



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

11th May 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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

Saturday 10 th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	
Sunday 11 th		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Breeda Higgins/Dec'd Higgins, McGuire families
		9.00am	STM	Mass	Sean Donnelly (RIP)
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Ints of Sean Furey and family
		12.45pm	SJW	Mass	Pro Populo
Monday 12 th	Easter Feria			No Mass	
Tuesday 13 th	Our Lady of Fatima	10.00am	SJW	Mass	John Herbery Simons (RIP)
Wednesday 14 th	St Matthias	11.00am	STM	Mass 'n' Mingle	Patricia Brennan
Thursday 15 th	Easter Feria	10.00am	STM	Mass (School)	Michael O'Donnell
Friday 16 th	Easter Feria	10.00am	STM	Mass	Colin Dalton (RIP)
Saturday 17 th	Easter Feria	10.00am	SJW	Mass	Dolores Connolly (RIP)
	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER			followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	
4.15pm		STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions		
5.00pm		STM	Vigil Mass	Thomas and Rose Clarke (Anniv)	
9.00am		STM	Mass	Mgr Tom Gavin (RIP)	
11.00am		SJW	Mass	Jennifer Shaw (Anniv)	
12.45pm		SJW	Mass	Pro Populo	
Sunday 18 th		5.00pm	STM	Vigil of Reception and Mass for Veronica Hammond (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.*

The Fourth Sunday of Easter focuses on Jesus as our caring and guiding Shepherd. Through the readings, we learn about the importance of hearing His voice, spreading the Good News, and the inclusive call to follow Him.

We learn about the boldness of Paul and Barnabas in spreading the Good News about Jesus. Their example shows us the importance of sharing the message of the Good Shepherd. Just as they spoke courageously, we too must be willing to share the Good News so others can hear Jesus' voice. Both Paul and Barnabas faced many challenges, but they did not give up. They understood that people needed to hear about Jesus to follow Him. Their commitment inspires us to be brave in our faith and to share it with others, even when it is difficult.

Our Gospel reading happens before the resurrection. Jesus and His disciples are in Jerusalem for Hanukkah. During Hanukkah, a reading from the Book of Numbers, where Moses hears God's voice (Numbers 7:89), is traditional. So, it makes sense that Jesus would talk about His sheep hearing His voice. In the Book of Numbers, only Moses hears God's voice. However, Jesus brings a new message. He wants everyone, not just priests and prophets, to hear Him. This shows His love and care for all people.

God speaks to us, but we need to listen. The noise and distractions of the world can make it hard to hear Him. We must find quiet times and places to focus on His message. In these moments of silence, we can hear Jesus guiding us. We remember that Jesus is our Shepherd. He knows us, loves us, and calls us to follow Him. By listening to His voice, we can find the path to eternal life. To help others hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, we must speak about Jesus in our daily lives. This can be done through kind words, loving actions, and sharing our faith stories. When we do this, we help others recognize the voice of Jesus and follow Him.

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

Collections: STM: £789.20 | SJW: £289.00

Thank you for your continued generosity

*'Annuntio vobis gaudium
magnum: Habemus Papam!'*

'I announce to you a great joy: we have a Pope!'

Pope Leo XIV



Cardinal Robert Prevost became the 267th Pope on Thursday 8th May. He appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and was introduced to the world as Leo XIV.

He was born on September 14th 1955, in Chicago, Illinois, to Louis Marius Prevost, of French and Italian descent, and Mildred Martínez, of Spanish descent. He has two brothers, Louis Martín and John Joseph.

He studied first at the Minor Seminary of the Augustinian Fathers and then at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, where in 1977 he earned a Degree in Mathematics and also studied Philosophy.

On September 1st 1977 he entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) in Saint Louis, in the Province of Our Lady of Good Counsel of Chicago and made his first profession on September 2nd 1978. On August 29th, 1981, he made his solemn vows. He received his theological education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. At the age of 27, he was sent by his superiors to Rome to study Canon Law at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum). In Rome, he was ordained a priest on June 19th, 1982, at the Augustinian College of Saint Monica.

