

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH, CANLEY
 This parish is part of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No. 234216
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 TWITTER: @StThosMore FACEBOOK: @StThosMore

A Parish of the Coventry Catholic Deanery: www.coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk
 LIVESTREAM WEBCAM www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-thomas-morecoventry/

29th NOVEMBER 2020
 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GOVERNMENT LOCKDOWN: THERE CAN BE NO PUBLIC MASS

THE
 LORD
 IS
 COMING
 GO OUT
 TO MEET
 HIM!



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

ALL MASSES ARE AVAILABLE LIVE ON THE WEBCAM

SUNDAY 29th 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Emrys Evans RIP (Anniv) / Frederick & Margery Woodward RIP
Monday 30th <i>St Andrew, Ap</i>	Mass (Livestream) <i>No Exposition today</i>	9.00 a.m.	John & Mary Murray RIP
Tuesday 1st Dec <i>St Edmund Campion, P & M</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Ailish Sexton RIP
Wednesday 2nd <i>Advent feria</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	John Curristan RIP
Thursday 3rd <i>St Francis Xavier, P</i>	Mass (Livestream from SJW: click here)	10.00 a.m.	~
Friday 4th <i>Advent feria</i>	Mass (Public), 30 mins of Exposition & Benediction	9.00 a.m.	Margaret Jones RIP
Saturday 5th <i>St Birinus, Bp</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Doreen Archer
	Vigil Mass (Public)	5.00 p.m.	The People of the Parish
SUNDAY 6th Dec 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Mass (Public)	9.00 a.m.	Tom Falconer RIP / Benny Kelly RIP

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Stephen Day Tel: 024 7641 1900 stmcov@gmail.com
PARISH DEACONS: Rev Mr Leo Poole Tel: 024 7641 9731 leo.poole@talk21.com
 Rev Mr Pat Jeary Retired
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & ROOM BOOKINGS: Amanda Kelly Tel: 024 7641 4473
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www.st-thomasmore.coventry.sch.uk
SAFEGUARDING REPS: Claire Rutter Tel: 024 7641 2535
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Long ago, prophets knew,
 Christ would come, born a Jew,
 Come to make all things new...

ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND

- **1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT.** A new Church year begins as we start this season of expectant waiting. It is now Year B, the year of Mark's Gospel.
- **PLEASE USE THE PARISH WEBCAM** [here](#) to join Masses and Exposition.
- **GIVING TO THE PARISH**
Please do one of these four things as you can:
 1. **Use a standing order.** You can donate by **standing order**, there is a link to a form on the website, on the [Parish & Coronavirus](#) page. Complete the top part, post to the Presbytery.
 2. **Give online via the Diocesan Website** Go to www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work Enter personal details on the first box, click next, then select 'Coventry Styvechale' from the drop down list of parishes, the third box is for card details.
 3. **Put your offering through the Presbytery letterbox**
 4. **Keep your offering until you can return****THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GIVING! Many things are now suspended but our bills certainly aren't...**
- **IF YOU HAVE THE INTERNET, we are on -**
WEBSITE: <https://stmcov.org/>
TWITTER: @StThosMore
FACEBOOK: @StThosMore
This newsletter is posted on the website every week. Print a copy for any parishioners you can safely get them to who have no internet. Our dedicated [Parish & Coronavirus](#) website page is updated regularly.
The parish [webcam](#) is on and shows *every* Mass and other worship in church as it happens.

THIS WEEK

THE LOCKDOWN ENDS ON WEDNESDAY

Coventry will be in Tier 3, the highest tier, when lockdown finishes. Public worship is able to resume and we do so on Friday at 9am, picking up our pre-lockdown routine of that and the Saturday 5.00pm Vigil mass and Sunday at 9.00am. We must keep to all the guidelines, just as before, and we owe the volunteer cleaners and stewards a huge **thank you** for making public worship possible. Please do not forget to sanitise, cover mouth and nose and maintain 1 metre social distance (that's three feet in old money!).

PRAYING AT 6PM EACH DAY: PANDEMIC

We may do this in any brief way we choose, such as an Angelus, or use something provided by our **Life in the Spirit** prayer group. Sign of the Cross, silence, a psalm of praise (103 or 29 or 24 for example), pray in your own words guided by the Spirit, end with the prayer to St Michael.

FRIDAY

Public Mass at 9.00am followed by half an hour of Exposition and Benediction.

