



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]

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (MAY 8TH - 15TH)

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Good Shepherd Sunday

This Sunday is the 58th day of prayer for vocations. When we talk about vocation, it is easy to think about being a priest or a Religious brother or Sister. If that is what we do, then we are taking the comfortable way out, because "Vocation" becomes someone else's thing. When we pray for Vocations, what are we praying for? When we pray for more priests, who are we praying for? Is it our sons, brothers, cousins or even ourselves? Do we hear the call that God gives? Are we participating in helping people discern a vocation? Are we willing to ask someone if they have thought of becoming a priest? Or a Religious? Is there a woman you know who might be being called to the Religious Life?

But we mustn't constrain the idea of vocation to being priests, monks or nuns. Each of us has a vocation - a divine call. It seems old fashioned to talk of being a teacher, a doctor, a care-giver, a husband or a wife as a vocation, but they are because they are who God calls us to be (and it's not just limited to this short list). Each of us has a call from God to be the person that we were created to be - we have to choose whether to co-operate with The Lord or not (as he will never force us to do something against our will).

This echoes Pope Francis in his message for this World Day of Prayer. He writes

The word "vocation" should not be understood restrictively, as referring simply to those who follow the Lord through a life of special consecration. All of us are called to share in Christ's mission to reunite a fragmented humanity and to reconcile it with God. Each man and woman, even before encountering Christ and embracing the Christian faith, receives with the gift of life a fundamental calling: each of us is a creature willed and loved by God; each of us has a unique and special place in the mind of God. At every moment of our lives, we are called to foster this divine spark, present in the heart of every man and woman, and thus contribute to the growth of a humanity inspired by love and mutual acceptance.

He also says

As Christians, we do not only receive a vocation individually; we are also called together. We are like the tiles of a mosaic. Each is lovely in itself, but only when they are put together do they form a picture. Each of us shines like a star in the heart of God and in the firmament of the universe. At the same time, though, we are called to form constellations that can guide and light up the path of humanity, beginning with the places in which we live. This is the mystery of the Church: a celebration of differences, a sign and instrument of all that humanity is called to be. ... When we speak of "vocation", then, it is not just about choosing this or that way of life, devoting one's life to a certain ministry or being attracted by the charisma of a religious family, movement or ecclesial community. It is about making God's dream come true, the great vision of fraternity that Jesus cherished when he prayed to the Father "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). Each vocation in the Church, and in a broader sense in society, contributes to a common objective: to celebrate among men and women that harmony of manifold gifts that can only be brought about by the Holy Spirit.

So let us pray for discernment for each of us to hear God's call and support each other in our journey together.

With all my prayers and best wishes,

Fr Tom

CONTACT US

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Fr Tom Montgomery Parish Priest:

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Parish Office:

Contact Cheryl Myring or Siobhan Hogg
9:00 — 2:30pm Monday - Friday

Sunday School & Catechetics:

RE Co-ordinator: awaiting appointment

Hall Bookings: [contact the office or
northwoodph@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:contact.the.office@northwoodph@rcdow.org.uk)

SAFEGUARDING

Colette Quirk
Elizabeth Scudder

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Our Sanctuary Lamps

burn for
Vocations

(Blessed Sacrament)
and

Those recently elected to
Public Office
(Our Lady)

Last Week's Offering

Loose Cash: £372.88 Planned Giving Envelopes: £129.00 Standing Orders: £595.00 Contactless Giving £49.09
Total Offering: £1145.97

Planned Giving Envelopes

There are still a few boxes to be collected

Mass time Changes

This week will have changes to Mass times on Tuesday and Thursday. **Both these Masses will be at 9.00am.** This is to enable Fr Tom to attend the Deanery meeting on Tuesday and The Beda Association AGM on Thursday. Thank you for your understanding. As became our pattern during Lent when Mass was at 9.00am we will have Exposition at 8.00am and Morning Prayer at 8.40am

First Holy Communion Class

A reminder to all parents that there will be no class this week due to Fr Tom attending a meeting on Thursday.

Parish Council Meeting

There will be a meeting on Monday evening at 7.00pm in the Fr Bebb Room

Priest Training Fund

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 58 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 17 of whom are from our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also from our Diocese. Last year four men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. The 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 be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation envelope, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can use the QR code on the posters to make your donation online or **visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations**. Thank you for your generosity.

May Procession of Our Lady of Willesden

The May Procession of Our Lady of Willesden takes place on Sunday afternoon at 3pm. The preacher is Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Eparch of the Holy Family of London (Ukrainian Catholic Church). He will be accompanied by the Pokrova Icon, an image of the Mother of Protection, similar to the devotion of the Mantle or Protecting Veil of Our Lady in the Latin tradition.

It will be held at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, Nicoll Road, NW109AX. Travel details are Bakerloo Line & Tube, Willesden Junction Station (Old Oak Lane exit), Buses 18, 187, 206, 226, 228, 260, 487.

Livestreaming

We continue to livestream our Masses. Masses can be viewed on our parish Facebook page or on our NEW YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkvrTH1X-y0yLf8_VRO6cBA. There are also links to both sites on our parish website home page.

It would be helpful to have some volunteers to control the camera during Mass. It's very simple, but would be greatly appreciated by Fr Tom. **There will be some Masses in the coming weeks where Fr Tom will not be available - unless we have volunteers then those who participate in Mass through our livestream will miss out.**

Serving the parish

Thank you to all those who have volunteered during the recent planned giving appeal. Fr Tom is in the process of contacting those who have offered their services. For those who have offered to help with Sacramental Preparation and Catechesis, working with children will require a DBS certificate which is organised through our Safeguarding Reps. It is important to get this underway as soon as possible as it can be a rather slow process! We are certainly in need of more volunteers so that we can get our Sunday classes running once again in the autumn.

