

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/

3rd JANUARY 2021

Second Sunday after the Nativity (Readings Year B)

The church has a hearing loop system



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

ALL MASSES ARE AVAILABLE LIVE ON THE WEBCAM

SUNDAY 3rd Jan 2nd SUNDAY after the Nativity	Public Vigil Mass	5.00 p.m.	People of the Parish
	Public Mass	9.00 a.m.	Kit Roberts (RIP)
Monday 4th <i>Christmas Feria</i>	Mass: (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	John McDonnell (RIP)
Tuesday 5th <i>Christmas Feria</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Robert Lee (B'day) / / Mary O'Donovan (Sick)
Wednesday 6th THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	Public Mass 	9.00 a.m.	Diane Chambers (RIP)
Thursday 7th <i>Christmas Feria</i>	Mass (Livestream from St J the Worker: click here)	10.00 a.m.	~
Friday 8th <i>Christmas Feria</i>	Public Mass, 30 mins of Exposition & Benediction	9.00 a.m.	Jim Kelly (RIP)
Saturday 9th <i>Christmas Feria</i>	Mass (Livestream)	9.00 a.m.	Michael Brooks (RIP)
SUNDAY 10th THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Public Vigil Mass	5.00 p.m.	James Brennan & Frank Baynes (Anniv)
	Public Mass	9.00 a.m.	Charles Walter & Phyllis Smith (Anniv)

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 &

Amanda Kelly

Tel: 024 7641 4473

ROOM BOOKINGS:

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PRIMARY SCHOOL HEAD:

Sarah Collins

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www.st-thomasmore.coventry.sch.uk

SAFEGUARDING REPS:

Claire Rutter

Tel: 024 7641 2535

Alison Cullinane

Tel: 07951 039941



...incarnate of the Virgin Mary and become man...

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

THIS WEEKEND

- **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS** The Christmas season continues: like Easter, Christmas is not confined to a single day but has an octave and a season in which we continue celebrating God's love and mercy. What we celebrate for a season is God's gift to us eternally. The Christmas season ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, next Sunday.
- **THANK YOU** for your Christmas offering, cards, best wishes and gifts. This is much appreciated and especially in the current situation.
- **COVENTRY IS NOW IN TIER 4** of the pandemic restrictions. The Government regulations state **'You can attend places of worship for a service. However, you must not mingle with anyone outside your household or your support bubble. You should maintain strict social distancing at all times'**. We shall remain open unless told otherwise but **we must at this critical time, follow all the pandemic guidelines**. Please make sure that you are familiar with what to do—**see opposite page**. These measures, if properly followed, help prevent the transmission of the virus. Restrictions can be changed by the government at short notice: please be aware that all our arrangements *might* therefore have to **change at quickly too**. The website, news sheet and notices on the church doors will carry news.
- **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, , and of course much else... Please give him a few minutes to change and get to the side door.

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.

WEDNESDAY

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY. Public Mass 9am The Magi arrive to worship Jesus bringing gifts for a king, a God and the dead, revealing their understanding of Jesus.

FRIDAY

Public Mass 9am, followed by Exposition

NEXT WEEKEND

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS, the hidden years are over as Jesus begins His public ministry by His baptism at the hands of John. Confirmed as God the Son by the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus now goes on to preach and heal, to suffer and

die, and to rise from the dead.

COMING SOON

- **MAY 2021** be the year we finally beat the virus
- **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!
- **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.
- **THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH** Pope Francis has designated a year of St Joseph marking 150 years since he was declared patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX. 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

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

WHY IS THE CHURCH DRAUGHTY?

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

MOVING IN CHURCH

Please move at the direction of the stewards and keep **ONE METRE apart at all times** from those not in your household.

GUIDE LEADERSHIP AWARD

At a socially distanced outdoor event last week, Mollie Smyth received her award in recognition of ten years of adult leadership with the parish unit.

FINANCE... Main Collection: 20 & 27 December, £1,580.00

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

The opening of St John's Gospel, always read for the third Mass, the Mass of the Day, at Christmas itself, is presented to us in all its poetic, mystical and sublime glory once more. John borrows from the opening of Genesis when 'in the beginning' God spoke and creation came to be, light first of all. The 'Word' has clearly always existed and has always been God and so just as the first creation was called into being through Him, so of course the new creation—God reconciling humanity to Himself, forming His children from those who accept Him—is possible only through that same Word who comes among us in the flesh. That darkness of sin and chaos is transformed by the unquenchable light of Christ. No amount of darkness can engulf the light of even the tiniest flame. The presence of God incarnate in the world shows the light of His love. John clearly expresses the light of Christ as a source of salvation, grace and hope. As we begin a new year in these most difficult times, the light of Christ shines amid the darkness of today to bring the same salvation, grace and hope. John wrote to bear witness to that and we still need his timeless message for this and every age.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2021

No one would have predicted a year like 2020, dominated by the pandemic as it was. Yet also a year of extraordinary kindness—the appreciation of the work of NHS staff, the dedication of Capt Tom, a resurgence of neighbourliness, are just three examples—and may that kindness continue. We celebrated Easter in circumstances so odd and gave thanks in our gardens for the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

THANK YOU to all who have kept the parish going through your attending Mass either in person (putting up with draughts and cold) or over the internet, for your giving of money, time, skills and effort. Our volunteer stewards and cleaners have been brilliant. Thank you to readers and servers who wait for a return to service, and to our musicians who have kindly been as active as they could be.

As we begin 2021, we pray still for the end of the pandemic, an end that thanks to medical research is now on its way. But it is not over yet. And when it is, so much will have changed in the world, our country, the Church and our parish. It is almost certain that things will not suddenly fall back to just how they were before all this started. As a parish, we shall have much to do both practically in—for example—preparing to open the MRR and re-establishing routines in church, and also prayerfully in creating the right weekly pattern of worship, devotions and meetings. There is no part of parish life that hasn't been changed for ten months now and will continue to be changed for months to come. But we face these challenges together, challenges that in most cases will turn out to be opportunities, as we travel on as a community of faith. And it's not just us either, we are still celebrating Christmas, the great feast of Emmanuel, 'God-is-with-us'. We go forward following Christ Himself. **May God bless us all in 2021**

COVENTRY NOW IN TIER 4 PUBLIC MASS: IMPORTANT PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU KEEP TO THESE GUIDELINES NOW THAT WE ARE FACING NEW CHALLENGES IN FIGHTING THE VIRUS.

The Congregation **MUST**—

- ◆ Wear a **FACE COVERING** over **nose AND mouth** and stay **1m 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. Keep 1 metre back from the person ahead of you

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. One metre social distance.**
- ◆ Sanitise your hands as you leave
- ◆ The church has to be cleaned by our volunteers cleaning the floor and sanitising the pews

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

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: Jack Green, Oscar Owen, Mary D'Arcy, John Curristan, James Conroy, Stephen Cole, Angela Cook, Gerry Higginbotham

ANNIVERSARIES: Winifred Wild, Bernadette Coley, Christina Murphy, Grace Brennan, Sheila Garry, Philip Keen, Mary O'Kane, Peter Barwell, Christopher Sloane, Bridget Ferguson, Colm Gleeson **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
- Schools—staff and pupils and students—as a new term begins under difficult conditions



'If I were a
Wise Man,
I would do my
part.
What can I give
Him?
Give my heart!'

I say, I say, I say...

You know it's Christmas when...

Men get all emotional about family ties, especially if they have to wear one of them...



And inside the crackers you find a joke like 'Why is there a shortage of Advent calendars? Because they're days are numbered!' *Ho, ho, ho!!*

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!**