

**Readers** – We need two readers for every Mass and especially for our services at Easter and Christmas. New volunteers are welcome to be trained as readers. Please contact Fr Philip or Mary O’Boy via the Parish Office and Hans Liesner for St Thomas More).

**Recycling** – We collect used ink cartridges, mobile phones, spectacles and stamps for recycling for a number of charities. Please place in the white cupboard at the back of Marychurch.

**Repository** – Mass cards, greeting cards, rosaries, missals, other books, gifts etc are available from the Repository beside the Baptismal font at the back of Marychurch which is open after weekend Masses.

**Schools** – Catholic schools in the area include St Philip Howard (primary, 01707 363969), Nicholas Breakspear (01727 856206), Loreto College (01727 856206) John Henry Newman School (01438 314643) and St Columba’s College (01727 862616). Admissions procedures are available from each school, and during the application period Fr Philip will publish times of his availability to discuss a priest’s reference if required.

**Sick** – If you are admitted to hospital, please register as a Catholic and ask to be visited by the hospital chaplain via the nursing staff on admission. For Communion to the Sick, please contact Fr Philip. See also, St Vincent de Paul Society.

**Small prayer groups** – There are several small prayer groups meeting regularly in the parish, including a meditation group on Wednesday evening. Please see Fr Philip for more information.

**Social** – We hold regular events including parish lunches and barbeques and coffee are 11.00 Mass on Sunday. New faces are very welcome and willing hands to help are always needed. Please contact the Parish Office or Anne Dunkley

**St Thomas More** – The Chapel of Ease at Welham Green opened in 1965 and is a vibrant part of our parish. Mass is usually celebrated there at 09.30 each Sunday.

**St Vincent de Paul Society** – Our SVP Conference formed in 2009 and is run jointly with St Peter’s Catholic Parish in South Hatfield. We visit and support members of our community including those living alone, housebound and seniors. We also raise funds and try to provide practical support for those in need locally. We meet fortnightly alternating between Marychurch and St Peter’s and warmly welcome new members. Please contact John Beckett on 07960 785673.

**Welcomers** – We hope to make all members of our parish feel very welcome and including those who are ‘passing through’ Hatfield as well as those who have been born and bred here. Welcomers at the start of Mass play an important role in greeting people, giving out newsletters and assisting with any queries. If you would like to join the welcome team, please speak to one of the current welcomers or the Parish Office.

*Prepared January 2011: Amendments and suggestions for future editions of this sheet are welcome. Please send to the Parish Office.*

Welcome to our Catholic Parish of  
**Marychurch**  
with St Thomas More, Welham Green

This sheet provides information about activities in the Parish and how to get involved. We hope you find it useful and will be inspired to become an active member of our community.

Parish Priest     Father Philip Knights  
Parish Office    26 Salisbury Square, Hatfield AL9 5JD  
                          01707 262439  
                          hatfield@rcdow.org.uk   philipknights@rcdow.org.uk  
Website           www.marychurch-stm.org.uk

To contact Father Philip, please speak to him after Mass. Appointments can also be arranged via the Parish Office. The Parish Secretary is available on 01707 262439 between 09.00 and 12.00 most weekdays or via hatfield@rcdow.org.uk. In addition to his role as Parish Priest, Father Philip also undertakes several roles outside the parish including being Diocesan Director for *Missio* ([www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk)). Fr Philip normally has Friday as a Day Off

### Worship

The usual times of main services are below but please be aware these may change from week-to-week and see weekly newsletter for exact times (available on website).

- Holy Mass   Saturday       18.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday  
                  Sunday        09.30 (St Thomas More, Welham Green)  
                                  11.00  
                                  18.00  
                  Weekdays   Usually 09.30 on Mon, Thurs, Fri; 08.00 on Tues;  
                                  19.30 on Wed – please check newsletter.
- Confession   Saturday       17.15 or by arrangement.  
                  There are also regular Penitential Services in Advent and Lent.

### Sacraments

- Baptisms and Marriage – By arrangement with Fr Philip.
- First Holy Communion – Annual programme including children and parents. Minimum age for course is School Year 3. Please see newsletter for registration and start dates, normally in December.

