



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

9th March 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Saturday 8 th	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions		
		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Frank Hughes (21 st Anniv)	
		Sunday 9 th	9.00am	STM	Mass	Mollie Barnacle (Anniv)
			11.00am	SJW	Mass	Martha Connolly (Anniv)
		12.45pm	SJW	Mass (University)	Pro Populo	
		6.30pm	STM	Solemn Erection and Blessing of the Stations of the Cross		
Monday 10 th	Lent Feria			No Mass		
Tuesday 11 th	Lent Feria	6.45am	STM	Mass	Holy Souls	
		10.00am	SJW	Mass	Richard Healy (RIP)	
Wednesday 12 th	Lent Feria	11.00am	STM	Mass	Ints of Birthday Friends (O'Brien)	
				followed by Stations of the Cross		
Thursday 13 th	Lent Feria	10.00am	STM	Mass (School)	Malachy Toner (RIP)	
		6.00pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		
Friday 14 th	Lent Feria	10.00am	STM	Mass	Paddy and Peggy Morris	
				followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		
		12 noon	SJW	Mass	Val Blaxall (Ints)	
Saturday 15 th	Lent Feria	6.30pm	STM	Stations of the Cross		
		10.00am	SJW	Mass	Mike Nelson (RIP)	
				followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions		
Sunday 16 th	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions		
		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Bill Merrick (Anniv)	
		9.00am	STM	Mass	Bernard and Mollie Swinden (Mem Mass)	
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Dolores Connolly (RIP)	
		12.45pm	SJW	Mass (University)	Pro Populo	

*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.*

Our readings emphasize the importance of trust in God, reminding us to rely on God in every situation. Trust is a key aspect of our faith journey, especially during Lent.

In Deuteronomy, the Israelites offer their first fruits to God, showing their trust and gratitude. They recognize that everything they have comes from Him. This act of trust is a powerful example for us. St Paul encourages us to trust in Jesus for our salvation. Believing in our hearts and confessing with our mouths shows our faith. This trust in God's promise is essential for our spiritual journey. In the Gospel, Jesus' time in the desert teaches us about trusting God in times of trial. Jesus resists the devil's temptations by relying on God's word. His trust in God helps Him stay focused on His mission.

Trusting God means believing that He will guide and support us. It means turning to Him in prayer and relying on His strength. During Lent, we are called to deepen our trust in God through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. Let's use this Lenten season to strengthen our trust in God. By relying on Him, we can face any challenge and grow in our faith. Trust in God is the foundation of our spiritual journey.

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 AND COLLECTIONS

STM: £771.50 | **SJW:** £211.00

Cathedral Maintenance: **STM:** £374.00 | **SJW:** £105.00

Thank you for your continued generosity

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.

ORDER OF 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.

WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF Deacon Pat Flanagan, Erica Wilma Cox de Barros Dias, Carole Drew, Christina Hughes, Richard Healy, Kevin Shakespeare, Justina Teixeira and Jim Power 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 Cunningham, Peter Cunningham, Frank Cunningham, Elaine Fossett, Margaret Eason, Madge Ward, Heather Walton, Jay Veeman, Pat Farr, Phil Sands, Margaret Kelly, Joanna MacKinnon, Hilary Hanson, Debbie Colby, Val Blaxall, 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, Joan O'Leary, Thomas Weatherstone, Clare Oliver and Romina Mendieta.

ON SUNDAY EVENING at 6.30pm, the new Stations of the Cross at STM will be unveiled, blessed and meditated on for the first time. The rite of solemnly erecting the Stations of the Cross is a liturgy rarely seen, as new Stations are seldom hung. It is, however, a most important rite that elevates the status of the Stations in a church from being mere images, to powerful spiritual aids. Please do come along.

YEAR OF JUBILEE: Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. 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. It is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

'DILEXIT NOS' LENTEN GROUP will meet on Thursday evening at 7.00pm in the MRR at STM. Each week, you will be given a reading pack and some questions for personal and group reflection. If you missed the Introductory meeting last Thursday, there are copies of the reading available at the back of church.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will take place on Thursday evening at 6.00pm in the Side Chapel at STM. This will precede the Lent Reading Group, but you are welcome to come to either or both.

LIVE SIMPLY TIP OF THE MONTH: STM is a Live Simply parish. Live sustainably with creation by planting a seed or tree sapling.

AFTER MASSES this week, a group of students from Bishop Ullathorne School will be holding a cake sale to help raise funds for their pilgrimage to Lourdes. All donations will be gratefully received.

NEXT WEEKEND: SECOND COLLECTION: CAFOD Lent Fast Day.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY will be held on Friday 14th March. If you would like to Gift Aid your donation, please take an envelope from the back of church, remembering to fill in all the required information.

Your support will help women like Lokho. Lokho lives in the Marsabit region of Kenya. Due to drought her animals died, and she could not feed her family. She reached out to a local expert who partners with CAFOD. He shared his skills for growing food in harsh climates. He provided Lokho with seeds, tools, and shade nets to protect her plants from the scorching sun, while still allowing every drop of precious rain through. By selling the produce she grows, Lokho is saving for when there are no more rainy days. She has gained resilience and hope, knowing she can feed her family. Please support our family fast day if you can.

