

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF *St Thomas More* and *St Joseph the Worker*

working in partnership with the Catholic Chaplaincy of Warwick University

St Thomas More

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both parishes are part of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg Charity No 234216

29th December 2024

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Psalter Week: 1
Weekday Cycle: Year 1
Sunday Year: C

Saturday 28 th	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	
		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Jean Davenport (RIP)
Sunday 29 th	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	9.00am	STM	Mass	Dec'd of the O'Brien and O'Shea families
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Charles, Martha and Dolores Connoly (RIP)
Monday 30 th	Sixth Day of Octave			No Mass	
Tuesday 31 st	Seventh Day of Octave	10.00am	SJW	Mass	Pauline Forrest (RIP) (2 nd Anniv)
Wednesday 1 st	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	11.00am	STM	Mass	Private Intentions
Thursday 2 nd	Ss Basil and Gregory	10.00am	STM	Mass	Patrick Brown (RIP)
Friday 3 rd	Holy Name of Jesus	10.00am	STM	Mass	Williams Family (Ints)
Saturday 4 th	Christmas Feria	10.00am	SJW	Mass	Joyce and Mick (Ints)
				followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Sunday 5 th	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	
		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Anthony and Bernadette Armstrong (RIP)
Sunday 5 th	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9.00am	STM	Mass	Dec'd members of the Rutter family
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Gerard and Phyllis Deegan
		12.45pm	SJW	Mass	Pro Populo
		5.00pm	STM	Epiphany Carol Service	

Welcome to Mass today. We extend a special welcome to anybody joining us for the first time.

Please introduce yourself, and if you are able, stay for refreshments after the Mass.

In the readings of the Feast of the Holy Family, we encounter a profound invitation to transform our homes into sanctuaries of God's love and faithfulness. The Gospel of Luke, detailing the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, not only showcases the devotion of the Holy Family to religious observance but also underscores their deep-seated obedience to God's will.

This narrative is a vivid portrayal of a family wholly committed to God, where each action and decision is rooted in faith and love. This example sets a high standard for us: to make our families not just units of societal function but embodiments of divine love, where every interaction is steeped in the virtues of faith and obedience exemplified by Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

The Holy Family, in their simple yet profound acts of faith, becomes a model for us, guiding us to see our family relationships as opportunities to practice God's commandments, to foster virtues, and to grow in holiness.

A PRAYER BEFORE THE CRIB: Heavenly Father may this crib remind us of the coming of your Son. Grant that all who pray here may be inspired by the example of love and humility that Christ gave to us. To all who are troubled, grant peace of mind. To all in doubt and uncertainty, grant guidance and inspiration. To all who are oppressed by sin or guilt, grant pardon and absolution. To all who are suffering in mind and body, grant comfort and healing. Above all grant to everyone who prays here in faith, the joy of spirit that the angels proclaimed at Christ's birth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr Simon, together with Deacon Leo, Deacon David, Deacon Pat and Luke our Seminarian, wish you and all your family every blessing for the New Year. We pray that the humility of the shepherds, the faith of the wise men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ Child, be God's gift to us all this Christmas and always. Amen.

STM and SJW Website: stmcov.org/wp/

Facebook: Catholic Parishes of St Thomas More and St Joseph the Worker

Livestream webcam: <https://www.youtube.com/@stmandsjtw-cov>

Coventry Catholic Deanery: www.coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk

OFFERTORIES

Collections STM: £TBC | **SJW:** £TBC

Thank you for your continued generosity

WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF Fr Fred Sheldon, Fr Jacob Lewis, Fr Brian Boyle, John Lucas, Cathal Kelly, Stephen Naughton, Maureen O'Sullivan, Sean Ryan and Peter Kennedy together with all who have died recently. We pray for them and their families at this time. May they rest in peace.

WE PRAY for all those who are sick and unwell at this time.

IF YOU ARE A VISITOR to our Masses and not a Catholic, or a Catholic unable to receive, you are very welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. As you approach, please have your arm crossed over your chest, so that the minister knows to give a blessing. If you require a celiac host, please let us know before Mass.

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS: The New Year begins with the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. Coming to Mass on New Year's Day is a lovely and poignant way to begin the New Year. In the prayers of the Mass, we seek Our Lady's intercession, and we ask for the grace of God to sustain us in the joys, sorrows and challenges that may come our way. The Mass on Wednesday 1st January will be at 11.00am. After the Mass, refreshments will be available in the MRR.

SO MANY parishioner and visitors have commented on how beautiful both the churches looked for Christmas, so a special word of thanks to all those who helped in so many ways with the decorations and preparations. Thanks also to our welcomers, readers, musicians, altar servers and anyone else, both visible and 'behind the scenes' who helped in whatever way. We believe we welcomed over 1200 to our Masses. Of course, it's not over yet. Although the Christmas trees will disappear after Masses on Sunday 12th January, the crib in church will remain as a focus of prayer and devotion until the Feast of Candlemass on February 2nd.

MANY THANKS for the very kind and generous Christmas Offering, together with the many cards and gifts which were received from so many parishioners.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD is celebrated next Sunday. This Solemnity not only signifies the calling of the chosen few, like the Wise Men, but it also is an invitation to anyone and everyone around the world to follow Christ. As the New Year approaches, we can consider what gifts we would like to present to the Lord.

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS: It has been one of the old traditions of the Church to bless chalk at the Masses of the Epiphany, and then use the blessed chalk to invoke a prayer of blessing on your home for the New Year that has just begun. These will be available at all the Epiphany Masses.

LANTEN LIT CAROL SERVICE on Sunday 5th January 2025 at STM starting at 5.00pm. A chance to celebrate once more the Christmas story in word and song, followed by refreshments in the MRR. Please do come along. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

YEAR OF JUBILEE began on Tuesday 24th December. The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The Jubilee Year is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The concept of Jubilee or 'Holy Year' was used to declare special years for forgiveness and reconciliation.

SAFEGUARDING: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Claire Rutter and Amanda Kelly at STM and Henry Whitney at SJW. They can be contacted using the emails below or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or email safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Parish Administrator and Room Bookings

Amanda Kelly admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk

Safeguarding Representatives

Claire Rutter and Amanda Kelly (STM) sg.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk
Henry Whitney (SJW) sg.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk

Giving and Gift Aid

Tony Curristan (STM) ga.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk
June Palmer (SJW) ga.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk

READINGS FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the LORD.' The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there for ever.' And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.' And he worshipped the LORD there.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84(83):2-3. 5-6. 9-10. R/cf. 5a

R: Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning
for the courts of the LORD.
My heart and my flesh cry out
to the living God. **R**

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
Blessed the people whose strength is in you,
whose heart is set on pilgrim ways. **R**

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
look on the face of your anointed. **R**

SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:41-52

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.