NEXT WEEKEND

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

**Public Masses: Vigil Mass Saturday 5.00pm
Sunday 9.00am**

Second Collection: Poor Parishes Fund

COMING SOON **ADVENT 2020**

FRATELLI TUTTI: POPE FRANCIS WRITES

We plan Advent sessions on the Pope's latest encyclical. A shared event with St Joseph the Worker parish which will be facilitated by Fr Peter Conley. Wednesday evenings at 6.30 on the St Joseph's webcam here

FLOWERS FOR CHURCH

Thanks to all who have donated or arranged flowers. There will of course be no flowers for Advent, which begins today, but we shall need some for Christmas, of course! We thank Mary for the Advent wreath. **Thank you**

CHRISTMAS...

Whatever happens, we may be certain that Christmas in all churches this year will **not be normal**. Please don't expect it to be in these very abnormal times. Of course we still celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and of course that birth still brings hope, joy and salvation. Nothing at all can ever change that. *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

But, in beginning to plan, we do so with huge uncertainty and no way of knowing how many people to expect. It will be very easy to get things 'wrong' and have too many Masses or be turning people away at the door. Someone's 'favourite' Mass time will not be happening. And this is all set against a background of no singing, no socialising, open windows and shut toilets. **We thank in advance all our volunteers** without whom we could have no public Masses at all.

The **5pm** can not be the Christmas Vigil Family Mass without singing, the children taking part in the homily and gathering round the crib, but none of those things can happen this year. We are therefore making plans for a special Livestream alternative. There will not be a Mass at Midnight, but at **8pm** instead. Our volunteers deserve to be able to be at home in the small hours. We fully expect **9am Mass on Christmas Day**. We are further constrained by the need not to have Masses at the same times as St Joseph's, because if either Fr Stephen or Fr Peter is isolating or ill, one priest can say all the Masses without last minute alterations.

Please bear with us and pray for an end to the pandemic that makes everything so difficult.

There is of course a possibility that Government restrictions may change. **Watch this space!**

HELPING CARRIERS OF HOPE

Please visit <http://www.carriersofhope.org.uk/help-us/> to see the ways in which we may help in this time of pandemic. The Carriers are still working hard to support refugees and others in great need at the moment. Please visit their website.

FINANCE... Main Collection: not known at time of printing.

Thank you for all that you give in time, money or effort.

In 2019 it cost £1571 a week to run the parish '18 £1669 '17 £1503 '16 £1589 '15 £1510 '14 £1966



The Sunday Readings

Advent is not just four weeks of pretending it's already Christmas nor is it the time for shepherds and Wise Men. Advent is a season given to us by the Church and has a character all its own. The Church calls us to reflect on the comings—in the plural—of Christ: as the Word made flesh at Bethlehem, as the Saviour at the end of time, and in the meanwhile as the one who comes to us on our altars, in his word, in each other and in the needy. Having come among us that first time, Christ is able to come to us again and again. Are we prepared for his coming on the altar, let alone for his coming at the end of time? Consequently, the scriptures for Advent remind us of all those who waited and prepared for the first coming of Christ—the patriarchs, prophets, John the Baptist and Our Lady. For the likes of Jeremiah and his hearers, the coming of the Saviour would have seemed a remotely distant but wonderful event—much like the second coming might seem to us today. But God keeps His promises, and generations who believed His word revealed through the prophets lived in faith and hope: the Saviour indeed came. And just as Jesus came as the infant Christ, so He will come again. Until that day comes, we in turn are called to wait in faith and hope, so that like the patriarchs, prophets, John the Baptist and Our Lady we too shall be ready. Many would have passed the stable at Bethlehem unaware of the great event within, and unprepared for Christ's ministry among them. No one will be unaware of the second coming—may we not fail to *be prepared* for it!

PARISH JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP

The **parish J&P** group is working on writing cards for prisoners of conscience, as we do each Advent, using information on the internet. We shall be asked to write a card at home and send. Details soon.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

The parish supports CAFOD World Gifts every Advent by special collections. Clearly, this year will limit how many are able to contribute. Please consider buying World Gift direct from CAFOD at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>. It's supporting the world's poor that matters so please help direct if you are not able to contribute in church in the usual way.

FOR THE DEPARTED...

