



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
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Parish Administrator/Room Bookings: Amanda Kelly Tel: 024 7641 4473 email: amandafriswells@btconnect.com

SUNDAY 1st JANUARY 2017 SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD YEAR A

SUNDAY 1st Jan Mary, Mother of God	9.00 a.m.	Mass	Betty King (Anniv) ★
	6.00 p.m.	Mass	Sean & Margaret Gallagher (RIP) ★
Monday 2 nd Jan <i>Ss Basil & Gregory Nazianzen</i>	10.00 a.m.	Mass	Tony Armstrong (RIP) ★
Tuesday 3 rd Jan <i>Christmas feria</i>	9.00 a.m.	Mass	Bernadette Coley (3 rd Anniv)
Wednesday 4 th Jan <i>Christmas feria</i>	10.00 a.m.	Requiem Mass	James McCormick RIP
Thursday 5 th Jan <i>St Charles of St Andrew</i>	9.00 a.m.	Eucharistic Service	★ ~
Friday 6 th Jan <i>Christmas Feria</i>	9.00 a.m.	Mass	Special Ints Bernadette Armstrong (Sick)
Saturday 7 th Jan <i>Christmas Feria</i>	9.00 a.m. 9.30-10.30 a.m.	Mass Exposition and Benediction <i>No Confessions this morning</i>	Michael Brooks (B'day Anniv) ★
SUNDAY 8th Jan The Epiphany of the Lord	9.00 a.m. Confession 6.00 p.m.	Mass 5.30-5.50pm Mass	Charles Walter & Phyllis Smith (Anniv) Christina Fletcher (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 106

Sunday readings Cycle A, Psalter week 2

READERS: This Sunday: 9.00 a.m. Judy Freeman & Blaise H-O'Sullivan 6.00 p.m. Hannah McBride & Geraldine Clarkson
Next Sunday: 9.00 a.m. Rachel Hickingbotham & Rachel Thompson 6.00 p.m. John Burns & Andrew Colby

LAST SUNDAY: Last Sunday: Thank you for the generous Christmas offering and your Christmas good wishes.

MANY THANKS for all that you give in time, money & effort

Sunday's Readings on p 106 of the Parish Mass Book...

CHRISt IS BOTH SON OF GOD AND SON OF MARY. In keeping today's great feast we honour her who was honoured by God and we give glory to God for the incarnation. People sometimes ask how Mary can possibly be God's Mother. She is not the Mother of God the Father or the Holy Spirit of course, but of Jesus. Christianity teaches us that He is both God and Man at the same time: she is Mother of the whole Jesus not just a part! Through the birth of Christ, God's face has literally shone upon us, just as God told Moses in the prayer of blessing we read about today. God comes from Heaven to earth in human flesh that humans might be led from earth to Heaven clothed in glory. And in the Gospel we hear the scene of that arrival, that birth which seen with the eyes faith calls from us both contemplation (as Mary pondered in her heart) and praise of God (as the shepherds did as they returned to the hillside). What we have in Christ is God Himself, and in Mary, His Mother and ours. May God bless us all this New Year and Our Lady pray for us, that it may be a time of grace for everyone. **Happy New Year!**



Fr Stephen

January – Month of the Infant Jesus

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US...

PLEASE JOIN US FOR TEA OR COFFEE AFTER MASS

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Patricia Fowler, Richard Green, James McCormick, John Martin, Jane Hogan, Isabel Dow, Emrys Evans, Bridie Farrell, Margaret Delargey **ANNIVERSARIES:** James Norris, Daisy Taylor, Frank Turner, Thomas Armstrong, Leslie Lewis, Marcella Vallis, Agnes Hannigan, Martha Reilly, Bernard Hopkins, Ellen McAffer, Anne Higgins, Hellen Marie Dudzik, Marie Ainsworth, Mrs Kirwin, James Dempsey, Nora Dempsey, Geoffrey Sinclair, Margaret Patterson, Joseph Doran, Winifred Wild, Justin Perera, John Fox, Paul Murray, Christina Murphy, Grace Brennan, Philip Keen, Margaret Burley, Tim O'Keefe, Rupert Laverty, Mary O'Kane, Catherine Bland, May Meaney, Peter Barwell, James McPhillips, Dorothy Hamerton, Peter Kayes, Christopher Sloane, Margaret McCormack, Bridget Ferguson 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, 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, all who like Mary are Mothers, 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: HAPPY NEW YEAR! We begin every year by commending it to Our Lady as we celebrate her Motherhood. Mary is the Mother of God the Son – Jesus (and not the entire Holy Trinity of course!) – and is called this so as a reminder that her Son is both God and Man. From the first moment of His conception, Christ's dual nature is established. In giving birth to Jesus Mary gives birth to Him in both His humanity (drawn from her) and His divinity (as the second Person of the Holy Trinity). *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death!*

TOMORROW BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY Mass will be at **10am**. Usual times for the rest of the week.

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP - the next meeting of the parish group will be **Monday 9th Jan 2017 7:45pm** in the JP2 room. All welcome.

PATRICIA FOWLER'S FUNERAL MASS will take place at 10am on Tuesday 10th January. Please pray for her and her family.

JOHN MARTIN'S FUNERAL MASS will take place at 11am on Wednesday 11th January. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS – your contributions raised over £622! Thank you! Thanks also to the Justice & Peace Group for organising this. They are always ready to welcome new members. See Kris Pears or Kevin Duffy or Janet Ward or go along to their next meeting on 9th (as above).

HEADSHIP VACANCY – St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Cannock Governors are seeking to appoint a new Headteacher from 1st Sept 2017 and would be pleased to meet people who would be both excited by and attracted to the position. Details of the position are available on www.eteach.com or www.wmjobs.com Alternatively, details can be had from the school (Tel 01543 501380). Visits to the school are welcome.

THANK YOU to everyone who served, sang, played, cleaned, decorated, arranged, set up, put away, read, 'wardened' or did anything else that contributed to our celebration of this holy season. **Thank you all!** The amount of work that goes on is huge and the results very pleasing.

MASSES NOW LIVESTREAMED TO THE INTERNET Thanks to the generosity of a parishioner, we have been put live online 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'. Please help anyone who needs help to access this if you can.

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

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 now 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 ♪♪

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.**

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!
MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND OUR LADY, MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR YOU THROUGHOUT 2017**

+ **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: baptisms never too soon.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God!



St Joseph, pray for us!