



# 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

112 Knoll Drive  
Stivichall  
COVENTRY  
CV3 5DE

stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk

## Fr Simon J Baker

Parish Priest  
024 7641 1900

## Deacon Leo Poole

07984 071124 dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk

## Deacon David Palmer

07831 726731 dcn.david.palmer@rcaob.org.uk

## Deacon Pat Jeary Retired

## St Joseph the Worker

1 De Montfort Way  
Cannon Park  
COVENTRY  
CV4 7DU

stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk

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

12<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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

<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	4.15pm	STM	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions</b>		
		5.00pm	STM	<b>Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Gordon Aspell (RIP Anniversary)</b>	
		9.00am	STM	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Charles Walter and Phyllis Smith</b>	
		11.00am	SJW	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Peter Kennedy (RIP)</b>	
		12.45pm	SJW	<b>Mass (University)</b>	<b>Pro Populo</b>	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	St Hilary			No Mass		
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	10.00am	SJW	<b>Mass</b>	Gerard and Maureen Connolly (Ints)	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	11.00am	STM	<b>Mass 'n' Mingle</b>	Dec'd of the Conboy family	
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	10.00am	STM	<b>Mass</b>	Phil Kendrick (Ints)	
		7.00pm	SJW	<b>Vigil of Reception</b> for Peter Kennedy		
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	St Anthony	10.00am	STM	<b>Mass</b>	Marcus Chojnowski (Ints)	
					followed by <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Our Lady	12.30pm	SJW	<b>Requiem Mass</b> for Peter Kennedy		
		10.00am	SJW	<b>Mass</b>	Brid Conmy (Special Ints)	
					followed by <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions</b>	
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b>	4.15pm	STM	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions</b>		
		5.00pm	STM	<b>Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Mirek Cerowski (RIP)</b>	
		9.00am	STM	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Winifred and William Wild and Joan Kendall (Anniv)</b>	
		11.00am	SJW	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Ketih and Lyndsey Meneaud (Ints)</b>	
		12.45pm	SJW	<b>Mass (University)</b>	<b>Pro Populo</b>	

*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 Baptism of the Lord, we reflect on the special event of Jesus' baptism. Jesus, though sinless, chose to be baptized by John the Baptist, who called people to repent. Why did Jesus, who had no need to repent, decide to be baptized?

One reason is that Jesus wanted to show his support and understanding for us. He wanted to share in our humanity and weaknesses. By being baptized, Jesus stood with those who were seeking forgiveness and a new start. He showed that he was not distant from us but very close, sharing in our struggles. Another reason is that Jesus' baptism was a way to begin his mission. It was a public sign that he was ready to do God's work. The heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit came down like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased." This showed that Jesus was chosen by God for a special purpose.

Through Jesus' baptism, we see how much God loves us. Jesus showed that he is with us in our joys and our difficulties. He came to save us and to show us the way to God. By being baptized, Jesus showed that he was one of us, sharing in everything we go through.

When we think about Jesus' baptism, we should also think about our own baptism. Our baptism prepares us to share in the work of Jesus. We are called to care for one another, to help those in need, to show mercy and love, and to guide others toward God's goodness. Baptism makes us part of God's family and gives us a mission to share God's love with others.

Let us pray. Lord, thank you for the gift of baptism. Help us to follow Jesus' example of love and service. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so we can bring hope and kindness to others. Amen.

**STM and SJW Website:** [stmcov.org/wp/](http://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](http://www.coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk)

### OFFERTORIES

**Collections** (3 weeks) **STM:** £2214.30 | **SJW:** £638.00

*Thank you for your continued generosity*

**THE YEAR OF JUBILEE** began on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and will continue until 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Let us pray that during this Holy Year, we truly will become as the theme says, 'Pilgrims of Hope' and allow this year to truly deepen our faith and our understanding of what the Lord is calling us to do.

