



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 8th JANUARY 2017 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR A

SUNDAY 8 th Jan <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	9.00 a.m. 5.30-5.50 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Mass Confession Mass	Charles Walter & Phyllis Smith (Anniv) Christina Fletcher (RIP)
Monday 9 th Jan BAPTISM OF THE LORD	10.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Mass Reception into Church of Patricia Fowler	Ann-Christine Murray (Thanksgiving (B'day))
Tuesday 10 th Jan <i>Feria</i>	10.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Requiem Mass Reception into Church of John Martin	Patricia Fowler RIP
Wednesday 11 th Jan <i>Feria</i>	11.00 a.m.	Requiem Mass	John Martin RIP
Thursday 12 th Jan <i>Feria</i>	9.00 a.m.	Eucharistic Service	~
Friday 13 th Jan <i>Feria</i>	9.00 a.m.	Mass	Deceased of Hedgecox family
Saturday 14 th Jan <i>Feria</i>	9.00 a.m. 9.30-10.30 a.m. 9.40-10.20	Mass Exposition and Benediction Confession	The Lenihan family (RIP)
SUNDAY 15 th Jan <i>The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00 a.m. 5.30-5.50 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Mass Confession Mass	Margaret & Ron Rutter (Anniv) Margaret & Sean Gallagher (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 115

Sunday readings Cycle A, Psalter week 3

READERS: This Sunday: 9.00 a.m. Rachel Hickingbotham & Rachel Thompson 6.00 p.m. John Burns & Andrew Colby

Next Sunday: 9.00 a.m. Marissa Gunn & Debbie Middleton 6.00 p.m. Sheila Browne & Brendon Cunningham

LAST SUNDAY: Main Collection: £985.25

Next Sunday: Second Collection: Pax Christi **MANY THANKS for all that you give in time, money & effort**

Sunday's Readings on p 115 of the Parish Mass Book...

JESUS'S BIRTH is, unsurprisingly since He is God the Son, accompanied by many signs and wonders. Today, we celebrate the arrival of the mysterious Magi who come to offer Him symbolic gifts of gold (for a king), frankincense (for God) and myrrh (for death). They set out to worship Him for they know by the shining of a particular star that a new king is born. But reflect for a moment: these may have been wise and rich men but what are they doing? They set out on a long and therefore hazardous journey because of a *star*. Nothing else: they have faith in its power to lead. They do not know where that journey will end nor quite who they will find. They seek help from the local king, Herod, who—consumed with jealousy—gives them bad advice that would have meant the death of the Child they came to honour. They arrive, present the gifts and worship, and then—believing their dreams—have to deceive Herod and go the long way home. The journey of these men is not recorded for us just so we hear a pretty story. They *are* us. Every Christian is a traveller, a follower of Jesus. We follow by faith. Some would discourage us or give us misleading advice. God speaks to us by signs and wonders. And, if we persevere, at the end of journey is Jesus who will expect not gold, frankincense or myrrh but, as the carol has it, our hearts. None of us needs to arrive empty handed therefore, and none of us needs worry that our best gift, that is ourselves, will ever be refused.



Fr Stephen

January – Month of the Infant Jesus

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO STAY FOR TEA OR COFFEE AFTER MASS



RECENTLY DEPARTED: Angela, Michael Green, Dolores Hefferman, Patricia Fowler, Richard Green, James McCormick, John Martin, Jane Hogan, Isabel Dow, Emrys Evans, Bridie Farrell, Margaret Delargey **ANNIVERSARIES:** William Wild, Patrick Cahill, Anne Bowman, Charles Kenney, Patrick Browne, Teresa Walton, Winifrede Jackson, Denise Hannigan, Charles Dowson, Gertrude Dowson, Nora Malley, Pauline Wood, Thomas Wright, Alan Smethurst, Ann Dunphy, Elizabeth Byrne, Ann Smith, John Walls, Mary Berryman, Ernest Rushton, Elsie Flinn, Benjamin Thomason, Ronald Rutter, Patrick Galvin, Joseph Dolan, Michael Mahoney, Peter Clooney, Mary Vineall, Phyllis Smith, Christina Kelly, Daniel Crilly, Richard Clements, Lynn Allen, Fr Alfred Rogers, Kathleen Molloy 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: Betty Carr, 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 Hefferman, 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 Budkiewiez, 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 EPIPHANY. Christ is made known to the peoples of the world through the visit of the mysterious Magi from the East. Their gifts have great meaning and their faith is clear. They make a long journey guided by only a star to a place they do not know to worship God made man. May the light of faith keep guiding us throughout 2017, to keep us always near Christ and His Mother.

MASS INTENTIONS: As we start another year, please bear in mind when requesting Masses for Anniversaries etc. that at least FOUR months' notice is required because demand can be very great. Masses are booked on a 'first come, first served' basis – there is always a chance that someone else has chosen a date first. Every effort is made to offer Masses on or near the requested date. If several dates are acceptable please give them.

NEW TERM Best wishes to all *students and pupils* returning to university or school about now, and to *all who teach* returning to work.

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

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? The 'Footsteps in Faith Group' was on a Christmas break to return on **Weds Jan 11th 7pm.**

NEXT SUNDAY is the **SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.** It is also designated as **PEACE SUNDAY**, a day to pray for world peace.

THE FUNERAL MASS OF MICHAEL GREEN will take place on Monday 16th January at 9.30am. Please pray for him and his family

♪♪ **JAM 'N' CAKE: 7 - 8.30 pm on Tuesday 24th January, 7th March and 11th April** 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!** ♪♪

FATHER HUDSON'S 113TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BALL Saturday 18th February 2017 from 7.30 p.m. – 1.00 a.m. at National Conference Centre, Birmingham. Tickets from £39.50. Please see poster in porch.

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 510380). Visits to the school are welcome.

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', plus the ends of the first three rows. **Please help anyone who needs help to access this if you can.**

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

MARKING THE 50th ANNIVERSARY of the CHURCH BUILDING in 2018

So far, a **two-week Parish Mission** has been booked for **Lent 2018**, to be led by the Sion Community. Other possible events will need planning and organising: Mass with the Archbishop, 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 are all real possibilities. Clearly, nothing happens without planning, we shall need a parish **Jubilee Action Group** to co-ordinate, plan and help generate ideas. Meanwhile, the first artist's impression of the glass screen between front 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.** **Thank you for doing this: it helps us all keep warmer, helps the planet and helps our bank balance.** The heating struggles in the depths of winter and although the boiler is only a few years old, the wall heaters, their fans and motors are not. And our ceiling is very, very high! Plus, the church building being nearly 50 years old is by modern standards completely uninsulated (installing it in such a large building would be a truly massive project). So once the heat has escaped through any open doors it takes ages to heat the building up once more. **Thank you.**

+ 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:** Next meeting in February 2017

Friday **STEPPING STONES:** Next meeting soon

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.



As with joyful steps they sped...

To that lowly manger-bed...