



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 18 th DECEMBER 2016	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		YEAR A
SUNDAY 18th Dec <i>4th of ADVENT</i>	9.00 a.m. 5.30 – 5.50 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Mass & Baptism of Confession Mass	Gwen Molloy (Anniv) Mary Porter (Anniv)
Monday 19 th Dec <i>Advent Feria</i>	9.00 a.m. 7.00- 8.00 p.m.	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Hubert Hackett (RIP)
Tuesday 20 th Dec <i>Advent Feria</i>	9.00 a.m.	Mass	Michael Hammond (RIP)
Wednesday 21 st Dec <i>Advent Feria</i>	9.15 a.m. 12.00 p.m.	Mass <i>with St Thomas More School, all years</i> Mass	Thanksgiving for school term People of the Parish
Thursday 22 nd Dec <i>Advent Feria</i>	9.00 a.m.	Eucharistic Service	~
Friday 23 rd Dec <i>Advent Feria</i>	9.00 a.m.	Mass	Patrick McClean (Anniv)
Saturday 24 th Dec <i>Advent Feria</i>	9.00 a.m. 9.30-10.30 a.m. 9.40-10.20 a.m. 5.00 p.m. 11.30 p.m.	Mass Exposition, followed by Benediction Confession Family Vigil Mass Carol Service	Ellen O'Sullivan (RIP) Deceased of McClean family
SUNDAY 25th Dec <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	Midnight 9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	Mass of Midnight Mass of the Dawn Mass during the Day - <i>No 6pm Mass today</i> -	People of the Parish Mgr T Gavin (Anniv) M Nowlan (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 p 7 of THE PARISH MASS BOOK and READINGS on p 90

Sunday readings Cycle A, Psalter week 4

READERS: This Sunday: 9.00 a.m. Eve Hibberd & Judith Doherty 6.00 p.m. Caitlin McBride & Janet Ward
Christmas: 5pm J Etheridge & A Colby **M'night** J Doherty & M Porter **9am** R Hickingbotham & D Middleton **11am** B Cunningham & P Jenkins
LAST SUNDAY: Main Collection: £1000.30 **Second Collection:** Father Hudson's Care: £727.47
This Sunday: Retiring Collection: CAFOD World Gifts catalogues are widely available round the church
Next Sunday: The Christmas Offering, the gift of the people to their priests **MANY THANKS for all that you give in time, money & effort**

Sunday's Readings on p 90 of the Parish Mass Book...

King Ahab trembles with fear for he lacks faith—and that same lack means he refuses to ask God for a sign, even though he is urged to by the prophet. So God will give a sign anyway, the sign of the Virgin giving birth to the Saviour. How generously this sign is given in God's good time, when Our Lady in perfect obedience to the Father's will, becomes the Mother of the Word made flesh. Today's Gospel tells us this story from Joseph's point of view. This "silent man of the Gospels" (not a word of his is recorded) accepts his role too, to be the guardian of his Immaculate wife and to raise her divine Son as his own. We do not know what things people said about the wisdom of the just man Joseph taking on a pregnant woman as his wife: but we do know that Mary and Joseph's obedience to God make possible the fulfilment of all that God has promised. They are the faithful couple through whom God's will is done for our salvation.



Fr Stephen

Unborn Son of Mary, Saviour do not tarry!

ADVENT – Come Lord Jesus!



DO STAY FOR TEA OR COFFEE AFTER MASS

RECENTLY DEPARTED: John Martin, Jane Hogan (*former Head of STM Primary*), Isabel Dow, Emrys Evans, Bridie Farrell, Margaret Delargey
ANNIVERSARIES: John Burnett, Mary Porter, James McDonnell, Maureen Archer, Sydney McSorley, Arthur Mahon, Elizabeth Mundy, Molly O'Donnell, Lila O'Sullivan, Richard O'Callaghan, Frederick McGovern, Emma Worley, Cecil Gardner, Edwin Palmer, Nancy Cresswell, Thomas McAvaddy, Samuel Maxwell, Karol Kokosz, Jeremiah Lynch, Ann Goode, Mary Byrne, James Jenkins, Anne Moriarty, Annie Dillon, Alice Bradley, Bernard Smits, Francis Berry, Jean Rock, Dorothy Apedaile, Ann Higgins, Anna Fernandez, Margaret Williamson, Theresa Costello, Gladys Digman, James Lamb, John Grace, Albert Traynor, Bridget Maugham, Grace McIver, Camelia Dimitri, Ninian King, Barbara Boffin and those 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: Caroline Fitzpatrick "Fitzs", Suzanne Martin, 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, Kaimie 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 Birth of the Saviour draws near. We welcome **Fiorella Mariani and her family today for the celebration of her baptism.** Today is a day of prayer for expectant mothers. Please pray for them and their unborn children.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS - each year our parish buys practical gifts to help people in developing nations to help themselves. There will be a **retiring collection after Mass TODAY.** Or place an order yourself from the catalogues available in church. Please see our virtual village on the display in church, on the wall on the confessional side of church. www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts. It is also possible to buy your own World Gift on line

