

OUR LADY OF FATIMA ST THOMAS MORE

Parish Newsletter • Year A 3rd Sunday of Lent 2020

MASS INTENTIONS 14th - 22nd March

Mass Day	Mass Time	Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)	Mass Time	St Thomas More (STM)
Saturday	6.00 pm	Gerald Quinn RIP	10.00 am	Margaret Long RIP
Sunday	11.00 am 1.30 pm PL	Allen & Barbara Upton RIP Jan Bielinski RIP, Wlodzimierz, Regina & Roman Staniszk RIP	9.00 am	Douglas Sackett RIP
Monday	9.00 am	1. People of the Parish 2. Shirley Donald RIP		
Tuesday	9.00 am	Evelyn Henry RIP (Feast of St. Patrick)		
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Pini & Bottali Families (SI)	10.00 am	Ryan Gomes (B'day)
Thursday	9.00 am	Mr. & Mrs. Luka RIP (Feast of St. Joseph)		
Friday	9.00 am	People of the Parish	7.00 pm	Jerome Kimeng RIP
Saturday	6.00 pm	Paula Degli Innocenti RIP	10.00 am	Joe Henry RIP
Sunday	11.00 am	Mal Linden RIP (Ann.)	9.00 am	Noel Jacob (SI)

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Saturday: 9.30 – 10.00 am at St Thomas More
	Saturday: 5.00 – 6.00 pm at Our Lady of Fatima
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Legion of Mary	Monday: 7.00 – 8.00 pm at Our Lady of Fatima
	Thursday: 7.00 pm - Our Lady of Fatima Hall, Upper Room

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers		Counters
6.00 pm	G.Reynolds	K. Evans	H. Riches	D. Grace
9.00 am	V.Kimeng P. Fox	J. Brown		Next Week H. Linden
11.00 am	C. Paguiligan Sharleen Lopez	A. Demeter	C. Manyati	Church Cleaning OLF Team: C

FINAL PART OF POPE FRANCIS MESSAGE FOR LENT 2020

4. A richness to be shared, not kept for oneself

Putting the paschal mystery at the centre of our lives means feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars, in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence. They are likewise present in environmental disasters, the unequal distribution of the earth's goods, human trafficking in all its forms, and the unbridled thirst for profit, which is a form of idolatry.

Today too, there is a need to appeal to men and women of good will to share, by almsgiving, their goods with those most in need, as a means of personally participating in the building of a better world. Charitable giving makes us more human, whereas hoarding risks making us less human, imprisoned by our own selfishness. We can and must go even further, and consider the structural aspects of our economic life. For this reason, in the midst of Lent this year, from 26 to 28 March, I have convened a meeting in Assisi with young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers, with the aim of shaping a more just and inclusive economy. As the Church's magisterium has often repeated, political life represents an eminent form of charity (cf. Pius XI, Address to the Italian Federation of Catholic University Students, 18 December 1927). The same holds true for economic life, which can be approached in the same evangelical spirit, the spirit of the Beatitudes.

I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him. In this way, we will become what Christ asks his disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world (cf. Mt 5:13-14).

Francis



OUR LADY OF FATIMA & ST THOMAS MORE

15th March 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

1st Reading: from the book of Exodus (Exodus 17:3-7)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 94

O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'

2nd Reading: from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really the saviour of the world; give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

We are well aware of the effects of dehydration - stunted growth, lack of energy, even death! In today's Mass, the readings use the fact of physical dehydration to focus our attention on the more serious condition of spiritual dehydration. Exodus 17: 3-7

Here, we read of the "thirst" of the Israelites in the desert. As a result, they were brought to a point of rebellion and a willingness to abandon their mission.

Romans 5:1-2; 5-8

St. Paul, in more mystical fashion, describes the thirst each person has for salvation and argues that this spirit of hope is founded on the certainty that God has first loved people. Proof of this is found in the Incarnation, God becoming Man, and His death on the cross.

John 4: 5-42

Christ uses the thirst experienced by the Samaritan woman to argue that whilst physical thirst is a fact of life, so is spiritual thirst; and spiritual dehydration has far more serious consequences for people. Belief in and acceptance of Christ counters this malaise.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

We have received the following advice/instructions from the Diocese regarding coronavirus, which are to take immediate effect:
Suspend distribution under both kinds (the host to be given on the hand only).

Suspend the physical sign of peace

Remove holy water stoups.

Advise those most vulnerable (elderly, people with weakened immune systems and long term conditions like cancer, diabetes and heart disease) to refrain from large parish gatherings and stay at home.

Cease use of shared hymn books and missals which could help transmit the virus.

BAPTISM

We welcome into our Church family **Jaxon and Aidan Ogbuanu**, who were baptised at Our Lady of Fatima Church last Sunday.

FIRST COMMUNION 2020

Today at 11.00 am we welcome the children and their families for a special Group Mass. Please continue to pray for them.

The children's preparation continues on **Tuesday at 6.00 pm** in Our Lady of Fatima Church.

LITURGY MEETING

Tomorrow, 7.30 pm in the Presbytery

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesdays at St. Alban's School at 9.00 am.

PLEASE NOTE

During Lent Friday's Mass at St. Thomas More Church will be at 7.00 pm followed by Stations of the Cross.

HOLY HOUR/EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursdays at the Gowers, 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm. All welcome.

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

Our next Mass will be offered at **The Immaculate Conception Church, Epping next Sunday 22nd March at 3.00 pm**. The celebrant will be Fr. Brendan Gerard from Germany. All welcome!

RCIA

Please continue to pray for **Josephine & Brett** as they continue on their journey of faith to Full Communion with the Catholic Church at Easter.

CONFIRMATION 2021

If you are interested in being confirmed during the Bishop's Pastoral Visit early next year, please contact the Presbytery for an application form. Candidates must be 14+.

VACANCY

Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Inclusion

Required September 2020 (earlier if possible) Salary - L3 - L8

The Trustees of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Multi Academy Trust, Harlow are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, inspirational leader, who is passionate about Inclusion, to be Assistant Headteacher. If you have the desire and drive to ensure our friendly, eager children achieve their best we would be delighted to hear from you. Visits to the school are encouraged and warmly welcomed. To download an application pack please visit <http://www.ourladyoffatimatrust.essex.sch.uk>

FOOD DONATIONS

There will be a food collection for the needy in the community during Lent. Please bring your donations to the church (not the presbytery).

OFFERTORY COLLECTION £1,587.76 THANK YOU

For further details about our Parish, our Faith, Sacraments and contact details, please see our website www.olfstm.weebly.com

