



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



working in partnership with the Catholic Chaplaincy of Warwick University

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

16th March 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Saturday 15th | SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT | 4.15pm | STM | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions | | |
| | | 5.00pm | STM | Vigil Mass | Bill Merrick (Anniv) | |
| Sunday 16th | | 9.00am | STM | Mass | Bernard and Mollie Swinden (Mem Mass) | |
| | | 11.00am | SJW | Mass | Dolores Connolly (RIP) | |
| | | 12.45pm | SJW | Mass (University) | Pro Populo | |
| Monday 17 th | St Patrick | | | No Mass | | |
| Tuesday 18 th | Lent Feria | 6.45am | STM | Mass | Fred Ewing (RIP) | |
| | | 10.00am | SJW | Mass followed by Stations of the Cross | Holy Souls | |
| Wednesday 19 th | SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH | 11.00am | STM | Mass followed by Stations of the Cross | Sue Marklow (RIP) | |
| Thursday 20 th | Lent Feria | 6.00pm | SJW | Mass | Tony and Cathy Mayne (Mem Mass) | |
| | | 6.30pm | STM | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | | |
| Friday 21 st | Lent Feria | 10.00am | STM | Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | Margaret McHugh (RIP) | |
| | | 12 noon | SJW | Mass | Marian Whelan (Ints) | |
| | | 6.30pm | STM | Stations of the Cross | | |
| Saturday 22 nd | Lent Feria | 9.30am | STM | Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions | Ricky Ashby (RIP) | |
| | | 4.15pm | STM | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions | | |
| | Sunday 23rd | THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT | 5.00pm | STM | Vigil Mass | Kevin John Duignan (RIP) |
| 9.00am | | | STM | Mass | Christina Smith (RIP) | |
| 11.00am | | | SJW | Mass | Richard Healy (RIP) | |

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 invite us to reflect on God’s faithfulness, our heavenly citizenship, and the Lord’s glory in our lives. The readings teach us about trust in God’s promises, living with an eternal focus, and allowing God’s glory to shine through us.

Like Abram, we need to trust God’s plan for us. Even when we cannot see the future, we must believe that God is faithful. His promises are sure, and His covenant is everlasting. We also see God’s commitment to His people through the covenant. It is a sign that God will never abandon us. He is always with us, guiding and protecting us. As we journey through Lent, let us remember God’s promise and covenant with us.

St Paul reminds us to focus on our heavenly home and not just on earthly things. Living as citizens of heaven means prioritizing our spiritual life. We should seek to grow closer to God each day. Our actions and decisions should reflect our faith. We are called to live in a way that honours God and shows our hope in His promises.

The Gospel reminds us that God’s glory is always present in our lives. Sometimes we are too attached to our own expectations to see it. We might be too set in our ways, unwilling to let God change us. But God’s glory shines through when we let go and let Him work in us. We often miss God’s glory because we are focused on ourselves. We want to project a certain image to the world. But this blocks others from seeing God’s work in us.

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: £742.00 | SJW: £271.00

Standing Orders February: STM: £1500 | SJW: £1200

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 Kevin Shakespeare, Justina Teixeira, Jim Power, Sarah Jones and Val Blaxall 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, 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, Joan O'Leary, Thomas Weatherstone, Clare Oliver, Romina Mendieta and Jennifer Bell.

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.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY was 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.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: CAFOD Lent Fast Day.

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the students from Bishop Ullathorne School at the Cake Sale last week. Between SJW and STM over £700 was raised for their pilgrimage. If anyone wasn't able to give, but would like to, please do speak to Fr Simon.

'DILEXIT NOS' LENTEN GROUP will meet on Thursday evening at 7.00pm in the Parish Room at SJW. Each week, you will be given a reading pack and some questions for personal and group reflection. If you missed any meetings, there are copies of the readings available at the back of church.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will take place on Thursday evening at 6.30pm in SJW. This will precede the Lent Reading Group, but you are welcome to come to either or both.

GREETING CARDS FOR PRISONERS: After each Mass today in 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>

LIVE SIMPLY TIP OF THE MONTH: STM is a Live Simply parish. Live sustainably with creation by planting a seed or tree sapling. For more information, please see the Live Simply website.

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 its 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.

