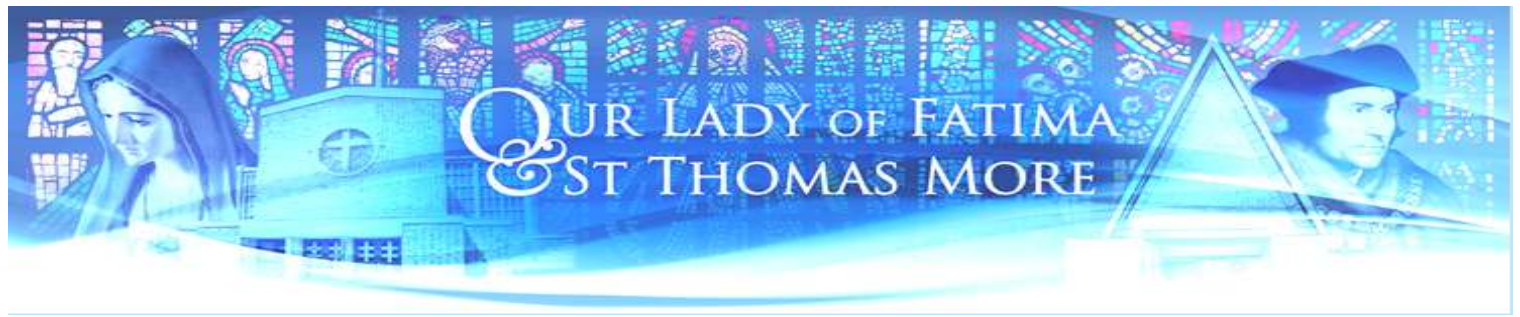




Parish Newsletter: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross 2025

Mass Intentions 13th September – 21st September

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)

St Thomas More (STM)

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Maria Gawel (Gregorian 5) Evelyn Cywinski (RIP)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Maria Gawel (Gregorian 6) Zbigniew Kozłowski (10th Ann, RIP)	8.30am	People of the Parish
Monday	9.00am	Maria Gawel (Gregorian 7) Philomena & Anna Duah (SI, Birthday)		
Tuesday	9.00am	Maria Gawel (Gregorian 8)		
Wednesday	7.00-8.00pm	Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament	10.00am	Maria Gawel (Gregorian 9) Hannah & Elizabeth (Thanksgiving)
Thursday	9.00am	Maria Gawel (Gregorian 10) Aurora (RIP)		
Friday Our Lady of La Salette	9.00am	Maria Gawel (Gregorian 11)	10.00am	Shinta (SI, home, family, peace, job)
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Maria Gawel (Gregorian 12) Maria Konecka Słota & Zofia Pilek (RIP, Ann.)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Richard Karty (SI, Birthday) Ryszard Kosakowski (1 st Ann. RIP)	8.30am	Maria Gawel (Gregorian 13)



The name given to today's liturgy 'The Exaltation of the Holy Cross' is a strange one and can have many meanings ' a symbol of triumph after centuries of denial; of obedience; inhumanity, suffering, sacrifice, among others. For our purposes today, the cross is a symbol of forgiveness.

Numbers 21: 4-9: The incident describing the rebellion of the Hebrews as they trekked across the seemingly endless desert and the opportunity for forgiveness that was offered to them in the symbol of the bronze serpent makes the point that forgiveness only comes through repentance.

Phil. 2:6-11: Asking for forgiveness involves an act of humility. In opening the way to forgiveness, Christ gave the example of humility by submitting to the disgrace of execution as a criminal on the cross.

John 3: 13-17: Just as the raised serpent offered forgiveness to the rebellious Hebrews, so Christ raised on the cross opened up the possibility of forgiveness for all who ask for it.

Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette:

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - STM: Wednesday, Friday 9.30am-10am OLF: Saturday 5pm - 5.50pm
CHURCH CLEANING: OLF Friday 19th September - Team A.

FEASTS of the Week:

Feast of Our Lady of La Salette

On September 19, 1846, Our Lady appeared to two small children on the mountain of La Salette in the French Alps. There, she gave them a message for the world to hear and follow. Mary's message to the two children at La Salette was the warning of a mother concerned over her wayward children. She complained: "If my people refuse to submit, I will be forced to let go the arm of my Son" and more specifically: "Those who drive the carts cannot swear without using my Son's name...they labour all day Sunday...there are none who go to Mass...when they do not know what to do, they go to Mass just to make fun of religion..." She warned: "If the harvest is ruined, it is only on account of yourselves...If you have wheat, you must not sow it. Anything you sow the vermin will eat...A great famine is coming..." She promised: "If [my people] are converted, rocks and stones will turn into heaps of wheat, and potatoes will be self-sown in the fields..." She pleaded: "Well, my children, make this known to all my people..."

First Holy Communion 2026

Any parents who would like to enrol their child in the forthcoming preparation program for The First Holy Communion, please make an appointment with Fr Bogdan. The child should be year 3 or above and attend OLF/STM

Counselling Service for OLF & STM

The service is free to parishioners. Clients are requested to donate £15 for each session towards the church. Further details and business cards are available in the porch or from Fr Bogdan or Dr Ray Aldridge-Morris on 07946 854632.

Jubilee Year Outing Update

To mark the Jubilee Year, we are visiting Our Lady of Light & St Osyth Church in Clacton. On Saturday **18th October**. Please confirm with Kay or Clara asap if you are able to attend. There will be an indoor picnic in the church hall. Cost for the coach will be collected on Sunday 14th and 21st.

