

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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 PHONE: 024 7641 1900 E-MAIL: stmcov@gmail.com



WEB: www.stmcov.org
 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/

6th DECEMBER 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
The church has a hearing loop system



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

ALL MASSES ARE AVAILABLE LIVE ON THE [WEBCAM](#)

SUNDAY 6th 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Public Vigil Mass	5.00 p.m.	People of the Parish
	Public Mass	9.00 a.m.	Tom Falconer RIP / Benny Kelly RIP
Monday 7th <i>St Ambrose</i>	Mass (Livestream), Exposition & Benediction	6.00 p.m.	Michael Kapusta (Mem Mass)
Tuesday 8th Immaculate Conception <i>of BVM</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Baby Eimer Griffiths (Sick) / Angela Cook (RIP)
Wednesday 9th <i>Advent feria</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Emma Ford (RIP) / Alan Rushton (RIP)
Thursday 10th <i>Advent feria</i>	Mass (Livestream from SJW: click here)	10.00 a.m.	~
Friday 11th <i>Advent feria</i>	Public Mass, 30 mins of Exposition & Benediction	9.00 a.m.	Blair O'Shea (RIP)
Saturday 12th <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	People of the Parish
SUNDAY 13th 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Public Vigil Mass	5.00 p.m.	Vaz & Texeira Family
	Public Mass	9.00 a.m.	David & Patricia Rodgers (Mem Mass)

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev Fr Stephen Day

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PARISH DEACONS:

Rev Mr Leo Poole

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Rev Mr Pat Jeary

Retired

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR &

Amanda Kelly

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www.st-thomasmore.coventry.sch.uk

SAFEGUARDING REPS:

Claire Rutter

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GIFT AID CO-ORDINATOR:

Tony Curristan

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Hark, a herald voice is calling, Christ is near it seems to say,
 Cast away the dreams of darkness, O you children of the day.

IF YOU HAVE TOUCHED THIS SHEET IN CHURCH, PLEASE TAKE IT AWAY

THIS WEEKEND

- **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Second Collection:** Poor Parishes Fund

- **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 in 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

Coventry is in Tier 3, the highest tier of Covid-19 restrictions and churches are allowed to be open. **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.**

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS

We have many available: some are on the pews please take. If you need more please ask. Hygiene means we must not leave piles of them out.

PRAYING AT 6PM EACH DAY: PANDEMIC

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.

TUESDAY

The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.

Mass will be livestreamed at 9am. From the first moment of her existence within her own mother, Anne, Mary is marked out as the fitting first dwelling place of her divine Son, Jesus Christ.

WEDNESDAY

FRATELLI TUTTI: POPE FRANCIS WRITES

A shared event with St Joseph the Worker parish led by Fr Peter Conley. Wednesday evenings at 6.30 on the St Joseph's webcam [here](#)

FRIDAY

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

NEXT WEEKEND

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Public Masses are—Vigil Mass of Sunday, Saturday 5.00pm and Sunday 9.00am

COMING SOON

CHRISTMAS 2020

Whatever happens, we may be certain that **Christmas in all churches this year will not be normal** thanks to the pandemic restrictions. Please don't expect it to be normal 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!*

Christmas Eve

5pm Livestream Mass with Music & Carols *This will be an opportunity to join in the prayers and the carols at home. Our musicians are working hard to make this possible. If this Mass were to be public there could be no music, and the children would not be able to help with the homily or visit the crib as usual*

8pm Early 'Midnight' Public Mass *We can't expect our wonderful volunteers to clean at 1am!*

Christmas Day

9.00am Public Mass

All the usual Covid restrictions will apply to Christmas public Masses.

In order to prevent any over crowding we shall be **running a booking system both online and by phone or letter**. Give you name, phone number and number of people coming (you may be booking for your family, for example). You cannot be booked without giving a phone number. Don't forget that there is currently **no obligation to be at Mass on Sundays or Holy Days. The Church has suspended that**. Please don't book for more than one Mass: leave that space so that another may attend. Online booking here—remember that if you read this online, clicking on blue text will take you to the site directly.

8pm Eve <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-day-early-midnight-mass-tickets-130874811083>

9am Day <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-day-mass-tickets-130878829101>

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

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE: LETTERS

Clearly, we cannot this year support the **parish J&P** group's writing to prisoners of conscience by gathering after Mass. There are details of people made to suffer for their beliefs on the parish website [here](#) who may be supported by a simple Christmas card.

