



ST THOMAS MORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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

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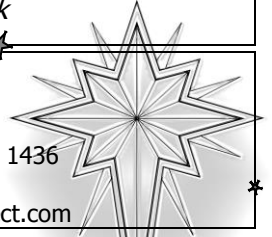
WEB: WWW stmcov.org and on TWITTER: @StThosMore

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 25th DECEMBER 2016 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD YEAR A

SUNDAY 25 th Dec <i>Nativity of the Lord</i>	5.00pm Eve Midnight 9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	Family Vigil Mass of Christmas Mass of Midnight, carols from 1130 Mass of the Dawn Mass during the Day - No 6pm Mass today -	Dec'd of the McClean Family People of the Parish Mgr T Gavin (Anniv) M Nowlan (Anniv) *
Monday 26 th Dec <i>St Stephen</i>	10.00 a.m.	Mass *	Frank Roberts (Mem Mass)
Tuesday 27 th Dec <i>St John</i>	10.00 a.m.	Eucharistic Service *	~
Wednesday 28 th Dec <i>Holy Innocents</i>	10.00 a.m.	Mass *	Jean Davenport (Anniv)
Thursday 29 th Dec <i>St Thomas Becket</i>	10.00 a.m. *	Mass *	Pat Hackett (RIP) *
Friday 30 th Dec <i>Holy Family</i>	10.00 a.m.	Requiem Mass	Emrys Evans RIP
Saturday 31 st Dec <i>Seventh Day Christmas Octave</i>	10.00 a.m.	Mass *	Mary & John Murray (Anniv)
SUNDAY 1 st Jan <i>Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God</i>	9.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Mass * Mass *	Betty King (Anniv) Sean & Margaret Gallagher (RIP) *

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 93, 98, 101, 103

Sunday readings Cycle A, Psalter week 1

READERS: 5pm J Etheridge & A Colby **M'night** J Doherty & M Porter **9am** R Hickingbotham & D Middleton **11am** B Cunningham & P Jenkins

Next Sunday: 9.00 a.m. Judy Freeman & Blaise Hughes-O'S 6.00 p.m. Hannah McBride & Geraldine Clarkson

LAST SUNDAY: Main Collection: £1023.97 **Retiring Collection:** CAFOD World Gifts: £622.56 *

This 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 93, 98, 101, 103 of the Parish Mass Book... * *

CHRISt draws near: the Maiden is with child! Our Lady's obedience to God's will makes possible the Incarnation, God Himself given human flesh in her womb. As God dwelt with His people in the Temple of the Old Testament so today we rejoice in how He becomes one of us and dwells among us through Mary. The Christmas Masses each reflect a different part of the unfolding story of the birth of Jesus. At the Vigil Mass we hear how Joseph, at first wishing to end his engagement to Mary comes to see through a dream that her child has no human father but is the Saviour, the Son of God. At midnight, Jesus is born, the divide between earth and heaven, God and man, mysteriously shrinking as the Word becomes flesh. In the morning the first visitors arrive as the shepherds, told by the angels, hurry to greet their infant saviour. Finally, the Mass of the Day reflects on the great eternal mystery of God's love in sending the light of Christ, the Word, into our world to overcome the darkness of death and sin and bring new life and mercy. There is a lot to celebrate and a lot to thank God for.



THANK YOU for all your kind Christmas good wishes, cards, gifts and Christmas Offering. On behalf of Deacons Leo and Pat and myself, may **God bless you all in your celebration of the birth of His Son and have a Happy Christmas!**

Fr Stephen

Unto us is born a Son!

NO TEA OR COFFEE TODAY – normal service resumes in the New Year!

RECENTLY DEPARTED: John Martin, Jane Hogan, Isabel Dow, Emrys Evans, Bridie Farrell, Margaret Delargey **ANNIVERSARIES:** John Canning, Ann Moriarty, William Teppett, Francis Roberts, Michael Murphy, Patrick McClean, Michael Malone, Mary Hynes, Mgr Tom Gavin, Sarah & John Lyle, Ronald Pearson, Agnes McIlhone, Dennis Moran, Frances Phillips, Bridget Sheil, Douglas Sheffield, Elizabeth King, Angela Morris, James Nettleship, John Bromell, Bernard Moulding, Richard Gannon, Jim Clarkson, Kathleen Tarming, George Walsh, Timothy Quirke, Jean Davenport, Margaret Muldoon, Eleanor Elphick, Veronica Gaughan, Kenneth Lee, Edith Montgomery, Mary Harbourn, Mary Ryan, Grace Keighley, Cecelia Burr, John O'Donnell, Christine Selfe, David Rodger, Dorothy Leaver and all those 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: Caroline Fitzpatrick "Fitz", 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, 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, those for whom Christmas is a difficult time.

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

TODAY THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOUR! God's plan has come to pass, His promise is kept – for today a Saviour has been born to us! He is Christ the Lord! Glory to God in the highest! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SERVERS on 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, and no exposition this week.

CAITLIN MCBRIDE IS HOLDING A COFFEE MORNING with live music on **Thursday 29th December at 10:30-12:30** (straight after morning Mass) in the MRR. This is to fundraise for her community expedition to Costa Rica and Nicaragua in July 2018. Entrance is £3 which includes unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits. Cake will also be sold at 50p per slice - donations of cake also welcome!

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

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

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS – You can 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. It is also possible to buy your own World Gift on line www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts. Thank you for raising over £620 last week to help the world's poorest people support themselves.

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 in the main church which we hope may be enjoyed by the sick and housebound. Only the sanctuary is 'in shot'.

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

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

♪♪ **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 ♪♪

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.**

THANK YOU to everyone who has worked so hard for the parish's celebration of Christmas – servers, musicians, singers, cleaners, flower arrangers, linen washers, crib putters-up, decorators, tree erectors, readers, wardens. *So many of you deserve thanks for all that you do.*

I SAY, I SAY, I SAY.... What do you call a cross between Father Christmas and a shark? Santa Jaws! You know it's Christmas when you find a joke like that in your cracker, you're buying this year's presents with next year's money and everyone's getting all emotional about family ties – especially if they have to wear one...! **A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS!**

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

MAY THE CHRIST-CHILD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY THIS HOLY SEASON

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

Tuesday	TUESDAY SOCIETY: Next meeting: 17 th January 2017
Wednesday	ADORATION PRAYER GROUP: 1.30 p.m. in Chapel and 2.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. in the MRR. <i>All welcome.</i>
Thursday	EXTEND gentle exercise group: Next meeting in February 2017
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.