The first Augustinian Pope, Robert Prevost – now Leo XIV – is the second Roman Pontiff from the Americas after Pope Francis. However, unlike Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the 69-year-old Robert Francis Prevost is from the northern part of the American continent, though he spent many years as a missionary in Peru before being elected head of the Augustinians for two consecutive terms.

There has already been, and will continue to be, much speculation on how the papacy of Leo XIV will unfold. We are encouraged to remind ourselves and others, that this is not the successor of Pope Francis, but of St Peter himself and our first and foremost duty is to pray for him; praying that the same Holy Spirit that inspired the Cardinals to elect him, will continue to work in and through him as the Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church.

PRAYER FOR POPE LEO XIV: O God, who in your providential design willed that your Church be built upon blessed Peter, whom you set over the other Apostles, look with favour, we pray, on Leo our Pope and grant that he, whom you have made Peter's successor, may be for your people a visible source and foundation of unity in faith and of communion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

ARCHBISHOP BERNARD LONGLEY sent the following statement following the election of Pope Leo XIV:

I welcome the wonderful news of the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. As he prepared to give us his first blessing as Pope in St Peter's Square, he also gave us a message of joyful encouragement, calling us to be bridge-builders who are the light of Christ in the world. As the first Pope from the United States of America he also remembered the people of Chiclayo in Peru where he had served as bishop until 2023.

I have just spent the last few days at Buckfast Abbey with all the Bishops of England and Wales as we prayed for the Cardinals in Conclave and as we waited to hear whom the Holy Spirit would identify as the Successor of Peter. It will be a great joy to serve the Church's mission inspired by the guidance of Pope Leo. All the lay faithful, the Religious and clergy of our Archdiocese are praying for our new Holy Father that he may serve the Church for many years and be richly blessed in his apostolate.

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.

WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF Josie McElroy, Keelin Treharne, Veronica Hammond (Requiem Mass at STM on Monday 19th May at 11.00am), **Elizabeth Banks, Fr Ron Cosslett, Bob Kemble, Hugh Dinan, Margaret Eason and Deacon Tony Rigby** 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, 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, Georgina Brannigan-Smith, Ann Kenny, Rose Warburton, David O'Grady, Joan O'Leary, Thomas Weatherstone, Clare Oliver, Romina Mendieta, Jennifer Bell, Tony Smith, Christopher Mason and Donal Heffernan.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER is 'Good Shepherd Sunday' because of the opening words of Jesus that we hear from St John's Gospel: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep." It is the Day of Prayer for Vocations, when we are asked to pray for an increase of Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, Religious and Consecrated Life. Let us pray that more men and women will hear God's call in their lives and have the courage to answer and follow him.

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.

THE SECOND COLLECTION at Masses today is for the Clergy Training Fund, which goes towards feeding, housing and teaching those seminarians of the diocese discerning their vocation in seminary and to support diaconate training.

WELCOME to the members of the CathSoc University Choir who will be singing at the 5.00pm Vigil Mass this week. We continue to pray for the staff and students at Warwick University, particularly as many are sitting their exams at this time.

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.

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.

SPIRITUAL BOUQUET is a collection of prayers and offerings presented to someone to mark a particular occasion. It has been suggested that we present a Spiritual Bouquet to Deacon David and June as a thank you for all that they did whilst at SJW. If you would like to contribute to the this, there is a signup sheet in SJW.

KINGDOM OF GOD PRAYER GROUP will resume again on Monday 12th May. All are welcome to come along.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE MEETING: For anyone going on the Diocesan Pilgrimage later this month, there will be a short informal meeting after the 11.00am Mass on Wednesday 14th May.

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.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS AT SJW will be needed to help at the Sunday 11.00am Mass. If you are commissioned as an Extraordinary Minister at SJW, would you please let Fr Simon know, so that we can put together a rota for this ministry.

PETITIONS TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES: If you have any petitions that you would like taking and placing at the Grotto, they can be left in the boxes at both STM and SJW by Friday 23rd. Please do not place money in the envelopes.

