



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]

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (JUNE 19TH - JUNE 26TH)

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

A Time of New Beginnings

Last weekend some of us met for lunch and to look to the future of our parish. I was worried that there would not be enough food but as a friend of mine would say "there was ample sufficiency". It was not just a chance to socialise but to talk a bit of business. For some they weren't sure if they were glass half empty or glass half full people. I joked that I was neither, but a time for a top up person.

We certainly are at a point where we need to top up our life as a parish. It was pointed out that we seem to be facing a deficit in our finances, but that is not a situation unique to parish life. It would be easy to become despondent and think "woe is us" but that is not of the Gospel. We have that Good News to share and it is how we do that, which is important.

We are rebuilding parish life, but there are signs of growth. Last September/October when we had the annual Mass count, we had an average attendance of 240 on a Sunday. Over the last few months, our average Mass attendance has risen to around the 300 mark. It may be small signs of growth, but they are there.

The question that was raised was "what can we do to get some of our parish community back to church". One answer was "Sunday School". Which of course is a wonderful thing to do and would be great. I pointed out that I needed people to lead it (and some have volunteered already). Someone who had done it in the past pointed out that my calling people Catechists might frighten people off and perhaps the term helper would be a more user friendly term. So can you help on a Sunday with our young people?

Another thing that is planned to happen is for a 'Mothers and Toddlers' group to begin after the Summer holiday. We are blessed with a number of young families who come to Mass and it would be good for them to meet. Of course for that group to happen, we will need to equip it and so it may be that in the coming weeks we will be appealing for toys and equipment. Please do watch this space to see how things will develop.

This Sunday afternoon is a time of great celebration when nine of our young people will receive Holy Communion for the first time. I have been blessed over the last number of months to have accompanied them with Marta Pereira in their classes. At the rehearsal on Thursday, there was a real sense of excitement as they prepared for the great occasion. My last parish priest used to say that he wasn't that bothered about their First Communion, but he was more concerned about their second, tenth, hundredth (and so on Communion). They are part of our parish family and I look forward to celebrating with them over the coming years as they prepare to be Confirmed.

This year we have been blessed with our Confirmation Catechists - Paula Gavacan and Hervé Boisson, they have worked hard and I am grateful. This coming year, we will begin our enrolment in a different way. Application Forms for Confirmation will be available over the Summer which need to be completed and returned to the office. I will then meet with the candidates in early September to explore why they want to be Confirmed. There will be an expectation that any person wishing to be Confirmed will attend Mass each Sunday.

We have some exciting times ahead of us as we grow together as a parish. Thank you for all that you do in making our parish what it is (and more importantly what it will be).

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

SAFEGUARDING

Colette Quirk
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Our Sanctuary Lamps

burn for
Our First Holy Communion
Children
(Blessed Sacrament)
and

(Our Lady)

Last Week's Offering

Loose Cash: £207.04 Planned Giving Envelopes: £203.00 Standing Orders: £679.00 Contactless Giving £24.59
Total Offering: £1113.63

200 Club Results

The June draw took place last week. The winners are **1st Prize:** Number 55 (£47.00). **2nd Prize:** Number 7 (£32.90) **3rd Prize:** Number 25 (£14.10) Why not think of taking part in this draw to raise funds?.

Holy Day of Obligation

The next Holy Day of Obligation (apart from Sundays) is on Wednesday 29 June, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. Masses will be at 10.30am and 7.00pm.

Serving the parish.

Our new structure of Committee are beginning. The committees are not going to be talking shops, but will be groups for action. Thank you to those who have already agreed to be part of them. Are you able to serve on any of the following?

Centenary Committee.

In October 2023 we will celebrate the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of our Church. We will celebrate our centenary over the following year. We need a group of people to plan how we will mark our celebrations through the year. As well as special liturgical events, there will be special social events, pilgrimages and we will look at different ways of marking our year.

Social and Fundraising Committee

This is a group that will work on social events through the year and will help liaise with others to make events happen. It will also be a group that will help us raise funds for the everyday running of the parish.

Fabric and Maintenance Committee.

This committee will be responsible for looking at work that we will need to do in the future and will also make sure that we carry out our Health and Safety responsibilities correctly.

For The Attention Of Healthcare Professionals In The Parish

In the fight against assisted suicide and ahead of the BMA's annual representative meeting at the end of June, the organisation, Our Duty of Care, is encouraging all healthcare professionals to show their support for better palliative care and life until its natural end by signing the Our Duty of Care Declaration. For more information, see www.ourdutyofcare.org.uk.

Peter's Pence

The annual Peter's Pence collection takes place on Sunday 26th June. The proceeds of the collection are used to assist the Holy Father in his work. See the poster in the porch.

Sea Sunday

Sea Sunday will be observed on 9th/10th July this year. That is the weekend when we are asked to encourage prayer and financial contributions to support the work of Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) at all Masses. This collection is vital for the future of Stella Maris and its important ministry to seafarers and fishers.

