



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

28th April 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - Divine Mercy

Psalter Week: 2
Weekday Cycle: Year 1
Sunday Year: C

Saturday 26 th	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	
		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Bernadette Armstrong (RIP Anniv)
		9.00am	STM	Mass	Laura Williams (Ints)
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Mark David Whale (Anniv)
		12.45pm	SJW	Mass	Pro Populo
Monday 28 th	St George			No Mass	
Tuesday 29 th	St Catherine of Siena			No Mass	
Wednesday 30 th	Easter Feria	11.00am	STM	Mass 'n' Mingle	Special Intentions (O'Brien)
Thursday 1 st	St Joseph the Worker	6.00pm	STM	Mass	Pope Francis (RIP)
Friday 2 nd	St Athanasius	10.00am	STM	Mass	Mary Cunningham (Ints)
Saturday 3 rd	Ss Philip and James	10.00am	SJW	followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	
		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Joseph and Margaret Hussey (Anniv)
		9.00am	STM	Mass	Nigel Rowley (RIP Anniv)
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Tommy Dunne (RIP Anniv)
12.45pm		SJW	Mass	Alba and Heitor Coelhode Freitas (Anniv)	
Sunday 4 th					

*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 Gospel, Jesus breathes on His disciples and encourages them to receive the Holy Spirit. This act shows that the Holy Spirit is a gift that empowers us to continue Jesus' mission of spreading mercy and forgiveness. As followers of Christ, we are called to receive this Spirit and live out the mercy we have received.

Our role as Christians is to share God's mercy with others. This means forgiving others, showing kindness, and being compassionate. We are reminded that just as we have received God's grace, we should also be channels of that grace to others. It's our duty to bring this message of mercy to the world, especially to those who are hurting or lost.

Living as examples of God's mercy is a way to bring hope and healing to those around us. By being merciful, we can help others experience God's love and forgiveness. This is an important part of our faith, and it helps us grow closer to God and each other.

Today we reflect on the incredible gift of God's mercy through Jesus. We are called to embrace this mercy, share it with others, and live as witnesses of God's love. By doing so, we continue the mission of Jesus, bringing light and hope to the world. Divine Mercy Sunday challenges us to live out the mercy we receive from God. By trusting in Jesus, seeking forgiveness, and supporting one another, we can be signs of God's love in the world. Let us commit to spreading this message of mercy, bringing hope and healing to all we encounter.

Let us pray. Lord, thank You for Your mercy and love. Help us to trust in You, share Your forgiveness, and be kind to others. Guide us to be faithful witnesses of Your peace and mercy. 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 AND COLLECTIONS

STM: TBC | **SJW:** TBC

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 His Holiness Pope Francis, Veronica Hammond, Mercy D'Souza, James McEwan, and Adela Carter 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 POPE FRANCIS who died on Monday 21st April, having served as the 265th successor of St Peter. He was the first pope from the Society of Jesus (the Jesuit Order). Following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI on 28th February 2013, a papal conclave elected Jorge Mario Bergoglio as his successor on 13th March. He chose Francis as his papal name in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Pope Francis will, like his predecessors, be buried with some items that symbolise his time as Supreme Pontiff and his achievements. Those are the *pallium*, a vestment used only by the pontiff and metropolitan archbishops; the *rogito*, a deed that summarises the highlights of Francis's time as Pope, and bags of silver, gold and copper coins in number equal to the years of his papacy. In a 2023 interview, Pope Francis revealed he already had a tomb prepared for him in his favourite church, the Basilica of St Mary Major. Following the Pope's death, the Cardinal Chamberlain seals his apartment in the House of St Martha, where Pope Francis chose to live during his papacy. The *Camerlengo* destroys the Pope's fisherman's ring, a signet used to sign documents, in front of the College of Cardinals using a ceremonial hammer. This is the beginning of the *Sede vacante* period, when the Catholic Church is without a Pope and prepares for the conclave - the secret meeting where cardinals elect a new Pope.

PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS: O God, faithful rewarder of souls, grant that your departed servant Pope Francis, whom you made successor of Peter and shepherd of your Church, may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven the mysteries of your grace and compassion, which he faithfully ministered on earth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

ARCHBISHOP BERNARD LONGLEY has offered the following statement following the death of the Pope Francis: "As the remarkable pontificate of Pope Francis comes to a close all the faithful, Religious and clergy of our Archdiocese join in praying for the repose of his soul. We recall with gratitude the Canonisation of St John Henry Newman, Birmingham's saint, in 2019 by Pope Francis and the late Holy Father's appreciation for Cardinal Newman's teachings on the development of doctrine. The Holy Spirit inspired Pope Francis to lead the Church along the Synodal Pathway in fidelity to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and this will undoubtedly remain an important part of his abiding legacy. We also remember Pope Francis's many ecumenical and inter-religious initiatives as he prayed and worked for the unity of the Church and of mankind and for the respect due to God's creation. We pray that the Good Shepherd will now welcome the Successor of Peter into the company of saints. May he rest in peace."

TODAY we welcome Fr Mark Odion MSP who will be making an appeal on behalf of the Missionaries of St Paul. Part of the MSP mission is involved in the active ministry of giving succour to the refugees, migrants, ethnic minority groups, care for those trafficked, helping to stop further trafficking, and several other apostolates and ministries. At all Masses there will be a second collection to help support the work of the Missionaries of St Paul.

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, 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, Jennifer Bell, Tony Smith and Donal Heffernan.

PRAYER AT THE EASTER GARDEN: Risen Lord Jesus, as Mary Magdalene met you in the garden on the morning of your resurrection, so may I meet you today and every day: speak to me as you spoke to her in the living word of your Gospel; reveal yourself as the living Lord in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar; renew my hope and kindle my joy, and send me to share the good news of the Gospel with others. Amen.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Since the year 2000, the Easter Octave has concluded by celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday. This great solemnity calls us to rejoice in the merciful love of God as it is most profoundly manifested in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina in 2000.

'Divine Mercy' is another name for the revelation of this magnificent love of God, which culminates in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Christians have long known and praised this abundant mercy. In this sense, devotion to the Divine Mercy is not new. The feast of Divine Mercy is not only a beautiful reminder of the love of God, but also a challenge to a deeper understanding of who He is, and who we are in relation to Him. St. Faustina recognised this truth and responded in her weakness to the power of Christ's mercy.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS will take place on Sunday 27th April at 2.00pm in St Mary and St Benedict's Church. For more information, please see the poster at the back of church.

EASTER DUTIES: Many will know that it is an obligation on all Catholics to fulfil what is known as their 'Easter duties'. This is to receive Holy Communion at Easter time, or thereabouts, and it's often coupled, with the desire or the need to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This requirement is meant to serve as a bare minimum for Catholics, as we are encouraged to frequent both the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation throughout the year. However, many people are embarrassed or afraid to go to confession and they avoid it as long as possible, making excuses for not going. If that's you, here are three reasons you should go to confession as soon as possible.

Firstly, it's a new beginning: no matter what you've done, you can find mercy and healing in the sacrament of penance. When you walk out of the confessional, you are as sin free as you will ever be. Secondly, there is concrete forgiveness: Our Lord does not keep us guessing about whether we are forgiven. When the priest utters the words of absolution, our soul is instantly and completely healed. Sacramentally, Jesus is present in the confessional in the person of the priest. If he were here on earth, wouldn't you ask him for forgiveness? If you want to experience the Divine Mercy in a real way, confession is the way to do it. Thirdly, you receive graces: there is a mistaken notion that confession is just getting rid of our sins. But that's not true. We not only have our sins taken away, but we also receive graces from Christ that we desperately need to live a holy life. The more you go to confession, the more graces you receive.