#### **JUBILEE PRAYER**

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

**JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKS** are available at the back of church. These are published in collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The Companion booklet is designed to help pilgrims ponder and pray, focusing on the great themes of the Holy Year: hope and forgiveness, the Apostles Peter and Paul and their Basilicas in Rome, and the key places of prayer and repentance. There are also numerous articles on being a Jubilee pilgrim, the Jubilee Icon, reflections, prayers and hymns. Please do take a copy with you.

**WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF Deacon Paul Hender, Fr Fred Sheldon, Fr Jacob Lewis, Fr Brian Boyle, Peter Kennedy, Mary Brownbill** (Requiem Mass on 22<sup>nd</sup> January), **John Lucas** (Requiem Mass on 24<sup>th</sup> January) and **Stephen Naughton** 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 THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND UNWELL:** Angie Browne, Judith Cuningham, Peter Cunningham, Frank Cunningham, Carl Lightfoot, Elaine Fossett, Margaret Eason, Madge Ward, Heather Walton, Jay Veeman, Pat Farr, Phil Sands, Margaret Kelly, Joanna MacKinnon, Hilary Hanson, Debbie Colby, Monika Tokarska-Hosoi, Joan Theaker, Veronica Hammond, Alice Rowland, John Walker, Pauline Cullinane, Beatrice Upham, Peter Carvell, Sheila Jenkins, Lillian Chapman, Irena Bienek, Josie McElroy, Georgina Brannigan-Smith, Ann Kenny, Rose Warburton, Keelin Treharne, David O'Grady and Joan O'Leary, Thomas Weatherstone, Richard Healey.

**MASS CARDS:** If you require a card with the Order of Mass text, please ask one of the welcomers for a copy. The readings for Sunday Mass can be found on the back of this newsletter. Please do take them home with you for private prayer and reflection.

**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.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** begins again on Sunday during the 9.00am Mass at STM. Our thanks to everyone who leads the liturgy for the children/families each week.

**THANK YOU** to all those who came along to the Epiphany Carol Service last Sunday evening. It was a wonderful way, through word and song to conclude the Christmas Season. Thank you to all those who helped in so many ways – the readers, musicians and servers and the refreshments afterwards. The cribs will remain in place until February 2nd. As we pray before the crib, let us not forget that the land in which Christ was born is still being torn apart by the ravages of war. Our daily prayer should be of those words by Edmund Hamilton Spears, 'Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and man, at war with man, hears not the love-song which they bring: O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing.'

**OUR HOLY FATHER** marked the beginning of 2025 with the celebration of Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Most Holy Mother of God. In his homily, the Holy Father said that "like a Mother, Mary points us to her Son and leads us to Jesus. Let us entrust to Mary this new Jubilee Year. Let us entrust to her our questions, our worries, our sufferings, our joys and all the concerns that we bear in our hearts. Let us entrust to her the whole world, so that hope may be reborn, and peace may finally spring up for all the peoples of the earth."

**THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS:** The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which was celebrated on January 3. In the letter to the Philippians we read, 'at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth.' Everything about our divine Lord is holy, including His Name. It was the Archangel Gabriel who first spoke the name of Jesus to His mother, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus" (Luke 1:31). The Archangel was only a messenger, so the name of Jesus was given to Him by the Father in Heaven. There is great power in the spoken name of Jesus. Repeating His name prayerfully or speaking it aloud brings Him close and gives you strength, provided you recite His name in faith. The name of Jesus casts out fear, arouses trust, and unites your heart to His. Sadly, the Most Holy Name of Jesus is so holy that the evil one often tempts people to invoke it as a curse when angry, without even considering what they are doing. As we continue through January, let us ponder this prayer that is attributed to Saint Bernardine of Sienna, the Franciscan who spoke so fervently of Jesus' name.

