

# 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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WEB: [www.stmcov.org](http://www.stmcov.org)  
 TWITTER: @StThosMore FACEBOOK: @StThosMore

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

13th DECEMBER 2020  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** (*Readings Year B*)  
 The church has a hearing loop system



## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

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

<b>SUNDAY 13th</b> 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Public Vigil Mass	5.00 p.m.	Vaz & Teixeira Family
	Public Mass	9.00 a.m.	David & Patricia Rodgers (Mem Mass)
Monday 14th <i>St John of the Cross</i>	Funeral Mass: Livestream, family invitation <b>only</b>	11.00 a.m.	Mary D'Arcy RIP
Tuesday 15th <i>Advent feria</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Maisie Taylor (RIP)
Wednesday 16th <i>Advent feria</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Una Hanlon (RIP)
Thursday 17th <i>Advent feria</i>	Mass (Livestream from SJW: click <a href="#">here</a> )	10.00 a.m.	~
Friday 18th <i>Advent feria</i>	Public Mass, 30 mins of Exposition & Benediction	9.00 a.m.	Mary Porter (Anniv)
Saturday 19th <i>Advent feria</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Caroline Fitzpatrick (RIP)
<b>SUNDAY 20th</b> 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Public Vigil Mass	5.00 p.m.	Gordon Aspell (Anniv)
	Public Mass	9.00 a.m.	Eileen Crean (RIP)

**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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**PRIMARY SCHOOL HEAD:**

Sarah Collins

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[www.st-thomasmore.coventry.sch.uk](http://www.st-thomasmore.coventry.sch.uk)

**SAFEGUARDING REPS:**

Claire Rutter

Tel: 024 7641 2535

Alison Cullinane

Tel: 07951 039941

**GIFT AID CO-ORDINATOR:**

Tony Curristan

Tel: 024 7641 1280



God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan.

He will come as a man, born himself of woman, God divinely human

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

## **THIS WEEKEND**

- **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** At the 5.00pm Mass, Lyana, prepared in the parish by Lynda, will be making her first Holy Communion. Pray for her and her family.
- **THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEER STEWARDS AND CLEANERS** We are here only because they have given up their time.
- **FR STEPHEN IS AVAILABLE** after Sunday Masses at the Margaret Roper Room side door to church, under the canopy. Masses can be booked, confessions arranged, 'Walk With Me' booklets collected, and of course much else...
- **THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH** Pope Francis has designated, from last Tuesday the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a year of St Joseph marking 150 years since he was declared patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX. As someone so uniquely close to Jesus and His Mother we have in him a powerful advocate. See the Pope's letter *Patris Corde* ('With a Father's Heart') on the Vatican [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20201208\\_patris-corde.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html)

### **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](http://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!**

### **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**

### **PRAYING AT 6PM EACH DAY: PANDEMIC**

Choose any method, 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 , pray in your own words guided by the Spirit, end with the prayer to St Michael.

## **MONDAY**

**THE FUNERAL OF MARY D'ARCY** takes place. Attendance is restricted to 30 by law. Please take part over the webcam if you have not been invited by the family. May she rest in peace.

## **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**, 30 mins of Exposition.

## **NEXT WEEKEND**

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

This day is a day of prayer for all expectant mothers, as we hear of Mary's pregnancy. Bring the baby Jesus from your crib to Mass or the screen and we shall bless these figures during the Masses

## **COMING SOON**

### **CHRISTMAS MASSES 2020**

**Christmas in all churches this year will *not be normal*** thanks to the pandemic restrictions. 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 (**not public**) *This will be an opportunity to join in the prayers and the carols at home as we try to provide as normal a Mass as possible, which we can't do with a congregation. Our musicians are working hard to make this possible. The children would not be able to help with the homily or visit the crib as usual even if a congregation came.*

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

- **Christmas Day** -

**9.00am Public Mass: you need to book**

*All the usual Covid restrictions will apply to Christmas public Masses—see opposite. We can't open the toilets or shut the windows even at Christmas.* 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>

**FINANCE... Main Collection: £976.80**

***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

John tells his hearers ‘...there stands among you—unknown to you—the one who is to come after me...’ How sad to have Christ among them, and yet not realise it! To carry on with the ordinary and everyday in the same old way, utterly missing the presence of God in human flesh, here on this earth. Yet there were many who did in Jesus’s time and many who do now. Our treatment of our fellow human beings, our respect for the earth, our attentiveness to the Scriptures, and our wonder at the Sacraments would all be totally transformed if we constantly remembered that God came among us a man on this earth, and comes again and again through His Church. John felt he was unworthy of so much as untying Christ’s sandals: let us never make ourselves unworthy of Christ by not even noticing Him!

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS, TREE & CRIB

These will all be a little different this year and more centred on the altar so that they may be seen on the webcam. It won’t be safe to have groups setting up tree, flowers or crib. The crib will be under the altar. Back to normal next year!

### 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. Please take a moment to bring them hope in their isolation.

### 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](#).

### 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](https://www.foodbank.org.uk)

### WHY IS THE CHURCH DRAUGHTY?

Ventilation is a proven way to reduce spreading the virus—so the windows are open to be safe.

## 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:** Joan Kelly, Jane Mather-Lees, James Goollogly, Dennis Cox, Patricia Rodger, John Martin, Patrick Cassidy, Harry Law, John O'Malley, Lilian Compton, Josephine Edwards, James McCormick, Gwendoline Molloy, Aileen Horrell, Mary Porter, Arthur Mahon, Maureen Archer, Sydney McSorley, Frederick McGivern, Gordon Aspell, Bridget Lawlor ***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
- Families not able to meet as usual this year

## 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/](http://acnuk.org/) helping persecuted Christians

**CAFOD** [cafod.org.uk/](http://cafod.org.uk/) helping the worlds' poor

**Friends of the Holy Land** [friendsofthe-holyland.org.uk/](http://friendsofthe-holyland.org.uk/) supporting Palestinian Christians

**Pax Christi** [paxchristi.org.uk/](http://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.** Why don't Father Christmas's reindeer need to keep social distance?

**A.** Because they all have herd immunity..!!!

*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!**