-centred learning community where every individual is enabled to fulfil their true potential". I pondered on us as a parish and how we can be a Christ-centred Community. With Christ at our heart then we can only grow together. Those young people have a lot to teach us about having a passion and a sense of identity of who they are as children of God.

Each of us has an identity that comes from our call from the Lord. In our gospel we see the call of the disciples and their generous response. The Lord calls us, are we as generous in our response as they are or are we half hearted? It can be very easy for us to go off on our own way or see God in our own image. The gospel calls us back to Christ. St Paul in our second reading reminds us that we have to be wholly for Christ. He speaks against the divisions that the early church was facing. Alas divisions still continue to this day.

This week we are in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In 2013 in St Paul's Outside the Walls in Rome, Pope Benedict said *Our search for unity in truth and in love, lastly, must never lose sight of the fact that unity among Christians is the work and gift of the Holy Spirit and goes far beyond our own efforts. Thus, spiritual ecumenism, especially prayer, is the heart of the ecumenical task. Yet, ecumenism will not bear lasting fruit unless it is accompanied by concrete actions of conversion that move our consciences and foster the healing of memory and of relationships.*

Will our hearts be moved? Will we be inspired by those around us as we form Christ-Centred Communities? We should pray that we may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as we work together with our Christian brothers and sisters in prayer and in Good works and make a difference in the world around us. That we may be great ambassadors for Christ, just as those young people are.

With all my prayers and best wishes,

Fr Tom

CONTACT US

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Parish Office:

Contact Cheryl Myring or Siobhan Hogg

9:00 — 3:30pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Sunday School & Catechetics:

RE Co-ordinator: awaiting appointment

Hall Bookings: contact the office or
northwoodph@rcdow.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING

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Our Sanctuary Lamps

burn for
**The intentions of
Inno Van Der Berg**
(Blessed Sacrament)
and for
Christian Unity
(Our Lady)

Last Week's Offering.

Loose Cash: £356.40 Planned Giving Envelopes: £451.47 Standing Orders: £545.00 Contactless Giving £29.50
Total Offering: £1382.37.

200 Club

The results of the January Draw are **1st Prize** Number 26 (£50.00) **2nd Prize** Number 156 (£35.00) **3rd Prize** Number 9 (£15.00). The February draw will take place after the 9.00am Mass on Sunday 19th February. Why not come along to the hall and enjoy some refreshments and a chat.

White Flower Appeal 2023

Thank you to all who generously contributed toward this appeal last week. It raised £383.80 towards the work of SPUC.

Christmas Crib Appeal

Many thanks to all who have donated to the work of the Catholic Children's Society in our diocese. The CCS does invaluable work throughout the year with families and supporting very young lives in extraordinary circumstances. Our crib remains in church until the Feast of Candlemas (2nd February) after which we will send our contributions to the CCS

Week Of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The Northwood Service of Christian Unity is on Sunday 22nd January at 4.00pm in Holy Trinity Church followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

Service of Ecumenical Vespers to Honour the Life of Pope Benedict XVI.

There will be a celebration of ecumenical vespers in Westminster Cathedral on **Tuesday, 24 January at 5pm** to honour the life of the late Pope Benedict XVI and to pray for the repose of his soul. Lord Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, will give an address.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols will preside at the service which will be attended by a number of Catholic Bishops from England and Wales. The ecumenical vespers take place during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and ecumenical guests include the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of London. All are welcome to attend.

Mass Intentions

The greatest prayer that we can offer is the Mass. Each of us should have an intention for Mass each time we come to Mass. It is also the practice to request a specific intention for the priest to offer when he says Mass. The diary has a number of spaces for Mass Intentions in the coming weeks. If you have particular dates that you would like Mass to be offered for your intention, then please contact the Parish Office during Office Hours. A priest can only accept one Mass intention per Mass. To make it fair for people to be able to have Mass offered for their intention, we operate the following policy. **For Sunday Masses**, the same intention can only be offered once within the calendar month. **For Weekday Masses** the same intention can only be offered once within the week.

Children's Liturgy

Every Sunday at the 9am Mass young children until Year 2 are invited to celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word. They must be accompanied by their parent or a responsible adult. Thank you to those parents who are accompanying their children and to those who have volunteered to lead the sessions. If you are interested in helping lead these session, please speak with Fr Tom.

Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word is available at the back of church to take home to use to help you prepare for next Sunday's Mass.

Lent 2023

This year Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 22nd February. There will be Masses at 10.30am and 7.00pm. Fr Tom would like to know how people might wish to mark Lent this year. Please let him know your ideas and what you might like to do.