Jesus, Name full of glory, grace, love, and strength! You are the refuge of those who repent, our banner of warfare in this life, the medicine of souls, the comfort of those who mourn, the delight of those who believe, the light of those who preach the true faith, the wages of those who toil, the healing of the sick. To You our devotion aspires; by You our prayers are received; we delight in contemplating You. O Name of Jesus, you are the glory of all the saints for eternity. Amen.

**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.

**CRIB DONATIONS:** As has been our tradition each year, a basket will be available by our cribs for you to give a donation. This year, we have been asked to support the work of the Friends of the Holy Land.

**FR SIMON** started his new role as Chaplain to Warwick University in December last year. This means that after the 10.00am Mass at STM, Thursday's will be spent at the University. Please do remember in your prayers all the students and the staff at the University.

**UNIVERSITY MASSES** are celebrated on Sunday at 12.45pm in St Joseph the Worker and on campus at 12.30pm on a Thursday.

**PARISH OFFICE** is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 4.00pm. If you have any general enquiries, please do try and call during these hours.

**DON'T DISMANTLE YOUR CRIBS JUST YET!** Catholics traditionally keep the Crib in place for the forty days until 2nd February, the Feast of Candlemas (the Presentation of Christ in the Temple) as, according to the Scriptures, Mary 'kept to herself' for forty days after her Son's birth in obedience to the Law of Moses (Luke 2:22). Daily prayers at the Crib may include the Angelus and the Rosary (Joyful mysteries).

**KINGDOM OF GOD PRAYER GROUP** will begin again on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January from 7.00pm – 8.45pm in the MRR. All are welcome to come along for a time of prayer, praise, reflection and refreshments.

**SUNDAY MISSALS** have now arrived. If you had previously ordered one, please do collect it from the Piety Stall. There are several spare copies available for anyone who would like to buy their own copy.

**SEVEN DAY CANDLES** can be sponsored in both STM and SJW for a donation of £5 per candle. These are lit on a Sunday and burn for the following week. At STM candles are available for Our Lady, St Joseph, Sacred Heart and St Thomas More and at SJW they are available for Our Lady, Sacred Heart, St Anthony, and St Joseph. Please note only one intention per candle can be booked. To sponsor a candle for a particular intention, please bring your donation to the sacristy.

**RETREAT DAY FOR READERS** on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January from 9.30am – 1.00pm at St Osburg's. This day will include Mass, Adoration, two talks and refreshments. If you are a reader at either STM or SJW we would highly encourage going along to this day.

**LECTIO DIVINA** is the ancient practice of slow, conscious reading of a biblical or sacred text with contemplation and silent prayer. It is meant to promote communication with God and a deeper knowledge of Christ, in our lives today. Starting in February, we hope to introduce a weekly time of Lectio. This time of reflection will alternate between in person and online, so will hopefully be accessible to different people. More information to follow.

**NEXT SUNDAY** Bruno Ximenes will be baptised and during the 11.00am Mass, together with Lorraine Flett they will both celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and will receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion for the first time. We welcome them both into full Communion with the Catholic Church and the Parish family and we ask all to pray for them at this happy time.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** This year, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy. 2025 marks the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 AD. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the creed formulated during this council. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity offers an invitation to draw on this shared heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians. The guiding biblical text for the Week of Prayer comes from John 11:17-27. The theme for the week, "Do you believe this?" (v. 26), takes its cue from the dialogue between Jesus and Martha when Jesus visited the home of Martha and Mary in Bethany following the death of their brother Lazarus.

**WEEK OF PRAYER UNITY SERVICE** will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm in the Chapel of Unity at Coventry Cathedral. All are welcome to come along.

**'SOUND OF MUSIC' FILM NIGHT** at STM on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February starting at 6.30pm. Tickets cost £10 each, which includes either a fish and chip or pie and chip supper. Please collect your tickets after Mass or from the Piety Stall. Tickets and food orders need to be completed by Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January. The film will be 'sing-along' so there is plenty of time to get practicing your yodelling!