CONFESSION BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN THE PARISH Sun evenings before Mass: 5.30-5.50pm Sat mornings after Mass: 9.40-10.20am

THANK YOU to the parish **SVP** and the **mini-Vinnies** for their hard work providing a great Christmas lunch for elderly members of the parish.

CHRISTMAS MASSES will be as previously. 24th Dec **5pm** Family Vigil Mass, 25th Dec **12 Midnight** Mass (carols at 11.30), **9am** and **11am**. ***Please note that there will NOT be a 6pm Mass on Christmas Day. No 6pm Mass on Christmas Day.***

SOUTH COVENTRY CHURCHES CHRISTMAS CARDS Please help deliver these cards to the surrounding streets. List at the back of Church.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND CHRISTMAS If it suits you and those to whom you take Communion to do that on Christmas Eve rather than Christmas Day, please arrange to do so if you can collect the Blessed Sacrament at the 9am Mass on Saturday. Thank you for your ministry.

SERVERS AND ST STEPHEN'S DAY Please come to Mass on St Stephen's Day (Mon 26th 10am) so that we may, give thanks for your ministry, pray for you, present medals and socialise over a few drinks and nibbles afterwards in the MRR. Parents, family and friends welcome of course!

ALL MASSES IN CHRISTMAS WEEK will be at 10am, Monday to Saturday inclusive.

THE FUNERAL MASS OF EMRYS EVANS will be at **10am on Friday 30th December.** Please continue to pray for him, for Mary and his family.

THANK YOU to all who are and will be working hard to get things ready for Christmas in Church – cleaners, decorators, tree putter-uppers, the crib builders, musicians, servers, singers and all of course who come to pray.

MASSES NOW LIVESTREAMED TO THE INTERNET Thanks to the generosity of a parishioner, we have been put live on line at no cost to the parish. There is a link from our website to <http://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-thomas-morecoventry/>. Anyone with access to the internet may now see and hear all Masses offered in the main church which we hope may be enjoyed by the sick and housebound. Only the sanctuary is 'in shot'.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? The 'Footsteps in Faith Group' is on a Christmas break to return in January. See Fr Stephen

RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS FROM CHRISTMAS BAZAAR List of prize winners available in the porch and on noticeboards.

WORKCARE Coventry & Warwickshire is an ecumenical Christian organisation providing workplace chaplaincy and support to those in and seeking work. It is seeking a lay or ordained person to develop its work, salary £20-30K. See www.workcare.org

THE PARISH WEBSITE has been updated and includes the weekly sheet and a lot of other information. See stmco.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 ♪♪

PARISH SHOP - Christmas cards, Nativity sets, Miniature Nativity sets, the Diocesan Directory (yearbook), calendars and diaries are all available

100 Winners: 1st: £20 Lorraine Stanton **2nd: £10** Mr & Mrs Duggan **3rd: £8** Nicola Attridge **4th: £7** Mrs O'Brien **5th: £5** Claire Webb **6th: £4** Amanda-Jane Erne *Congratulations to all*

MARKING THE 50th 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.***

IF YOU ARE AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS may the Infant Christ bless you wherever you are. May you travel safely and return refreshed

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

Tuesday **TUESDAY SOCIETY:** Next meeting: 17th January 2017

Wednesday **ADORATION PRAYER GROUP:** 1.30 p.m. in Chapel and 2.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. in the MRR. *All welcome.*

Thursday **EXTEND gentle exercise group:** 10.00 a.m. in MRR

Friday **STEPPING STONES:** Next meeting early next term

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.