Flowers

We have some very skilled people who arrange our flowers in church. If you would like to be part of the team and to take your turn on a rota, please contact the office and they will put you in touch with those who organise our flowers.

Baptism Enquiries

Please speak with Fr Tom if you wish to have your child baptised. Once contact has been made, then he will invite you to a baptism preparation class.

Marriage Enquiries

If you wish to be married in St Matthew's or are intending to marry elsewhere (if you live in the parish), please arrange to meet with Fr Tom. This will enable you to sort out the paperwork that is required. Remember the diocese states that we need at least 6 months notice before the wedding.

Sponsor a Lamp

You can now 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.

Hillingdon Foodbank Wish List

As a parish we continue to support the Foodbank beyond Lent. Please feel free to put any of the following items in the container in the porch. - Noodles, Sugar in small packs, 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. (They have plenty of Pasta!).

Ukraine Hosting Scheme - Supporting people seeking sanctuary.

This event will be on Wednesday 18th May, 6.30 - 8pm via Zoom.

Join Caritas Westminster and the Jesuit Refugee Service for an information session on hosting refugee guests. This session is open to those who are hosting, would like to learn more, or would like to join a group to discern what a wider welcome could look like.

This session is a part of the wider Diocesan Community of Support. It has been set up in response to the government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme, the Afghan Refugee Response, and the wider situation of asylum seekers and refugees in the Diocese of Westminster. Sign up by visiting <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/ukraine-hosting-scheme-supporting-people-seeking-sanctuary-1340.php>.

200 Club

The May draw will take place at the 9.00am Sunday Mass. April's winners were **1st Prize** No 17 (£46.00), **2nd Prize** No 55 (£32.20), **3rd Prize** No 33 (£13.80)

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.

Novena to Our Lady of Fatima

To be prayed at the end of each Sunday Mass

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, you came to Fatima to reveal the graces that come from praying the Holy Rosary to three little shepherd children. Inspire us with a sincere love of this devotion so that, like the shepherd children, it is not a burdensome task but a life-giving prayer. May our prayers and meditations on the mysteries of our redemption bring us closer to your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Saturday only) Our Lady of Fatima, let us pray today for humility to seek forgiveness for our sins and make amends for our misdeeds.

(Sunday only) Our Lady of Fatima, may we offer everything we do today to our Lord. As we make this offering, we think of people who are affected by our actions each day. We ask God to help us be motivated by love and compassion.

Lord Jesus, the miracles, prophecies and prayers that Your Mother brought to us at Fatima amazed the whole world. We are certain of her closeness to You. We ask through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima that you graciously hear and answer our prayers.

Especially... (Mention your intentions here...)

Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for us!

Our Lady of the Rosary, Pray for us!

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for us!

(Saturday only) "From hatred and from the demeaning of the dignity of the children of God, deliver us."

(Sunday only) "From every kind of injustice in the life of society, both national and international, deliver us."

Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We pray for the repose of the following souls, who are remembered with our Easter Lilies.

Peggie Ghant
John & Margaret Guckian
Michael, Agnes & Joan Guckian
Daphne Håkansson
John, James and Tess
The Kleinfercher Family
Martin McGoldrick



James O'Brien
Patrick O'Neill
Felicia Osunde
Pauline & Gerry
PJ & Maria
Ted Stone
Keith Whitehead

Prayers were also asked for healing for

Geraldine Wallace Audrey & Sinead Ferguson

If you would like to remember a departed loved one during Eastertide through the Easter Lilies, please put their name in an envelope with your donation and we will add them to the list



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

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, Pauline Rushowski, Patricia Lee, Sinead Bushnell, Roger Furniss, Hayley Duncan, Michael Tolputt, Dominic Leung, 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:

Fr Tony Brunning, Canon Phillip Cross, and all who have died as a result of war and conflict .

AND THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS AROUND THIS TIME:

Joan Clark, Bridget Byrne, Wilfred Paines, Mercy J Emiko, Sylvia Emmanuel, James Henderson, John Gibbs, Martin Butler and Hilda Rogers.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK (MAY 8TH - 15TH)

SUNDAY 8TH MAY

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

09:00 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11.15 TONY MARANO RIP
18:00 FOR VOCATIONS

MONDAY 9th
Easter Feria

10:30 NAMES ON THE EASTER LILIES REMEMBRANCE LIST
12:00 - 16:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

TUESDAY 10th
Easter Feria

09:00 MON VINCENT BRADY (SPECIAL INTENTIONS)
08:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (8.40 Morning Prayer) *

WEDNESDAY 11th
Easter Feria

NO PUBLIC MASS—CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

THURSDAY 12th
Easter Feria

09:00 JAMES HENDERSON RIP (ANNIV)
08:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (8.40 Morning Prayer)

FRIDAY 13th
Our Lady of Fatima

10:30 HOLY SOULS
No exposition

SATURDAY 14th
St Matthias, Apostle

10:30 JOSEPH & ROSA GILLETT (SPECIAL INTENTIONS)
11:00 - 11:50 (Confessions available)
17:00 - 17:45 (Confessions available)
18:00 GERALDO ANTAO RIP

SUNDAY 15TH MAY

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 CECILIA RAMOS RIP
11.15 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
18:00 ARLINDO PACHECO RIP (ANNIV)

Holy Father's Prayer intention for MAY :

During the month of **May** this year Pope Francis has asked us all to pray: for young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

* **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.

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 has risen indeed, alleluia.

God our Father, you give joy to the world by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary, bring us to the happiness of eternal life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**