**SVP BRANCH:** In a few weeks there will be an appeal to see if anyone would be interested in starting a new SVP branch for STM and SJW. The essence of the SVP is person-to-person contact and spending time with people; giving them a sense of belonging to a wider community.

**LOURDES 2025** will take place from Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025 under the title of 'with Mary, Pilgrims of Hope.' In this Year of Jubilee, Lourdes has been designated as a particular place of pilgrimage, so if you haven't been, this Year of Jubilee might be the ideal time to go. If you would like to travel to Lourdes but in need of assistance help can be provided. Assisted pilgrims have the support of doctors, nurses, carers and hospitaliers throughout their time on pilgrimage. You will participate fully in the pilgrimage and experience the love of God through the care, love and friendship of volunteers. Applications from doctors, nurses and carers eager to volunteer their time and experience Lourdes. Please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office on 0121 230 6288 or email admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:** Confirmation classes will start on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> in the MRR from 5.00pm – 6.00pm. First Confession and Holy Communion classes will begin on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> from 3.00pm – 4.30pm in the MRR. Please note that all those wishing to receive the Sacraments this year, need to have expressed interest already.

**MASS 'N' MINGLE** takes place every Wednesday at 11.00am in STM. This is a lovely opportunity for people to come together over a drink and some homemade cakes. If you haven't been, please do consider coming along.

**PASTORAL COUNCILS:** Back in 2024, the Archbishop asked each parish in the Archdiocese to form a Pastoral Council to support the mission of the particular parish. The focus is to celebrate what has already been achieved; unite where links can be made and also have vision for the future. Like many other parishes, where there are two or three church buildings, it is sensible to create one council to cover both churches. Over the next few weeks, we will be approaching different people from STM, SJW and the University, to see if they would like to be part of this council. Those selected will help to represent the vast diversity and richness of our many parishioners which make up our Sunday congregations. Of course, mission and vision is not the sole responsibility of a just a handful of people, but rather for everyone who comes to Mass. Let us continue to pray for the mission and outreach of both STM, SJW and the University, that we may strive to foster communities of goodness, love and true zeal for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**CHARIS EVENING** on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January from 6.00pm – 8.00pm at Corpus Christi Church. The evening will include Mass, Rosary, Praise and Worship, Benediction, Confessions and a Spiritual talk given by Fr Paul Burch. All welcome to come along. For more information, please see the poster at the back of church.

**MASS INTENTIONS** The Mass is the greatest prayer we can offer as Catholics since it is the 'source and summit' of the Christian Life. An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person or as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. Mass offering envelopes are available at the back of both churches. Please fill in the required information and hand it to Fr Simon or Fr Peter or push through the Presbytery letterbox. The Mass will then be offered, and you'll see the details on the front page of this sheet. We ask that Masses be booked three months in advance of your re-quired date. Please remember that preferred dates cannot be guaranteed—someone else might have asked for a particular day before you, but the nearest date will be offered.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** is a wonderful opportunity for us to be still and quiet in the presence of the Lord. In both STM and SJW there is a weekly opportunity for this, so please do consider coming along. St Alphonsus Liguori once wrote, 'know also that you will probably gain more by praying fifteen minutes before the Blessed Sacrament than by all the other spiritual exercises of the day. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held on Friday morning after the 10.00am Mass and on Saturday evening from 4.15pm – 4.45pm at STM and on a Saturday morning after 10.00am Mass at SJW.