THE MONTH OF MAY is dedicated to Our Blessed Lady. The custom of dedicating the month of May to Mary dates back to the 13th century. But it might come as a surprise to know that it wasn't until the 18th century when this practice became popular. The practice became common among the members of the Jesuit Order in Rome. Because of the far reach of the order's schools, the devotion took hold, and by the 1700's it began to spread worldwide. It's a Catholic tradition to honour Mary during the month of May by crowning her statue with flowers. The reason why we crown Mary is best summed up by Pope Paul VI who wrote in 1965 that May is an occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world pay to the Queen of Heaven." The crown symbol is attributed to Mary because she is the Mother of the Son of God, our Heavenly King.

ROSARY PRAYERS: Every Friday in May starting at 1.40pm at 'Our Lady of Coventry' statue, in Priory Gardens by Holy Trinity Church, Broadgate for around thirty minutes. Please do consider coming along to ask the intercession of Our Lady.

JUNE AND DAVID PALMER WRITE: 'We would like to thank everyone for the fond farewell and gifts last Sunday and we are grateful to all who made our time at St Joseph the Worker and the University Chaplaincy so enjoyable. Thanks especially to Fr Simon for your support and friendship. We will miss you all and will pray for you. God bless.'

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION for the Parish and School children will be held on Sunday 18th May during the 9.00am Mass. We pray for all the children who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. There are 22 children receiving Communion at this Mass, so it will be rather busy as they will bring their families and other guests with them. However, a full Mass is a lovely Mass reminding us that when we gather, we do so as one family, united around the altar of the Lord, to support and to pray for one another. Those who usually attend the 9.00am, might like to consider coming to Saturday 5.00pm that week. Please pray for the children at this important moment in their lives as they receive the Lord Jesus for the first time.

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 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!

PLEASE NOTE that the Vigil of Reception and Mass next Sunday evening in STM is a Mass of Requiem, and not a Mass which covers our Sunday obligation.

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS: You are warmly invited to Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School on Tuesday 13th May at 6.00pm. Jacquie Stacey will share her wealth of knowledge of Carlo's story. There will be a time of Adoration and the opportunity to venerate a relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis, who will become the first millennial saint. The relic, a section of his hair, offers the faithful a unique opportunity to venerate this inspiring young figure who has been hailed as a patron saint for the digital age. If you would like to attend the event, please sign the sheet at the back of church by Sunday 11th May.

STM SPRING FAYRE will be held on Friday 20th June and we will be trying out a different time of 3.30pm – 5.30pm. Of course, these fund-raising events don't just happen, so help will be needed. There will be a planning meeting on Thursday 15th May at 6.30pm in the MRR. More details next week. Please make a note of the date in your diary

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. We have decided to postpone this course until June.

LIVE SIMPLY TIP OF THE MONTH: Live sustainably with creation by walking, cycling or sharing a ride to church, if you can.

ARYPT MASS ON THE MALVERNS on Saturday 14th June 2025. An exciting opportunity to support the trust with a fantastic day out! You can walk as a family, individual or get a group together from your parish. For more information, please contact arypt2022@gmail.com or follow the link to register: <https://www.tfaforms.com/5172259>

COVENTRY NEWMAN CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday 20th May at 7.30pm in the MRR for a talk on 'G K Chesterton' by Canon John Udris.

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.

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

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. Alternatively at other times with prior arrangement with Fr Simon.

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 push through the Presbytery letterbox. 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.

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

Amanda Kelly and Claire Rutter (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
Amanda Kelly (SJW) ga.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk

READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING

Acts 13:14, 43b-52

In those days: Paul and Barnabas went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. Many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God. The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, 'It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." ' And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 100(99):1-2. 3. 5. R/3c

R: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. *R*

Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us; we belong to him.
We are his people, the sheep of his flock. *R*

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. *R*

SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9, 13a, 14b-17

I, John, looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands. Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord.
I know my sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

John 10:27-30

At that time: Jesus said, 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.'