If you haven't been to confession for a while, the Easter Season is the time to go. While you may not always feel like it, this sacrament is a great gift. Don't let fear, guilt, or embarrassment dissuade you. Jesus is waiting in the confessional for you, and his heart longs to grant you his mercy in abundance. What are you waiting for? Go to confession!

CONFESSION is available at STM on Saturday evenings from 4.15pm – 4.45pm; and at SJW on Saturday morning from 10.30am – 11.00am. Alternately at other times with prior arrangement with Fr Simon.

KINGDOM OF GOD PRAYER GROUP meets on Monday evenings in the MRR. All are welcome to come along.

SJW EASTER RAFFLE: Tickets are available, priced at £1 a ticket and £5 a booklet for you take home and sell to friends and family. Please return all completed stubs and monies by Friday 2nd May. The draw will take place after Sunday Mass on Sunday 4th May. Thank you to all those who have offered prizes for the raffle.

OUR THANKS to everyone who has helped in so many ways to make this year's Triduum and Easter liturgies such prayerful and uplifting times. To all those who have been busy – whether before, during or after, seen or unseen – a huge thank you to you all!

A particular word of thanks from Fr Simon for your many cards, gifts and the very generous Easter Offering.

SJW FEAST DAY falls this Thursday and as one of the patron saints in the parish, it calls for a time of celebration! After the 11.00am Mass on Sunday 4th May, there will be a bring and share lunch. Parishioners are encouraged to bring a plate of food from their native town. This occasion will also be our chance to say thank you and farewell to Deacon David and June.

DEACON DAVID AND JUNE have suggested that in lieu of a leaving collection for them from the parish, if anyone wishes to make a donation to a charity, this would be most welcome.

WE DARE TO HOPE is a five-week course for use during the Year of Jubilee which we are hoping to use in the parish. The course consists of a time of reflection combining meditation, scripture, prayers and questions. In the course the relationship between the virtue of hope, our lives and the source of all hope, Jesus, is explored. Wisdom from the saints is offered for the spiritual growth of group participants and individuals alike. This course will begin on Thursday 8th May.

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT at STM will take place on Saturday 17th May from 12noon until 2.00pm/2.30pm. This will include an Easter Egg Hunt and Easter craft activities for the children. All our younger families are encouraged to come along to this event. There is a sign up at the back of STM for people to sign up for this event. Please sign up by Sunday 11th May so that the Easter bunny knows how many eggs to purchase and hide!

HEADTEACHER VACANCY at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School in Coventry. Please see the School website, the Holy Cross MAC website or MyNewTerm for further details. The closing date for any applications is by midday on 7th May 2025.

COVENTRY NEWMAN CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday 29th at 7.30pm in the MRR for a talk on 'Art and the Spiritual Journey' by Christine Dodd.

COUPLES RETREAT on 6th and 7th May (7.00pm – 9.00pm) in the MRR. A chance to enrich your marriage as you understand God's purpose for your married life. A retreat led by Br Colin Calmiano. £15 per couple. Limited seats so registration is important. Please call 07438 774231 or 07405 889088. Please see poster for more information.

RED BOXES: Would all those at SJW who support the work of the Missio Appeal (Red Boxes), please bring their boxes to the Sacristy by Sunday 27th April.

SJW FOOD BANK: There is now a box at the back of SJW if anyone would like to give donations of tin goods towards the local foodbank.

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.

OSCOTT COLLEGE our Diocesan Seminary in Sutton Coldfield are trying to spread the news about the work they do, by getting people to sign up to their newsletter at www.oscott.org April's newsletter includes an update from the Rector, some answers to frequently asked questions about discernment, a report on some of the 'Hidden Treasures' in Oscott museum, and details of how to book a college tour. It takes less than a minute to sign up, and those who do will receive a monthly newsletter as well as early access to the annual Oscottian Magazine and events hosted at the college.