**TAKE ACTION IN SUPPORT OF CREATION** The Climate and Nature Bill is a proposed new UK law that would address the full extent of the climate and nature crisis in line with the most up-to-date science. If passed, the Bill would require the United Kingdom to set and achieve climate and nature targets and give the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero a duty to implement a strategy to achieve those targets. It has widespread support from MP's from most political parties in the Westminster Parliament and is being introduced by Dr Roz Savage MP for its second reading on 24<sup>th</sup> January. If you are concerned about the climate and ecological crises, please consider writing to your local MP to ask them to attend the House of Commons on 24<sup>th</sup> January to support the Bill. It will not progress unless 102 MP's are present and voting in favour of the Bill. This is a significant challenge as many MP's will return to their constituencies on the Friday. For more information about the bill, please visit the website: <https://www.zerohour.uk/climate-and-nature-bill/> where there is also a guide to writing to your MP (under the "Take Action" tab).

**CRAFT AND CHAT** will be held on the first Tuesday of every month in the MRR from 10.30am – 12noon. If you sew, knit, paint or have another craft hobby, you are more than welcome to come. The idea of the group is for people to be able to come together for a chat, whilst spending an hour or so on their particular craft. Please bring everything you need with you.

**LGBTQ+ CATHOLIC MEETING** will be held at 7.00pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 13 Stoney Road, CV1 2NP. For more information, please email Deacon Leo at [dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk)

**KNITTED BABY CARDIGANS** are required by the University Hospital for premature babies. If you, or any friends can knit any, they can be given in at church, so that the Knights of St Columba will pass them to the Coventry Clothing Charity.

**JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP** will be meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 7.30pm in the MRR. If you would like to learn more about the group or become involved, please do come along.

**HOUSE VISITS** to the sick and housebound are an important part of the life of the church. Those who would like a visit, are asked to contact Fr Simon or Deacons Leo and David. A visit can be arranged by themselves or by the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

**OUR JOINT FACEBOOK PAGE** can be found by searching for 'Catholic Parishes of St Thomas More and St Joseph the Worker.' If you are a user of Facebook and haven't already, please do 'like' our page and share with family and friends.

**CHEYLESMORE FOODHUB:** It is now possible to support the work of the Foodhub through financial donations. It allows for more flexibility for the Trust to purchase foods. The required information is Cheylesmore Food Hub CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code: 40-52-40 and the Account no: 00034145.

**ONLINE GIVING:** If you were unable to give via the Offertory Collection at Sunday Mass, you can give online to either parish by scanning this QR code and following the instructions on the website.



**GIFT AID GIVING:** If you are a UK Taxpayer and would like to increase you weekly giving, at no extra cost to yourself, please consider Gift Aiding your donation. Through this scheme we are able to claim 25p on every £1 donated. More information available from Tony Curristan at STM and June Palmer at SJW.

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL:** Anyone going into hospital, needs to be sure to tell the ward staff they are a Catholic and would like to see the Catholic Chaplain. Please also notify the Parish Clergy, so a visit, either by them or the Chaplain can be arranged.

**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](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

## READINGS FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### 'ASPERGES ME DOMINE' ANTIPHON

I saw water flowing from the right side of temple. Alleluia, alleluia!

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go on up to a high mountain, O Sion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!' Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his

arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 104(103)

R: Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great you are!

O Lord my God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and honour,  
wrapped in light as with a robe!  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. R

On the waters you lay the foundation for your dwelling.  
You make the clouds your chariot;  
you ride on the wings of the wind.  
You make the winds your messengers,  
flame and fire your servants. R

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your creatures.  
Vast and wide is the span of the sea,  
with its creeping things past counting,  
living things great and small. R

All of these look to you  
to give them their food in due season.  
You give it, they gather it up;  
you open wide your hand, they are well filled. R

You hide your face, they are dismayed;  
you take away their breath, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, and they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth. R

### SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He who is mightier than I is coming, said John.  
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

At that time: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

### Parish Administrator and Room Bookings

Amanda Kelly [admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk)

### Safeguarding Representatives

Claire Rutter and Amanda Kelly (STM) [sg.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk)

Henry Whitney (SJW) [sg.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk)

### Giving and Gift Aid

Tony Curristan (STM) [ga.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:ga.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk)

June Palmer (SJW) [ga.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:ga.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk)