



**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF  
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS**  
Ham Street, Ham, Richmond, TW10 7H  
Reg.Charity1173050 R. C. Archdiocese of Southwark  
Web site [www.stthomasaquinasham.org](http://www.stthomasaquinasham.org)

11 April 2020

Dear Parishioners

At this very strange and difficult time for us all, particularly as we are unable to attend Mass for the time being, we would like to make a special appeal regarding your weekly Offertory donations and special Easter Offertory for Fr Robert.

**Weekly Offertory**

Those of you who took a copy of last year's accounts will know that most of the income we receive as a Parish comes from offertory donations (or Gift Aid linked to Offertory) and that our income has only just covered expenses over the past few years. Across January and February around 1/3 of Offertory per month was received by standing order direct onto the Parish bank account and around 2/3 was given each week at Masses, so with Parishioners currently unable to attend Mass in person we have seen a material reduction in weekly Offertory received. We have worked hard to minimise costs, but many are fixed so we currently expect a shortfall every month for however long we have to keep staying at home and away from Church.

We are writing to ask you to please consider taking out a standing order for whatever you would normally give on a weekly basis, or if you are already donating by standing order to review how much you are giving and consider if you can give any more.

Our Parish Bank Account details are as follows:

Sort Code 60-50-01

Account Number: 79122469

Account name: RCAS St Thomas

Bank: NatWest

## **Easter Offertory**

You may not be aware that whilst the Church provides accommodation and housekeeping for Fr Robert, he does not receive a salary, so his only source of income to buy things for himself is from Mass Stipends and the Easter and Christmas Offertory, all of which is traditionally given in person. As we are not able to get to Mass this Easter time, we expect that this will have a detrimental impact on the amount Fr Robert would usually receive. Following discussion with the Diocese, we will be making sure that Fr Robert receives an Easter Offertory from Parish funds of at least the same level as last year, but without the usual gifts from Parishioners this will represent a further outflow.

We would therefore be grateful if those who would like to make an Easter Offertory could do so in one of the following ways:

1. Online payment - make an online payment to the Parish bank account (details above). This is the preferred option. Please reference payment as "Easter collection" and if you are a Gift Aider - add your envelope number.
2. Cash – if you cannot make an online payment then please get in touch and we will provide further details of how you can pay by cash.

We understand that whilst some families will remain unaffected financially by the Covid-19 pandemic, others may be facing a difficult time financially so we ask that you only give what you can afford to: do not concern yourself with this appeal if you are struggling yourself, but if you can afford to give please be as generous as you can.

God bless, take care and stay safe

With best wishes

The Parish Finance Committee

Parish Email address: [Ham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:Ham@rcaos.org.uk)