O GOD, who willed that your only-begotten Son, having conquered death, should pass over into the realm of heaven, grant, we pray, to your departed servants that, with the mortality of this life overcome, they may gaze eternally on you, their Creator and Redeemer. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen



CHRISTMAS CARDS CHARITY SUPPORT

It is impossible for us to open the piety shop safely under Covid regulations, so we are unfortunately unable to sell Christmas Cards this year (or indeed almost anything else). Please make use of other charitable cards from such great charities as:

Aid to the Church in Need acnuk.org/ helping persecuted Christians

CAFOD cafod.org.uk/ helping the worlds' poor
Friends of the Holy Land friendsofthe-holyland.org.uk/ supporting Palestinian Christians

Pax Christi paxchristi.org.uk/ working to end war and violence.

If you're reading this on the internet these blue links will take you directly to the website. Just click!

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE STRUGGLING TO AFFORD FOOD?

Find out how to receive help from a foodbank **and** how to support one by visiting—
coventry.foodbank.org.uk

ADVENT PARISH ART PROJECT

Make a star!

Use anything you choose, use any technique you like!

Size—A6 to A4 colour—you decide. The individual stars will form a larger star pointing the way to Christmas and the birth of Jesus

★ Hand your star in to the Presbytery or 52 Leamington Road by **12 Dec**

★ See **parish website for full details and ideas** stmcov.org

We didn't know there would be yet another lockdown when this was announced. Let's make it as successful as the first one! ☆

**Lo, He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain**

For Your Prayers...

THE SICK & SUFFERING: June Phee, Sabrina O'Connor, Sarah Chaplin, Moira Steeley, Elene Gunn, Pauline Cullinane, Margaret Young, Helen Chadwick, Baby Theo, Catherine Brookes, David Warr, Maureen Pearson, Anne, Hilary Hanson, Maria Vaz, Maisie Reddon, Rose Green, Hayden Gilks, Mya, Phil Sheridan, Israel Mcleod, Rev Patrick Jeary, Eileen Connolly, Anne Kenny, John Walker, Liam Mee, Helen McDonnell, Teresa Mellon, Carl Smith, Roy Haslam, Beatrice Upham, Felix Rooney, John & Jeanne Gould, William Begley, Kitty Budkiewicz.

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

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Oscar Owen, Mary D'arcy, John Curristan, James Conroy, Stephen Cole, Angela Cook, Gerry Higginbotham

ANNIVERSARIES: William Horton, Mary Taylor, Dennis Hands, Andrew Reilly, Cornelius De-lahunty, Mary Townsend, Joseph Loughran, Mary Blackwell, Vincent Duff, Joseph Brown, Joseph Flis, Mary Ullah, Rozalia Koltun, Josephine Harrison **Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them**

- The victims of Coronavirus, for medical staff, for research into a vaccine and for the end of the pandemic, for our leaders and the scientists who advise them
- A reverence for God's voice in Holy Scripture
- Those who suffer because of lockdown

COME LORD JESUS!

LIVESTREAM SUNDAY MASSES ACROSS THE TWO PARISHES OF ST THOMAS MORE & ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

Sunday Mass 9.00am STM
Sunday Mass 10.45am SJW
Sunday Warwick Univ Mass 12.30 SJW

THE PARISH IS ONLINE...

FACEBOOK: @StThosMore

TWITTER: @StThosMore

WEBSITE: stmcov.org

WEBCAM: via website

PLEASE VISIT, LIKE AND FOLLOW

I say, I say, I say...

Q. What's a religious insomniac?

A. Someone who just can't sleep all the way through the homily!



Boom boom!

THE CELEBRATIONS

LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

- **Public Mass, Prayers and any form of worship** is once again suspended. Churches may be open for private prayer, with the obligation to sanitise, give track & trace details, wear face coverings, keep at least a metre apart, with stewards supervising and volunteers cleaning afterwards.
- **Baptism** may be celebrated in an emergency only, which would not be in church
- **Confession** may be celebrated out doors, in a public space, maintaining social distancing.
- **Weddings** are currently suspended, unless one spouse is in danger of death
- **Funerals** may take place in church, under the restrictions applying before lockdown: no more than 30 present, all giving track & trace details, wearing face masks, keeping 1 metre apart, sanitising, with stewards supervising and volunteers cleaning .
- **Emergency pastoral care** is still available of course.

EMERGENCIES

Pastoral care in emergencies **remains available under lockdown:** the dying may still be anointed, babies in danger of death may still be baptised. In such cases, the room should be ventilated and social distancing should be observed if at all possible. PPE should be worn by the priest and face coverings by all.

Contact Fr Stephen.

DON'T ASSUME HE ALREADY KNOWS ABOUT A PROBLEM

BETTER TO BE TOLD TWICE THAN NOT AT ALL!