"A pilgrimage has a vital part to play in our life of faith for it removes us from our homes and our daily routines and gives us time and space to encounter God more deeply." - Pope Leo XIV, July 2025

Social & Fund Raising:

Christmas Bazaar on **6th December** in OLF Hall, please see Kay or Clara. The next meeting will be on **Monday 6th October at 7.00pm in OLF hall upstairs room**. To support the Christmas Bazaar, if you are able to donate any of the following it would be much appreciated – there will be a collection box in the porch from Sunday 14th September. Bric a brac items, bottles of alcoholic drink, soft drinks, tins of food, dry goods, unwanted gifts, unwanted Christmas decorations, soft toys, (washed if not new). Everything should be in good order. Please join us for another **Quiz at STM Hall on Saturday 25th October**. Further updates will follow.

Pray for the sick: Keith Harris, Pam Barnard, Ivan Pirnak, J.C. Nkosa, Teresa Lamb, Noreen Wright, Romualda Ratajczyk, Grace Fisher, Kathleen Evans, Fr Bernard Grogan, Angela Walsh, Jeremy Collins, Peter Kelly, Mary Kelly, Pam Matthews, Władysław Borecki, Ewa Samborska, Peter Ryan, Adele Ryan, Nial Briody, Maria Lunnon, Fabian Andrade, Eileen Rowan, John Brickley, Helen Doherty, Philip Ketedzi, Caroline Berry, Anna Sweeney, Stanislaw Kostecki, Carmel Delaney, Donnah Dris, Conrado Shea, Ryan Tomlin, Mat Quinlan, Krystyna, Josie Cronin, Mary Quinlan, Anna Borsuk, Ruby Antony, Eileen Jolly, Anna Slota, Monica, John O'Donnell and their children, Neil, Anna Gawlik, Eileen, Kathleen Kidney, Andrew Sinclair, Pauline, Alica and Rodney Bill, Valda, sick parishioners from Ashlyn, Alexandra and Abbot Care Home.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of: Nick Cronin, Tony Poole, Mathew Joseph, Noreen Ward (Moran) Peggy Kellett, Brian Quinn, Fr Mieczysław Szeptycki MS, Halyna Wetaszczuk, Mary Fitzgerald, Helen Noyo Owie, Fr Augustyn Hamielec MS, Giona Nkunim Botchway-Adjei, Christopher Keenan, Denis Grogan, Kathleen Thompson, Fr Andrzej Kuder MS, Fr Z. Pałys MS, Hayley Wright, Mary Sage, Patricia Carter, Radosław Iwańczyk, Billy Lomasney, Kenneth Samuels, John Stenson, Terry Farrington, Kevin McGrath, Julie Bush, Janina Zdrojewska, Zbigniew Piątek, Józef Chapski, Peter Mwangi Gekonyo, Joby Joy, PJ Thomas, Eveline Falzon, Dolores Lawless, John Cywinski, Maria Cristina Galagala, Thomas Nelson, Paul Gaize, Bridget Minihane, Barbara Vernem, Romie Quinn, and all those whose anniversaries occur this month.

Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to Josie Cronin on the recent death of her son Nick.



The Story of the Apparition of Our Lady of La Salette

On September 19, 1846, Our Lady appeared to two small children on the mountain of La Salette in the French Alps. There, she gave them a message for the world to hear and follow. Mary's message to the two children at La Salette was the warning of a mother concerned over her wayward children.

She complained: "If my people refuse to submit, I will be forced to let go the arm of my Son" and more specifically: "Those who drive the carts cannot swear without using my Son's name...they labour all day Sunday...there are none who go to Mass...when they do not know what to do, they go to Mass just to make fun of religion..." She warned: "If the harvest is ruined, it is only on account of yourselves...If you have wheat, you must not sow it. Anything you sow the vermin will eat...A great famine is coming..." She promised: "If [my people] are converted, rocks and stones will turn into heaps of wheat, and potatoes will be self-sown in the fields..." She pleaded: "Well, my children, make this known to all my people..." Through the children she gave her message of "Reconciliation" to the world. She insisted that this message be made known to all her people.

On September 19, 1851, after "a precise and rigorous investigation" of the event, the witnesses, the content of the message, and its repercussions, Philibert de Bruillard, Bishop of Grenoble, pronounced his judgment in a pastoral letter of instruction. He declared that "the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to two shepherds, ... *bears within itself all the characteristics of truth and the faithful have grounds for believing it to be indubitable and certain.*"



Consequently in 1852 the Congregation of Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette was founded to serve as a "perpetual remembrance of Mary's merciful Apparition."

The apparition and message inspired the Catholic Religious Community, the Missionaries of La Salette, whose ministry is based on reconciliation. The La Salette Missionaries have a congregation of about 1,000 priests and brothers, and 200 LaSalette Sisters, serving in more than 20 countries.

MEMORARE TO OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE Remember, Our Lady of La Salette, true Mother of Sorrows, the tears you shed for us on Calvary. Remember also the care you have taken to keep us faithful to Christ, your Son. Having done so much for your children, you will not abandon us. Comforted by this consoling thought, we come to you pleading, despite our infidelities and ingratitude. Virgin of Reconciliation do not reject our prayers, but intercede for us, obtain for us the grace to love Jesus above all else. May we console you by a holy life and so come to share the eternal life Christ gained by his cross. Amen.

Invocation: ***Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of Sinners, pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you***

Happy Feast Day La Salette Fathers