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

SEVEN DAY CANDLES: To sponsor a candle, please bring your £5 donation to the sacristy for booking. Please note that only one intention per candle can be booked. At STM the candles can be sponsored for St Thomas More, Our Lady, St Joseph and the Sacred Heart and at SJW they can be sponsored for St Joseph, Our Lady, St Anthony and the Sacred Heart.

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.

REGINA COELI: One of the most joyous anthems of the Church is the Regina Coeli, the Easter hymn to Our Lady. In a fearful pestilence our Lady's portrait reputedly painted by St. Luke was being carried in a procession which included Pope St. Gregory the Great. As they approached St. Peter's Basilica, the air became pure and free of pestilence. At the bridge which joins Rome to the Vatican, angels were heard singing the first three verses from the Regina Coeli and St Gregory was inspired to add the fourth line 'pray for to us to God, alleluia.' This prayer reminds us, of how much we have to be thankful for, even in the midst of our daily trials. When our Lord conquered death in His resurrection, he opened the gates of Heaven for us to be able to share Eternal Life with Him.

O Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.



O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL If you or a relative are going into hospital, please be sure to tell the ward staff you 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.

Parish Administrator and Room Bookings

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

Safeguarding Representatives

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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 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING

Acts 5:12-16

Many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the Apostles. And they were all together in the Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns round Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 118(117)

R: Give praise to the Lord for he is good,
his mercy endures for ever.

Let the house of Israel say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'
Let the house of Aaron say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'
Let those who fear the Lord say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been done,
a marvel in our eyes.
This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.

We beseech you, O Lord, grant salvation;
we beseech you, O Lord, grant success.
Blest is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the Lord is God, and has given us light.

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, 'Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches.' Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash round his chest. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.'

SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise. The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled. Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign. Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way. The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose! The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting. Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee. That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know. Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he

had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.' Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord'. But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.' Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

A MESSAGE FROM LUKE: All good things must come to an end as they say. As you may have noticed I am no longer here at the parishes of St Thomas More and St Joseph the Worker because my extended pastoral placement ended on Easter Sunday.

The past few months have been a truly joyful and blessed time. I am extremely grateful for Fr Simon for welcoming me, housing me and more importantly being a wonderful role model of the priesthood to me. And I am deeply appreciative of all the interactions I have had with so many parishioners, whether that be assisting the altar servers, visiting the housebound, praying through Scripture or *Dilexit Nos* with the community, leading students at Bishop Ullathorne School in adoration, attending the Year 6 residential to Plas Dol-y-Moch or discussing philosophy and theology with students of the University of Warwick. All these varied experiences have been deeply encouraging and confirming of both my faith in Jesus Christ and also my own call to discern the priesthood.

While it with sadness that I leave this wonderful community, I depart to continue my formation towards, God willing, priestly ordination.

Immediately after Easter I will be going to Cambridge to spend sometime in Ridley Hall, an Anglican Seminary. This will be a few months of living, praying and studying within the Anglican Communion as part of an exchange program that my seminary, the Venerable English College Rome, has had for many years.

After a summer break I shall return to Rome to complete my last two years of theological students at the Pontifical Gregoriana University. I am now at the tail end of my formation, this being my fifth year in seminary, and it is hoped that I will be ready for ordination to the transitional diaconate at the end of my theological studies around the summer of 2027. The general plan currently is that after ordination to the diaconate I shall then be placed somewhere in the diocese to assist, as a deacon, for about a year ahead of priestly ordination.

Please do keep me in your prayers, as it is still a long journey ahead, please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and please encourage our young parishioners in their faith journey and to consider their vocation.

I am sure that I shall return, (assuming the parish priest will have me!) and am sure that the relationships and connections I have made here will continue to foster and grow over the coming years. Should any of you be visiting in Rome, please do get in contact it would be a pleasure to invite you to the VEC and show you around Rome. Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Eastertide,

Luke Theobald