



# ST THOMAS MORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

This parish is part of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No. 234216

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A Parish of the Coventry Catholic Deanery www.coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk



St Thomas More, pray for us!

**Parish Priest:** Rev Fr Stephen Day Tel: 024 7641 1900  
**Parish Deacons:** Rev Mr Pat Jeary Tel: 024 7641 2564 Rev Mr Leo Poole Tel: 024 7641 9731  
**St. Thomas More Primary School Headteacher:** Mr Morgan Williams Tel: 024 7684 9910  
**Parish Safeguarding Representatives:** Claire Rutter Tel: 024 7641 2535 Alison Cullinane Tel: 024 7644 1436  
**Gift Aid Co-ordinator:** Tony Curristan Tel: 024 7641 1280  
**Parish Administrator/Room Bookings:** Amanda Kelly Tel: 024 7641 4473 email: amandafriswells@btconnect.com

## SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

SUNDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov <i>1<sup>st</sup> of ADVENT</i>	9.00 a.m. 5.30 – 5.50 p.m.	Mass Confession Mass	Malcolm Shanley (13 <sup>th</sup> Anniv) Charlie Cullinane (Anniv)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov <i>Advent Feria</i>	9.00 a.m. 7.00- 8.00 p.m.	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Thomas & Rose Clarke (Anniv)
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov <i>Advent Feria</i>	9.00 a.m.	Mass	John & Mary Murray (Mem Mass)
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov <i>St Andrew</i>	9.15 a.m.	Mass	Mary Finnegan (Anniv)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec <i>St Edmund Champion</i>	9.00 a.m.	Eucharistic Service	~
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec <i>Advent Feria</i>	9.00 a.m.	Mass	Robert Lee (RIP)
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	9.00 a.m. 9.30-10.30 a.m. 9.40-10.20 a.m.	Mass Exposition, followed by Benediction Confession	Bill & Ann Queenan (Anniv)
SUNDAY 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec <i>2<sup>nd</sup> of ADVENT</i>	9.00 a.m. 5.30 – 5.50 p.m.	Mass Confession Mass	Harold Webster (6 <sup>th</sup> Anniv) Gordon Aspell (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniv)

Morning and Evening Prayer is said 15 minutes before all weekday Masses

There is a loop system in the church. Set your hearing aid to 'T'. Best reception at side walls of the church.

### MASS TODAY begins on pg 7 of THE PARISH MASS BOOK and READINGS on pg 83

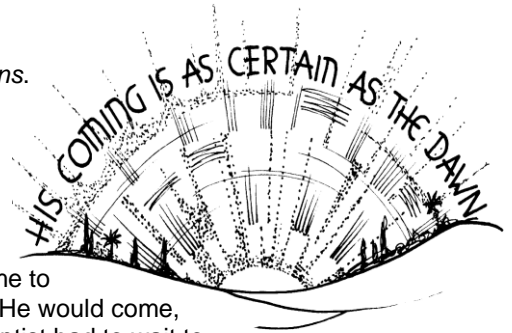
*Sunday readings Cycle A, Psalter week 1*

**READERS: This Sunday:** 9.00 a.m. Debbie Middleton & Noreen Thornhill 6.00 p.m. Geraldine Clarkson & Janet Ward  
**Next Sunday:** 9.00 a.m. Laura Martin & Rob Ridley 6.00 p.m. Brendon Cunningham & John Burns

**LAST SUNDAY: Main Collection:** £987.22 **National Youth Service:** £399.80 **TODAY Retiring Collection:** St Barnabas Society Appeal  
**Next Sunday: Second Collection:** Poor Parishes Fund **MANY THANKS for all that you give in time, money & effort**

### Sunday's Readings are on pg 83 of the Parish Mass Book...

Do you know the old Christmas cracker joke? Q. What's the amber traffic light for? *Ans.* To save waiting for the green. The old ones are always the best...but that joke could almost be Q. What's Advent for? *Ans.* To save waiting for Christmas. But Advent is given to us a season in its own right: definitely *not* Christmas but the time leading up to Christmas. Not the time of shepherds and wise men, a crowded inn and a poor manger. A time to wait! A time for faithful followers of God, for hopeful prophets, a shouting herald and an expectant Mother. Christians have kept Advent for nearly two thousand years as a time of waiting and preparing. Why a time of waiting? Jesus came to be born in a certain place, at a certain time. Patriarchs and prophets had known that He would come, but come when God the Father decided—and not even in their lifetimes. John the Baptist had to wait to point out Jesus to the crowds. Mary had nine months' notice of the birth of the Saviour: but she too had to wait and she too had to be prepared. So what should we do? We remember that God's promises are always fulfilled in God's time: until then, we wait! Jesus tells us in today's gospel about His coming again on the Day of Judgement. His coming at Christmas is His first coming. There will be no notice of the second coming, no announcement in the papers giving us warning. But then there is no need: He has already told us to get ready, to be prepared, to find the time. None of us would not take time to get ready to meet our favourite sports star, musician, the Queen or the Pope. Yet we can choose to meet Jesus every day at Mass and *will* meet Him at the second coming whether we choose to or not. No time to get ready? Hang on, that's *exactly* what Advent's *for*..!