- Confirmation – For young people in Year 9 or 10. Please see newsletter for registration and start dates, again normally in December.
- Adults wishing to become Catholics normally take part in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA). More details below.
- Communion to the Sick and Anointing – Please contact Fr Philip who will make arrangements with ministers of this Sacrament. In serious circumstances, please contact Fr Philip immediately.
- Funerals – can be arranged with Fr Philip and the funeral director. To be certain, request this in your last will and testament and /or make your wishes known to your family.

**Altar servers** – We welcome children who have received their First Holy Communion and adults to be servers. Please see Fr Philip.

**Becoming a Catholic** – please see RCIA below.

**Bequests** – Donations, gifts and will bequests in support of our parish are much appreciated. We are a registered charity, number 233699 Hatfield WRCDT.

**Children and young people** – A children’s liturgy is held during 11.00 Mass. Regular helpers are welcome after CRB checks completed. Please contact Lisa Arnull via the Parish Office. Babies and the very young are also welcome and some toys and books are available in the Lady Chapel for use during Mass (this is on right side of Marychurch).

**Cleaning** – Willing workers are welcome to join our annual spring clean and help each week. Please see notices in newsletter or see Fr Philip.

**Collection** – We have one regular collection during the Offertory at each Mass and occasional special collections at the end. If you would like to join the dedicated team taking responsibility for this, please speak to the welcomers at the start of Mass or contact the Parish Office. Please see below for information about planned giving envelopes and Gift Aid.

**Diocese** – Our parish is part of the Diocese of Westminster [www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk)

**Eco-congregation** – We are committed to supporting God’s creation at local, national and international level through worship, ethos and practical action within the parish. This has included an Environment Harvest Celebration, a “green audit” and currently preparing an application to become an Eco-congregation. You can contribute by keeping doors closed to keep heat in and recycling (see page 4).

**Fair-trade** – We became a fair-trade parish in 2008 and aim to use fair-trade products for all our parish events. A fair-trade stall is held after 11.00 Sunday Mass at Marychurch every 2-3 weeks – please see newsletter for dates. For more information, please contact Angela Madden via the Parish Office.

**Finance and Fabric Committee** – Please contact Lawrence Pickett via the Parish Office.

**Flowers** – Volunteers are always welcome. Flowers are normally arranged on Friday mornings. Please see Joyce Davies at Marychurch and Thelma Liesner for St Thomas More arrangements.

**Giving Machine** – Should you wish to shop online whilst donating to our Parish at no cost to yourself. Please go to [www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk](http://www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk)

**Hall** – Our hall is used for a variety of parish events and includes a small stage and well-equipped kitchen. For enquiries about hiring, please contact the Parish Office.

**Mass intentions** – These may be offered for any intentions, e.g. Rest in Peace, Holy Souls, anniversary of death, in thanksgiving etc. Envelopes for these are available at the back of the church and can be handed to Fr Philip or placed in the collection bag at Mass.

**Ministers of Holy Communion** – We welcome adults who would wish to be Ministers of Holy Communion. Please see Fr Philip to arrange training and commissioning.

**Mission boxes** – Contributions to the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) can be made via red mission boxes. If you would like to take one home or need one emptying, please contact our Local Secretary via the Parish Office.

**Music** – We welcome singers and musicians. If you would like to sing in the choir, please introduce yourself after the 11.00 Mass.

**Newsletter** – Our weekly newsletter is available at the back of Marychurch and St Thomas More and can be downloaded from our website. Notices should be sent to the Parish Office by 09.00 on Wednesday for inclusion the following Sunday.

**Parish Council** – Meetings are held approximately 3-monthly. Current members include Father Philip (Chair), Yvette Rawle (Secretary), Lisa Arnull, Anne Dunkley, David Dunkley, Michael MacPherson, Angela Madden, Yvonne Stephens, Mary Stephenson, Demaris Tomlin and Tony Wilcock. To raise issues with the Council, please contact Parish Office.

**Planned giving envelopes and Gift Aid** – Like every household, we have to balance the parish budget. To help us do this and for you to plan your giving, please consider using the planned giving envelopes. Regularly payments can also be made by standing order or direct debit monthly, quarterly or annually. Gift Aid enables our parish to reclaim the value of the tax you have already paid to the Inland Revenue without any cost to you. To request Planned Giving envelopes or Gift Aid, please contact Joyce Davies via the Parish Office.

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)** – If you would like to know more about becoming a Catholic or would like support during the process please contact Fr Philip or Demaris Tomlin via the Parish Office.