Sponsor a Lamp

Why not sponsor the seven day lamp that burns before the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady? A prayer intention will be attached to the lamp for that week (which will be printed). A donation of £10 for each lamp is suggested.

Appeal For Help

A local school is setting up a chess club and is appealing for any unwanted chess sets. If you have any that you no longer want, please give them to Fr Tom and he will pass them on to the school.

Day With Mary

The next Day With Mary will take place on Saturday 28th January in Holy Apostles Church, Pimlico. See poster for more details.

Annual Mission Appeal

This year in our diocese the Annual Mission appeal will be made by members of various Institutes of Missionary Sisters of England and Wales. On the weekend of 4th/5th February we will be joined by Sr. Reena and Sr. Mini of the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver. They will stay in the presbytery overnight. Would anyone be willing to offer a light supper on the Saturday evening or Sunday lunch for Fr Tom and the sisters during their stay? Please speak with Fr Tom if you would like more details.

Hillingdon Foodbank Wish List

Thank you to everyone who supports the Foodbank. If you would like to donate anything please feel free to put any of the following items in the container in the porch. - Noodles, Sugar in small packs, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruits, Jam, Honey, Long life Milk, Rice pudding or Custard in tin or small packs, Apple or Orange Juice, Toilet Tissues, Toiletries (Shampoo, conditioner, etc.), Sauces, Cleaning Supplies, Laundry supplies.

First Holy Communion Parents Meeting

A reminder that there will be a meeting on **MONDAY 23rd January at 7.30pm** in the hall. This meeting is vital, as it is to help the parents of those due to make their First Reconciliation, continue to prepare their children.

Readings for Sunday Mass

First reading

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor –
these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 26(27):1,4,13-14

The Lord is my light and my help.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

The Lord is my light and my help.

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

The Lord is my light and my help.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

The Lord is my light and my help.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I

am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ.' Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom
and cured all kinds of sickness among the people.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Hearing that John had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

*'Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!
The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.'*

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please contact us with any additional names you may wish to be added to these lists which are updated weekly, and accept our apologies for anyone we have omitted.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL:

Those sick with COVID throughout the world, - Kathleen Clarke, Ada Barker, Ron Picardo, Vince Thapermall, Kerry Blackburn, Martha Felleppa, James Wilson, Patricia Lee, Sinead Bushnell, Hayley Duncan, Audrey Potts, Tracy Bessant, Jo Smith, Brendan Smith, Mary Tierney, Michael Keating, Rafael Pino, Julius Fayiti, Anna Kelly, Justin, Margaret Downing, Victor & Gilda Kumarathasan, as well as others for whom we have been praying together recently.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:

Tony Orr and all who have died as a result of war and conflict.

AND THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS AROUND THIS TIME:

Cardinal William Godfrey, Christina Lloyd, Vincenzo Ciottariello, Catherine Armstrong, Maria De Las Mercedes Ronalde Feal Dowie, John Harrington, Fr Geoffrey Eneh, Gianni Mattera, Kathleen Lawson, Rita Lyons, Miep Van Den Berg, Angela Leggeri.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK (JANUARY 22ND - JANUARY 29TH)

SUN 22ND JAN	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	09:00 PRIEST'S INTENTION
	11:15 SEBASTIANO DI FALCO LD RIP
	18:00 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
MON 23rd <i>Feria</i>	10:30 PATRICIA LEE (IN THANKSGIVING) 12:00 - 16:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
TUES 24th <i>S Francis de Sales</i>	10:30 POPE BENEDICT XVI RIP 12:00 - 16:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
WED 25th <i>Conversion of St Paul</i>	CHURCH CLOSED
THURS 26th <i>SS Timothy & Titus</i>	19:00 SUSAN METCALFF RIP (ANNIV) 18:00 - 18:45 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
FRI 27th <i>Feria</i>	10:30 MANUEL FERREIRA RIP 12:00 - 16:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
SAT 28th <i>S Thomas Aquinas</i>	10:30 GIUSEPPE ARNONE RIP (ANNIV) 11:00 - 11:50 (Confessions available) 17:00 - 17:45 (Confessions available) 18:00 CZESLAW CZAPROWSKI RIP (ANNIV)
SUN 29TH JAN	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	09:00 JOE DA CUNHA RIP
	11:15 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
	18:00 NO INTENTION YET

Holy Father's Prayer intention for JANUARY:

During the month of **January**, that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

* **EXPOSITION:** Whilst every effort will be made to ensure that this will take place at the times noted, circumstances may dictate that it be curtailed or cancelled at short-notice if Fr Tom is not available to facilitate it. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.

Items for the Newsletter.

If you would like something to be in the newsletter. Please email Fr Tom (email address on front page) by 12 noon on Wednesday



You can make a donation to the parish
by using this QR code