

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Cait Corcoran; Catherine Leech; Michael Coen; Michael Akueso; Ed Kavanagh;
Maria de Moura; Della McEnroe
and all the faithful departed.

**OUR SATURDAY MORNING MASS IS OFFERED FOR
THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2025

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Saturday 29th November

	6.00 pm	Cait Corcoran (RIP)
SUNDAY 30th	8.30 am	The Holy Souls in Purgatory
	10.00 am	Catherine Leech (RIP)
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	12 Noon	The People of the Parish
	6.00 pm	The Holy Souls in Purgatory

Monday 1st December 12 Noon Michael Coen (RIP)

Tuesday 2nd 12 Noon Michael Akueso (RIP)

Wednesday 3rd *No Mass today. Church is closed.*
St Francis Xavier, Priest

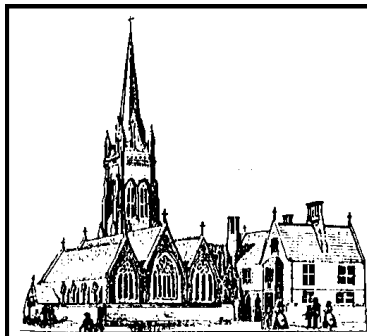
Thursday 4th 12 Noon Ed Kavanagh (RIP - anniv)
St John Damascene, Priest & Dr

Friday 5th 12 Noon Maria de Moura (RIP - anniv)
**SOLEMNITY OF THE
DEDICATION OF
OUR CHURCH (1969)**

Saturday 6th 10.00 am The sick and housebound
St Nicholas, Bishop **10.30am Adoration and Benediction**

**CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 10.30 - 11.20AM ; 5.00 - 5.40PM
OR BY ARRANGEMENT**

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY
11AM - 3PM, (Closed on Wednesday)**



**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
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Dear Friends

On Friday, Pope Leo was at Lake Iznik, southeast of Constantinople/Istanbul. Together with other leaders he will recite the Creed which was probably drafted at this very location exactly 1,700 years ago during the Council of Nicaea, and which we recite every Sunday.

At the time, 318 bishops were convoked by Emperor Constantine to settle disputes that threatened the unity of the Church, and therefore of the empire. Seventeen centuries later, the Christian world, representing more than 2.3 billion faithful, or nearly a third of humanity, is gathering to commemorate this first decisive Ecumenical Council. This is also part of the celebration of the Year of Jubilee.

Pope Francis had wanted to make this trip, but it is his successor who will honour the invitation of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew. A letter on the occasion of his trip to Turkey shows that he intends to make Nicaea "the basis and reference point" for moving towards Christian unity. And his motto is about unity, showing that he sees the great spiritual depth of the issue. He's not seeking to return to the era before Christian divisions, nor to freeze them in place. Instead, he advocates for "an ecumenism that looks to the future, that seeks reconciliation through dialogue as we share our gifts and spiritual heritage."

After the event at Lake Iznik, Pope Leo will meet with the leaders of the Christian churches in Constantinople. Each leader will be given a time to speak, with no restrictive agenda. This meeting won't resolve the theological disputes between the Churches, nor will it lead to an agreement on the date of Easter. But the continuation of the "ecumenical synodality" inaugurated by Pope Francis could enable Pope Leo to lay the foundations for a constructive relationship with the other ancient churches. We must all pray for our Holy Father as he travels in Turkey and then Lebanon, and for his ministry – the ministry of Peter – to bring unity to Christians and to heal ancient hurts and misunderstandings.

Fr James



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN GIVING

Don't forget you can also make an offering via the 'Touch & Tap' at the door. For details of methods of Planned Giving, see the leaflet at the door of Church. Parish bank account details are below, and on the website *Donate* page.

PARISH BANK DETAILS: HSBC

Sort code: 40-05-20

Acct. No.: 11263137

Acct name: WRCDT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY FULHAM

OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS FROM THE HOLY LAND: The Good Shepherd Company from the Holy land (Bethlehem), based in Nottingham will be visiting **TODAY!!** This work supports the Christian families in the Holy Land to stay at work. Olive wood carving is one of the most important sources of income for them, as 90% of the Christians rely on this sale. Selling their produce here on their behalf helps prevent Christians from leaving the country in search of work.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ON SALE TODAY! In support of **AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED**. Each pack £5 - Help spread the message of ACN and support persecuted Christians. Visit the stall at the back of church today. **JUST A LITTLE STOCK LEFT - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!**

THIS WEEK: MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY: Church will be open each of these days between **11am and 3pm** (Parish Office hours). Mass will be celebrated at **12.00 Noon** on each of these days. Back to the normal schedule next week.

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS hosted by St THOMAS'S FRIENDS FOR FRIENDS: SATURDAY 6 DEC AT 7PM: Join *Friends for Friends* in the hall at No. 62 for an hour or so to sing carols in as many different languages as possible! Can you add a new language or carol? Come along. Mulled wine, mince pies, panettone etc.

ADVENT RESOURCES AVAILABLE TODAY: The Advent editions of "Walk with me" and "My Day by Day" are on sale today, with versions of "My Day by Day" for young and very young children too. Prices listed on the notice on the literature table.

Young Adults (18-35) **ADVENT RETREAT DAY** with the Assumption Sisters on Sat 6th Dec, 10am – 6pm. Venue: Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH (closest tube station: High Street Kensington). Programme includes talks • prayer, adoration and confessions • faith sharing • mass and social time. £5 registration fee/ subsidised student places available on request. Register now by emailing: rebecca@assumpta-eu.org

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND COLLECTION - THANK YOU! Thank you for so generously supporting the collection last weekend. The to-

tal raised so far is £906.98. There are still envelopes in church and you can give online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

SOCIETY OF St VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP): Last week we formally established a Conference of the SVP at St Thomas', providing a forum for voluntary pastoral work in the parish. This is **GOOD NEWS!!** Please continue to pray for this initiative. More news will follow.

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of socks, flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code **60-60-04**, account no. **4608 8237**.

FAMILIES SEEKING ENDORSEMENT OF SCHOOL APPLICATIONS: Fr James will be available to discuss the endorsement of Primary/Nursery school applications on 12, 13 and 14 December. To make an appointment telephone the Office (*during office hours*).

THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR: Looking for a sensible way to bring some Advent prayer and fun to the kids? *The Real Advent Calendar* from the Meaningful Chocolate Co. comes either in Milk or Dark chocolate and includes a 24 page Christmas story activity book with a page for each day of Advent. Visit www.realadvent.co.uk for more info.

THANK YOU ALL: Ongoing thanks for your engagement with the recent Planned Giving Campaign. The Diocesan Fundraising team have now processed initial data which shows about 110 returned forms so far, with 40+ **NEW** standing order arrangements and 35 **NEW** Gift Aid Declarations. **NEWS ON VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES SOON.**

MARCH FOR LIFE 2026! Very early notice but we are asked to mark the date for Saturday 5th September 2026, to maximise the impact of this growing act of witness. There are currently estimated to be over 250,000 abortions annually in England and Wales with just under half of these being repeat abortions. Approximately 90% are through pills and of these some 1 in 17 women end up in hospital with complications. With this devastating picture and, with even worse laws on the horizon, it is more important than ever to have a unified pro-life stand which includes the voice of the Church. Here's a link to a highlights video from this year: https://youtu.be/qYsei8hX4xY?si=K1o1zGYzqJdG_jLc Sorry that's a long address - you can get an easier link from the website: www.marchforlife.co.uk/