FINANCE... Main Collection: £1604 (for the 4 weeks of lockdown)

Thank you for all that you give in time, money or effort, especially in these difficult times
In 2019 it cost £1571 a week to run the parish '18 £1669 '17 £1503 '16 £1589 '15 £1510 '14 £1966



The Sunday Readings

Isaiah prophesies the coming of God among His people and calls on them to prepare His way, to make paths straight and fill the valleys level. In other words, take away all the obstacles that stand in the way of God's triumphal arrival—the crooked paths of hatred and selfishness, the valleys of despair and violence. So, in today's Gospel we meet the messenger who proclaims this warning, John the Baptist. John stands both at the end of the line of prophets who foretold Christ's coming and also at the head of those who actually bear witness to Him. The Lord is very near and John announces that He is among His people who must be ready. So, the crowds flock to John to confess their sins and receive John's baptism to straighten crooked ways and level the pitted ground of past sin. John thus bridges the Old and New Testaments and brings Isaiah's urgent message into the present age.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

The parish supports CAFOD World Gifts every Advent by special collections. Clearly, this year how many are able to contribute will be limited. Please consider buying World Gift direct from CAFOD at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>. Please help directly if you are not able to contribute in church in the usual way. There is also information on the parish website [here](#).

WHY IS THE CHURCH COLD? TO BE SAFE!

Ventilation is an important way of reducing the transmission of Covid-19. Therefore, the windows and doors are open and this will make it cold. The heating barely copes with shut windows so it is pointless using it with open doors and windows.

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 December at the latest!

See parish website for full details and ideas stmcov.org



PUBLIC MASS:

WHAT WE MUST AND WHAT WE MUST NOT DO!
TO MINIMISE THE RISK TO ONE ANOTHER UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AT EVERY MASS THESE RESTRICTIONS HAVE TO APPLY
On entering, you will have been asked for your name and phone number so that we can assist the NHS Track & Trace system OR use the NHS Covid-19 app on your smart phone to scan the QR code in the porch

The Congregation MUST—

- ◆ Wear a **FACE COVERING** over **nose AND mouth** and stay **1.5m apart** unless you are in the same household. **Face coverings** are now compulsory in many places including church. Please keep your distance at Communion. **Without a face covering** we must stay **2m (6 feet)** distant from those not in our household
- ◆ **SANITISE HANDS** on entry and exit.
- ◆ **FOLLOW SIGNS and follow the stewards' directions. Please do not insist on a particular seat.** We need to fill the church in sequence to see how many seats are left. We need to fill each pew to save cleaning. Volunteers are grateful for your co-operation—it reduces their work.
- ◆ Recognise that the **sacristy** and rooms behind the sanctuary **are for clergy only**
- ◆ Be aware that the **toilets are out of use**
During Mass there can be NO...
- ◆ Readers, servers, musicians nor extraordinary Eucharistic ministers
- ◆ Children's liturgy, Bidding Prayers nor Holy Water
- ◆ Collection bags nor Offertory procession
- ◆ Physical sign of peace nor votive candles lit
- ◆ Parish Missals, hymn books, news sheets given out, pamphlets, prayer cards or any other papers left about for rummaging through, nor singing
- At Holy Communion, PLEASE DO...**
- ◆ Follow stewards' directions and **KEEP APART**
- ◆ Queue in single file only, move forward not back
- ◆ Receive Communion in silence, hands outstretched
- ◆ Move to side, remove mask, consume, mask on
Please TAKE NO CHANCES in coming IF...
- ◆ You have a serious health condition
- ◆ You feel ill or are convalescing
- ◆ You have a sick family member at home
- ◆ You have any cold or flu-like symptoms
- ◆ You think you have been exposed to Covid-19
- Afterwards...**
- ◆ Please leave as stewards direct you, no grouping
- ◆ Sanitise your hands as you leave
- ◆ The church has to be cleaned by our volunteers mopping the floor and sanitising the pews

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: Peter Doyle, Michael Kapusta, Elsie Wynne, Madge Markey, Constance Shuttleworth, Hugh McQuade, John Burnett, Margaret Fletcher, Michael Horwood, Evelyn Ward, Edith Carr, Patrick O'Donoghue, Patrick Higgins, Michael Grady, James Browne, James Burke, Kathleen Preston, Catherine Fitzpatrick, Florence Martin, Nicholas Martin, Kathleen Craven, George Newbold, Joseph Kelly, William Griffiths, Michael Nolan **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

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!

COME LORD JESUS!

I say, I say, I say...

Q. How do we know that Father Christmas has passed his driving test?

A. He has Noel plates ! **Boom! Boom!**



THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS & CORONA VIRUS RESTRICTIONS

Everything that happens in church now has to be stewarded and after it, the church has to be cleaned. There can be no congregational singing.

Everyone who enters should sanitise hands, wear a face covering and stay at least 1.5m apart unless from the same household. Track & Trace details should be given or the NHS smartphone app used

BAPTISMS

As well as the conditions given above, currently **no more than 6 people** may be present, including the child.

WEDDINGS

As well as the conditions given above, currently **no more than 15 people** may be present for a wedding. It is possible to make arrangements for weddings that are planned for 2021 or later, but it is **not known** when the limit of 15 might be relaxed.

CONFESSION

Confession is *perfectly possible* if socially distanced. Please contact Fr Stephen to arrange it. Confessionals cannot be used without thorough cleaning between every penitent: that level of cleaning is simply not practical.

FUNERALS

As well as the conditions given above, currently **no more than 30 people** may be present. The coffin cannot be brought into church the night before.

EMERGENCIES

Pastoral care in emergencies **remains available** : 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!**