THE FORTY DAYS OF LENT are a gift that the Church in her wisdom celebrates every year. It is a gift of time, of contemplation, and of quiet. It encourages us to turn away from the noise and over-indulged appetites so that we may understand the hunger that can be filled—with the grace of God—only by prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor. Very often, when the season is over, people look back and say, 'I had a terrible Lent' and it's simply because we don't truly prepare or allow ourselves to enter fully into the season. This year there are several extra things happening, so let's take full advantage of them and enter fully into the season.

PARENT SCHOOL TOUR on Tuesday 11th March at 9.00am. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore STM school, meet the dedicated staff, and see the learning environment in action. To book your place, please contact the School Office by calling 0247 684 9910 or send an email to stm-admin@hccmac.co.uk.

THE CHAPEL OF UNITY at Coventry Cathedral is hosting an On-line 20-minute Psalm Reflection at 6.00pm each Monday evening during Lent, on 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March and 7th and 14th April. Meeting ID: 864 9505 4646 and Passcode: COUR2025.

'WALK WITH ME' BOOKLETS and calendars are available for use as part of your daily reading and meditation.

LECTIO DIVINA GROUP will meet this coming week on Wednesday evening in person in the MRR at 6.00pm.

EARLY BIRD MASSES on Tuesday mornings at 6.45am in the Side Chapel at STM. These will be followed by a light breakfast in the MRR.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be prayed at SJW on Tuesday mornings after the 10.00am Mass and at STM after the 11.00am Wednesday Mass and on Friday evenings at 6.30pm.

LENTEN SOUP LUNCHESES will be held on Wednesdays at 12noon in the MRR and after the 12noon Mass at SJW on a Friday. During Lent, there will be an opportunity to give a small donation at the lunches, which will be added to the parish charity collection (Mary's Meals).

PARISH CHARITY: At the start of Lent, we will be starting our support for a particular charity. The charity for the coming year will be **Mary's Meals**. The money taken at refreshments after our Saturday and Sunday Masses, together with a voluntary collection once a year, and other small donations will be donated to their work and outreach.

MARY'S MEALS is a charity which grew out of another charity called Scottish International Relief (SIR), which was set up after Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow and his brother Fergus took aid from their home in Argyll, Scotland, to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, during the conflict in 1992. Over the next ten years, SIR expanded. It began building homes for abandoned children in Romania, helped returning refugees in Liberia by setting up mobile clinics, and continued to deliver material aid to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as funding many additional projects. The Mary's Meals campaign was born in 2002 when Magnus visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When Magnus asked her eldest son Edward what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: "I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day." That moment was a key part of the inspiration which led to the founding of Mary's Meals, which began by feeding just 200 children in Malawi in 2002. The charity is named in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty.

NEXT SUNDAY after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses, there will be Irish Coffee's available for those who may wish to foresee the celebrations of St Patrick's Day.

UNIVERSITY MASSES: The final Sunday Mass for this term will be held next week. These will resume again in April. We wish all the staff and students at the University a restful and peaceful Easter break.

KINGDOM OF GOD PRAYER GROUP on Mondays from 7.00pm – 8.45pm in the MRR. All are welcome to come along for a time of prayer, praise, reflection and refreshments.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION for all our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on Saturday 22nd March from 9.30am – 1.00pm, here in St Thomas More. The day will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Talks and will conclude with a soup and roll lunch. This is a combined parish and deanery day, so all our Extraordinary Ministers are encouraged to come along.

BIG LENT WALK: CAFOD are calling all Catholics to walk 200km in 40 days to help fight Global Poverty. The Big Lent Walk makes it simple to put your faith into action this Lenten season by connecting with your local and global community in a meaningful way. The money you raise will enable people around the world to fight poverty. More information at walk.cafod.org.uk

JAM AND CAKE SESSION: Soul Reason would like to invite you to a singing practice for music that will be used over Lent and Easter on Saturday 15th March at 10.30am in the MRR.

GREETING CARDS FOR PRISONERS: After each Mass on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th March at both STM and SJW there will be greeting card signing sessions for prisoners around the world. Many have been unfairly imprisoned and are victims of torture. Please come along and sign a card to let them know they are not forgotten. Cards and information will be provided. Donations towards the £2.80 price of a stamp would be very welcome. More information at <http://www.acatuk.org.uk>

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP will be meeting on Tuesday 18th March at 7pm at SJW. If you would like to learn more about the group or become involved, please do come along.

ROSARY PRAYERS will be held every Friday at 1.40pm in Lent by the statue of Our Lady of Coventry in Priory Gardens, next to Holy Trinity Church, Broadgate. All welcome.