*F. Stephen*

- PLEASE STAY FOR TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASS -



# ADVENT – Come Lord Jesus!

**RECENTLY DEPARTED:** Bridie Farrell, Margaret Delargey, Hubert Hackett, Pat Hackett, Norah Mary Duffy, Helen Martin, Barry Hill, Rev Francis Andrews **ANNIVERSARIES:** Ellen Fox, John Ilesley, John Coyne, Thomas Charman, Margaret Laughton, Elizabeth Duggan, Stephen Prior, Mary Furber, Jadwiga Marrinan, John Kitterack, Francine Barlow, Janet Branski, Philip Tams, Dunstan Molyneux, Teresa McKenna, Henry Hanly, William Horton, Mary Taylor, John McHendry, Patrick Keaney, Christopher Hand, Andrew Reilly, Rosemary Perera, Dennis Hand, Philomena Cerone, Alice Twomey, Barbara Stinton, Anthony Panico, Edward Olverson, Mark Jarrett, Joseph Loughran, Mary Blackwell, Vincent Duff, Agnes Murray, Joseph Browne, Joseph Flis, Guy Aston, Patrick Lamb, Edna Duggan and all whose anniversaries fall at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

**SICK & SUFFERING:** Suzanne Martin, Jane Hogan, Diane Taylor, Liam Mee, Rev Gerry O'Reilly, Peter Brookes, Helen McDonnell, Margaret Young, James Young, Teresa Mellon, Cecil & Margaret Dowson, Madge Vowles, Carl Smith, Peter David, Mary Morris, Harry Davenport, Vera Lee, John Martin, Ron Hamilton, Beatrice Upham, Diane Sharpe, Bill Brennan, Christopher, Ben Green, Felix Rooney, John & Jeanne Gould, Charlie Addison, Joanne Bazen, Kaime Orchard, Deacon Jim Gilligan, Dolores Heffernan, Jerry Casey, Maisie Taylor, William Begley, Imogen Jones, Tommy Carberry, Thomas Ryan, Rebecca Power, Julie Burke, John Nugent, Natalie Molloy, Bill Molloy, Sean Craig, Marie Lynch, Ken Stone, Caroline Cunningham, Sylvester & Kitty Budkiewjcz, David Warr, Pam Brown, Bill McGiven, Heidi O'Neil, Mary Walsh, Lily Bailey, Mike Campbell, persecuted Christians, victims of war and violence, those who have died in war, those who mourn.

**Our Lady of Lourdes, health of the sick: Pray for us**

**TODAY: THE ST BARNABAS SOCIETY** Dr Cyprian Blamires will be speaking at Masses about its work with converts to the Catholic Church. There will be a retiring collection for the Society

**FR STEPHEN** is saying the 11am Mass at the Hospital and so will not be able to stay long after the 9am Mass here.

**BLESSING OF COVENTRY CRIB** takes place today at **4pm** outside Marks & Spencers in the precinct. Please go along and join in

**COVENTRY PIONEER REGIONAL COMMITTEE AGM** on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Commencing with Mass at 7.30pm at Christ the King Church for the intention of the late Bishop John Mone and the deceased members of the Association.

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? The 'Footsteps in Faith Group' will meet next at 7.30pm on Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Nov in the MRR** to explore what the Catholic Church believes and what being a disciple of Jesus means.

**MASSES BROADCAST LIVE** Thanks to the generosity of a parishioner this church, like several others in Coventry, will be broadcasting Sunday Mass live over the internet. We hope to the system running by Christmas: details soon.

**ADVENT "WALK WITH ME" BOOKLETS AVAILABLE** on the bookcases at the back of church. Please do make a donation towards the cost of £1 but most of all please take copies for yourself, family and friends.

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**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2016 6.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.** \*\*\*\*\*  
**WE NEED:** Chocolates, Bottles, Raffle Prizes, Bric-A-Brac, Tombola Prizes. Cakes will be needed on the day. Helpers and ideas welcome.  
 Stalls can be hired at £15 each plus a raffle prize – please contact the school office for details.  
**Raffle tickets are NOW available after Mass – please take and sell as many as possible.**

**FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS** 4<sup>th</sup> Dec Poor Parishes Fund and 11<sup>th</sup> Dec the postponed Fr Hudson's Society Collection. The number of compulsory second collections has recently been increased by the Diocese. In addition to these compulsory collections we are also expected to host appeals from charities and the Missions from time to time and we of course have our own three second collections over the year.