PLEASE NOTE that Mass on Thursday will be at 6.00pm in SJW and Mass on Saturday morning will be at 9.30am in STM, as part of the Day of Recollection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

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.

LECTIO DIVINA GROUP will meet this coming on Wednesday evening via Zoom from 6.00pm – 6.30pm. Meeting ID: 998 5894 3789 with the password More2025.

SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY: Amidst the sobriety of Lent the Church celebrates the Solemnity of St Joseph, dedicated to honouring the steadfast guardian of our Redeemer and the faithful husband of the Virgin Mary. Although presented in the Gospels with only few words, His life reflects the virtues of righteousness, patience, and dedication - qualities necessary in any family. This Solemnity is an opportunity to celebrate fatherhood and pray for the fathers in our midst.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION for all our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on Saturday 22nd March from 9.30am – 1.00pm, at 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 ask to attend.

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

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).

THIS FRIDAY marks 136 years since the death of Bishop Ullathorne. He was the first Roman Catholic Bishop of Birmingham, after the re-establishment of the hierarchy in England and Wales. During his nearly four decades of tenure, 67 new churches, 32 convents and nearly 200 mission schools were built. He was a descendant of Saint Thomas More through his great-grandmother, Mary More. We pray for the staff and students at Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School.

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 17th, 24th, 31st March and 7th and 14th April. Meeting ID: 864 9505 4646 and Passcode: COUR2025.

PARISH CHARITY: From this Lent, we are supporting 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.

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

LOOKING AHEAD TO EASTER: This may seem some time away, but there are some considerations to be made as to how we will celebrate the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter this year.

Last Easter, we had the luxury of having two priests, which meant that there was provision for the Sacred Triduum to be celebrated in both STM and SJW. Since June, there has been only one priest and between the two parishes, we have had to rethink our daily schedule and patterns of Masses. The new pattern seems to be working well, and it is good to see parishioners from both parishes attending the Masses in both churches.

The Sacred Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), though chronologically three days, are liturgically one day, through which unfolds Christ's Paschal Mystery. This means that the Triduum is one complete liturgy, rather than three separate liturgies that just happen to be celebrated on the appropriate day.

This year, we have two churches but only one priest. We also need to consider the numbers which regularly attend these liturgies, and of course, the other visitors that come during this time of year. There is also the understanding that a priest can only celebrate the Sacred Triduum once in one day, making 'doubling up' not a possibility, nor an ideal undertaking. Some parishes 'split' the Triduum up between the two parishes, having different days celebrated in each church, and this has been considered. Unlike Christmas, Easter is not a time when several Masses and liturgies can be offered at different times and places by one priest.

Taking all these things into consideration, the main liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday will be celebrated as one community in STM. Then both SJW and STM will have Masses of Easter Day celebrated at the usual times of 9.00am and 11.00am in both churches.

I know this will be a disappointment to many people, but it is a reality that we must face. I hope you appreciate the difficulty that is on the horizon and fully understand the consideration for seating and space that is needed.

It is, however, another opportunity for us to come together as two parishes and to combine all our efforts into making the Sacred Triduum and truly joyful, uplifting and fitting celebration in 2025.

SJW EASTER RAFFLE: Thank you to all those who have donated prizes towards the raffle. Raffle tickets will be on sale next week.

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.

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

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

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.

LGBTQ+ CATHOLIC MEETING will be held at 7.00pm on Sunday 16th March in 14 Stoney Road, CV1 2NP. For more information, please email Deacon Leo at dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk

'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

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.



HYMN FOR THE YEAR OF JUBILEE



*Like a flame my hope is burning,
may my song arise to you:
Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path I trust in you.*

Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people
find a light within your Word.
Scattered fragile sons and daughters
find a home in your dear Son.

God, so tender and so patient,
dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heav'n and earth are recreated
by the Spirit of Life set free.

Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,
for our God is born in time.
Son made man for you and many
who will find the way in him.

Original text: Pierangelo Sequeri
English translation: Andrew Wadsworth

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 27 (26)

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
whom should I dread? *R*

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer me.
Of you my heart has spoken,
'Seek his face.' *R*

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. *R*

I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong;
be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord! *R*

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 9:28b-36

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' — not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!' And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

In those days: God brought Abram outside and said, 'Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. And he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

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.

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 Amanda Kelly and Claire Rutter 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.