ST JOHN PASSION by Johann Sebastian Bach will be performed by the Spires Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus on Saturday 12th April at 2.30pm in Burgess Hall at King Henry VIII School. Tickets are priced at £15 or £5 for students and are available on the door, or by booking in advance at www.ticketsource.co.uk/spiresmusic

SJW EASTER RAFFLE: Thank you to all those who have donated prizes towards the raffle.

JAM SALE at SJW raised a total of £67. Many thanks to Eileen for support and jam making skills.

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MARRIAGE: Anyone who is due to celebrate a significant wedding anniversary, is engaged to be married this year or who would simply like to give thanks to God for their marriage is invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday 3rd May at St Chad's Cathedral. For more information and to book a place, please marriage.mass@rcaob.org.uk

LOURDES 2025 will take place from Saturday 24th to Friday 30th May 2025 under the title of 'with Mary, Pilgrims of Hope.' We have been told that lots of the hotels are getting booked up, so if you are thinking of going, and haven't booked, please do so as soon as possible by calling Tangey Tours on 01732 886666.

'LITTLE CHURCH' at STM is the Liturgy of the Word with children, offering an opportunity to listen and respond to the Sunday Gospel at an age-appropriate level during the 9.00am Mass. The Children and a Prayer Leader are called forward at the beginning of Mass and process to their sacred space where the scriptures are explored through reflection, discussion, song and other appropriate activities. An adult may accompany a very young child until they are settled. All return to Mass at the Offertory for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest. Inspire, in the hearts of your people, vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those whom you call have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKS are available at the back of church and contain numerous articles on being a Jubilee pilgrim, about the Jubilee Icon, reflections, prayers and hymns. Please do take a copy.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION COURSES are held on the first Saturday of every month in the MRR. To book a place, families are asked to contact Deacon Leo by emailing dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk

DAILY MISSALS containing the Sunday and Daily Readings in a single hardback volume can be ordered, priced at £70 each.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS: The Mass is the greatest prayer we can offer as Catholics since it is the 'source and summit' of the Christian Life. Individuals 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 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 required 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 held on Friday after the 10.00am Mass and on Saturday from 4.15pm – 4.45pm at STM and on a Saturday morning after 10.00am Mass at SJW.

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.

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, and Knights of St Columba will pass them on.

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.

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.

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.

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.



JUBILEE OF DEACONS ROME 2025

A reflection by Deacon Leo



Two weeks ago, myself, four other Diocesan Deacons, including two wives, gathered with nearly 4000 Permanent Deacons and their families from 100 countries around the world in Rome for the 3-day Jubilee of Deacons.

On Friday afternoon we were welcomed in language groups in 12 separate Roman churches. Our group heard from Cardinal Prevost OSA, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, who reminded us Deacons of Pope Francis' words that, *"We are all invited to place our vocation in the light of God's world."* We should be humble, good spouses and act sentinels to seek out the poor, and to help the community spot the poor in the distance.

Saturday morning, we attended the International Meeting *"Deacons in a Synodal and Missionary Church: Witnesses of Hope"*, organized by the Dicastery for the Clergy. We heard testimonies from various Deacons outlining the situation in the different countries where they minister. A testimony was given also by the International Network of Diaconate Spouses.

We then gathered outside in groups of about 50 and made the Pilgrimage walk up the Via della Conciliazione to and through the Holy Door and into St Peter's Basilica.

On the Saturday evening, we attended a Prayer Vigil in the Paul VI Audience Hall at which the Book of the Gospels was enthroned and during which we renewed our Diaconal promises.

The Jubilee event concluded on the Sunday morning in St Peter's Basilica for Holy Mass at which 23 new Deacons from eight countries were ordained by Archbishop Fisichella, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, who had been delegated by Pope Francis to preside in his absence. His Grace read from the Pope's Homily in which, drawing from the readings of the day, he encouraged us to be *"apostles of forgiveness, selfless servants and builders of communion."*

We returned home as suitably tired Pilgrims of Hope with happy memories of a blessed time together both during the events of the day and the good food and wine in the evenings.

Before a getting the bus back to the airport I paid a visit to the Papal Basilica of St Mary Major and arranged for a Mass to be offered there for the intentions of all my fellow parishioners.

READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses spoke to the people: 'The priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God. And you shall make response before the Lord your God, "A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labour. Then we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O Lord, have given me." And you shall set it down before the Lord your God and worship before the Lord your God.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 91(90)

R: Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
and abides in the shade of the Almighty,
says to the Lord, 'My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' R

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach your tent.
For you has he commanded his angels
to keep you in all your ways. R

They shall bear you upon their hands,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread,
and trample the young lion and the serpent. R

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him,
protect him, for he knows my name.
When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in distress;
I will deliver him, and give him glory. R

SECOND READING

Romans 10:8-13

Brothers and Sisters: What does Scripture say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart, one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For, 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes
forth from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:39-45

At that time: Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were over, he was hungry. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone." And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, 'To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve." And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." ' And Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

PARISH OFFICE for both parishes is based at STM and is open on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 4.00pm. If you have any general enquiries, please do try and call during these hours.