**GREETING CARDS FOR PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE** - there will be card signing sessions after each Mass on Sunday 4th December in the MRR. Information and materials will be provided by the Justice and Peace Group. Donations towards postage are welcome. More information at <http://www.acatuk.org.uk> **Please take a moment to provide some hope for those imprisoned and separated from family and friends simply because of their beliefs. Many Christians are imprisoned in non-Christian countries simply for being a Christian!**

**THE PARISH WEBSITE has been updated and includes the weekly sheet and a lot of other information.** See [stmcov.org](http://stmcov.org) for all the latest. And the parish is on **TWITTER** @StThosMore. Please follow this to see news, reflections and information about events.

♪♪ **JAM 'N' CAKE:** a new initiative that is open to all parishioners. In the new year, we will be offering the chance to learn and practice hymns and songs that have been planned for forthcoming 9 a.m. Sunday Masses. The aim is just singing for fun, increasing confidence and learning new hymns together - there is no expectation that people will join the music group, just sing out from the pews, although new members are always welcome. This will be a social evening with refreshments, so please consider joining us - all are welcome! More details will follow ♪♪

**DYING WELL** <http://www.artofdyingwell.org/> A Catholic web resource of beautiful stories, prayers and help with dying, death and bereavement.

**PARISH SHOP** Advent Calendars, advent candles, Christmas cards, Nativity sets, Miniature Nativity sets, Calendars and diaries.

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT** Further copies of the report are available at the back of Church with a summary on the reverse. Thanks to all.

**LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2017** Last week in May 2017. **If you are interested please speak to Andy Cullinane or Alison or Fr Stephen.** The costs of child pilgrims will be subsidised: the parish has funds specifically for this purpose.

**MARKING THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY of the CHURCH BUILDING in 2018** A two-week Parish Mission has now been booked for **Lent 2018**, to be led by the Sion Community. Other events: Mass with the Archbishop in the summer, pilgrimage to Rome - autumn, parish meal, trip to Chelsea & the Tower in the footsteps of St Thomas More, Flower Festival and Tudor themed social event. Clearly, nothing happens without planning, we shall need a parish **Jubilee Action Group** to co-ordinate. Volunteers will be called for in due course... Meanwhile, the first artist's impression of the glass screen between font and porch can be seen in the porch. If this happens, St Thomas More will move from the porch, perhaps to where Our Lady is now and Our Lady move to the opposite side of the sanctuary where, with shortened pews, there will be much more space to pray at her shrine. What about the MRR kitchen? The heating? The exterior down pipes? The lighting? The floor? The side chapel? The curtain wall round Knoll Drive and Watercall Avenue? We can't do it all, so what shall we do? Ideas of costs for these various projects are being sought. **We have much to be thankful for: our marking of this anniversary should be joyous and lasting.**

**BEING A SERVER...** If you have made your first communion and can make a commitment to being at Mass, then **please be a server.** Young or old, male or female the servers' ministry enhances worship. Please see Malcom Pollard or one of the clergy to know more.

**THE HEATING IS ON – PLEASE KEEP THE HEAT IN..!** Please **make sure that all doors are kept shut** now the cold weather is here. **Thank you for doing this: it helps us all keep warm, helps the planet and helps our bank balance.**

**+ Weekly Events in the Margaret Roper Room +**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>TUESDAY SOCIETY:</b> 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. 'Game of Family Fortunes' in the MRR. <i>All welcome.</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>ADORATION PRAYER GROUP:</b> 1.30 p.m. in Chapel and 2.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. in the MRR. <i>All welcome.</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>EXTEND gentle exercise group:</b> 10.00 a.m. in MRR
<b>Friday</b>	<b>STEPPING STONES:</b> 1.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. Parents & Toddlers in MRR. <i>All welcome.</i>

**ARRANGING THE BAPTISM of BABIES & YOUNG CHILDREN**

Baptism is arranged by appointment. It usually happens at 12.15 p.m. on a Sunday **or** at either Sunday Mass. Parents should collect a form from one of the clergy **after Sunday Mass.** For the baptism of children over 4 and of adults see the parish priest.

**ARRANGING A WEDDING**

Please speak to one of the clergy in the first place. You will need a meeting with the Parish Priest to go through all that needs to be done. About six months' notice at least is desirable: but it's never too soon.