New Catholic Students

The University Chaplaincy is available for students at any of the London universities and colleges, or University of Hertfordshire, this coming year. Based at Newman House, Gower Street, they also have campus-based chaplains at many of the universities and colleges. For any students (other than freshers) there is also an opportunity to live in at Newman House, a catered lodging with attractive rates and its own chapel. The application form is available on the Chaplaincy website www.universitycatholic.net .

Chorister Opportunities at Westminster Cathedral Choir School

Every September up to six boys join Westminster Cathedral Choir School in Year 4 as choristers. Becoming a chorister offers a boy the opportunity to sing in a world famous choir, and to join a thriving, inclusive, independent school for boys, age 4 to 13. All choristers receive generous scholarships supplemented by means-tested bursaries worth up to 100% of fees. Contact Lucy Auger to find out more. Telephone 020 7798 9081 or email lauger@choirsschool.com

Baptism Enquiries

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY

A Day With Mary

The next Day with Mary in the diocese is on Saturday 2nd July. (See poster in porch for more details).

March For Life

This year marks the sad milestone of 10 million abortions in the UK since the 1967 Abortion Act. The annual March for Life will be held on Saturday 3rd September. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 11am at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. LifeFest22 is a festival held from 10.30 to 1.30 at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street SW1P 3DW. The March starts at the Emmanuel Centre at 2pm, proceeding to Parliament Square, where there will be testimony and speeches, with the day concluding at 4.30pm. More information is available at <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/> .

Visit Of The Relics Of St Bernadette To The UK:

In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage across England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes in a church or cathedral near them. The relics will be in the Diocese of Westminster from Saturday 3rd to Wednesday 7th September, Monday 17th to Tuesday 18th October and Friday 28th to Sunday 30th October. For full details of the tour, visit www.stbernadette.org.uk

St Matthew's Day

We will celebrate the feast of our Patron Saint on Wednesday 21st September with a Mass in the evening followed by a party in the Hall. **Please mark the date in your diary!!**

Live Stream

Apologies for the sound problems during the week. This was due to Broadband issues which have now been resolved.

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

Readings for Sunday Mass

First reading

Genesis 14:18-20

Melchizedek brought bread and wine

Melchizedek king of Salem brought bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High. He pronounced this blessing:

‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, creator of heaven and earth,

and blessed be God Most High for handing over your enemies to you.’

And Abram gave him a tithe of everything.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 8:4-9

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

The Lord’s revelation to my Master:

‘Sit on my right:

your foes I will put beneath your feet.’

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

The Lord will wield from Zion

your sceptre of power:

rule in the midst of all your foes.

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

A prince from the day of your birth

on the holy mountains;

from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.

‘You are a priest for ever,

a priest like Melchizedek of old.’

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.’ In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.’ Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 16:12-15

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.

It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, ‘Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here.’ He replied, ‘Give them something to eat yourselves.’ But they said, ‘We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.’ For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, ‘Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.’ They did so and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.

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, Martha Felleppa, Fr John Welsh James Wilson, 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:

Mary Martin, Marie Cloke, Ray Thacker, Francis Rawcliffe, Phil Weybourne, Carlos Borg and all who have died as a result of war and conflict .

AND THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS AROUND THIS TIME:

Florence Gray, James McCaffery, Janet McCaffery, Gladys Storey, Emmanuel Vassallo, Anna Stevenson, John St John, Janet Lavender, Patrick Coyne, Winifred Lowe and Stephen Moss.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK (JUNE 19TH - 26TH)

SUNDAY 19TH JUNE	THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
	09:00 BARRIE JERVIS RIP
	11:15 TONY MARANO RIP
	18:00 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
MONDAY 20th <i>St Alban, 1st Martyr Of England</i>	10:30 ANTONINA MANFRENI RIP (ANNIV) 12:00 - 16:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
TUESDAY 21st <i>St Aloysius Gonzaga</i>	10:30 EMMANUEL VASSALLO RIP (ANNIV) 12:00 - 16:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
WEDNESDAY 22nd <i>St John Fisher & Thomas More, Martyrs</i>	NO PUBLIC MASS - CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
THURSDAY 23rd <i>The Nativity of St John the Baptist</i>	19:00 PHIL WEYBOURNE RIP 18:00 - 18:45 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
FRIDAY 24th <i>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>	10:30 HOLY SOULS 12:00 - 16:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
SATURDAY 25th <i>The Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>	10:30 SPECIAL INTENTION 11:00 - 11:50 (Confessions available) 17:00 - 17:45 (Confessions available) 18:00 FR TOM'S INTENTION (ANNIV OF ORDINATION)
SUNDAY 26TH JUNE	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	9:00 BARRIE JERVIS RIP
	11.15 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
	18:00 WINIFRED LOWE RIP (ANNIV)

Holy Father's Prayer intention for JUNE :

During the month of **June** this year Pope Francis has asked us all to pray: for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.

* **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.



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