



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/



20th DECEMBER 2020

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Readings Year B)

The church has a hearing loop system



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

ALL MASSES ARE AVAILABLE LIVE ON THE WEBCAM

SUNDAY 20th 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Public Vigil Mass	5.00 p.m.	Gordon Aspell (Anniv)
	Public Mass	9.00 a.m.	Eileen Crean (RIP)
Monday 21st <i>Advent feria</i>	Mass (Livestream), Holy Hour and Benediction	6.00 p.m.	John Barton
Tuesday 22nd <i>Advent feria</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Rita Gaffney & Maev Gaffney (Anniv)
Wednesday 23rd <i>Advent feria</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Margaret Keane (RIP)
Thursday 24th <i>Advent feria</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Private Intention
 FRIDAY 25th <i>Nativity of the Lord</i>	Sung Mass (Livestream only, click here)	5.00 p.m.	People of the Parish (<i>not a public Mass</i>)
	Public Vigil Mass	8.00 p.m.	Frank Roberts (RIP) (Mem Mass)
	<i>You must book a place for Christmas public Masses: numbers have to be strictly limited</i>		
	Public Mass	9.00 a.m.	Mgr T J Gavin (Anniv)
Saturday 26th <i>St Stephen</i>	Mass (Livestream)	10.00 a.m.	Caroline Fitzpatrick (RIP)
	NO Vigil Mass		~
SUNDAY 27th Feast of the Holy Family	Public Mass	9.00 a.m.	Tom McDermott (RIP)

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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ROOM BOOKINGS:

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Sarah Collins

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www.st-thomasmore.coventry.sch.uk

SAFEGUARDING REPS:

Claire Rutter

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Alison Cullinane

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Mary, Hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed,

In her womb, God is laid, nurtured and protected, till the time ex-

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

THIS WEEKEND

- **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** A day of prayer for all expectant mothers, as we hear of Mary's pregnancy and the coming of Christ, the Word made flesh. Bring the baby Jesus from your crib to Mass or the screen and we shall bless these figures during the Masses
- **PARISH ADVENT PROJECT** Our many stars have gone together to make one, an image of the star that leads to Christ. A big thank you to all our star makers and to Debbie for putting it all together so strikingly. 'O, star of wonder...'
- **PRAYER 2020:** Pary at home at 2020 hrs on the 20th of the month, praying that God will give many opportunities to speak about Jesus.
- **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 for anything you need to ask for or arrange.
- **THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH** Pope Francis has designated, from 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 web site [here](http://www.vatican.va)
- **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**

- **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.

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.

THURSDAY

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 -

Christmas Offerings can be made

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: this is now at capacity. No more bookings can be taken. Sorry.

FRIDAY

- Christmas Day -

Christmas Offerings can be made

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. **Book online for 9am [here](#).** 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.

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!

NEXT WEEKEND

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

There will **NOT** be a **5pm Vigil Mass** next Saturday. **Sunday Mass** at 9am as usual.

COMING SOON

NEW YEAR'S DAY: MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

There will be a **public Mass at 10am** to ask God's blessing on the New Year and Our Lady's prayers as we begin it. Alas, we may not have our usual mulled wine social event afterwards.

FINANCE... Main Collection: £733.00 Standing Orders for November: £1354.33
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

CHRISt DRAWS NEAR: the Maiden is with child! Our Lady's obedience to God's will makes possible the

Incarnation, God Himself given human flesh in her womb. As God dwelt with His people in the Temple of the Old Testament so today we hear of how He becomes one of us and dwells among us through Mary's obedience. His first dwelling place is the womb of His Immaculate Mother. Like us all He begins His earthly life growing within a mother's body, utterly helpless, utterly dependent. At His birth, that dependence continues as Mary and Joseph nurture and love their Lord and ours. But finally, that utter dependence that Jesus had on His Mother and her husband is transformed and it is we who utterly depend on His coming to save us.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE: LETTERS

If you're quick, might just support the parish Justice & Peace Group letter writing to prisoners of conscience. Details [here](#) on the parish website.

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, just click [here](#).

THE PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

Copies went out to as many as we had addresses for, we hope you have found it helpful. There is a copy on the parish website, click [here](#). It contains only one mistake—**Mass on Friday January 1 is a public Mass.** We hope only one mistake..!



A very happy and blessed
Christmas to you all,
and a happy new year!

May the Infant Christ bless you always

Fr Stephen & Deacon Leo

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: Veronica Hammond, 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: Mary Jane Harrington, Oscar Owen, Mary D'Arcy, John Curristan, James Conroy, Stephen Cole, Angela Cook

ANNIVERSARIES: Karol Kokosz, Karen Walton, Mary Byrne, James Jenkins, Bernard Smits, Dorothy Apedaile, Grace McIvor, Margaret Williamson, Theresa Costello, Patricia Fowler, Joe King, Barbara Boffin, Richard Green, Michael Malone, Mary Hynes, Monsignor Canon Thomas Gavin, Pauline Ledwidge, Frances Phillips, Bridget Sheil, Douglas Sheffield, Elizabeth King, Angela Morris, James Nettleship, John Bromell, Elizabeth Keogh, Jean Harris, George Willan **Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them**

- The victims of Coronavirus, for medical staff, for a successful vaccination programme 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
- The gift of peace, of which the angels sang, to be in our hearts, homes and world

COME LORD JESUS!

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.

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

I say, I say, I say...

Q. What's white, lives at the north pole and runs around with no clothes on?

A. A polar bear..!

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!**