



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

18th May 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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

Saturday 17 th	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	
Sunday 18 th		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	John and Bridget Cooney (Anniv)
		9.00am	STM	Mass	Mgr Tom Gavin (RIP)
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Jennifer Shaw (Anniv)
		12.45pm	SJW	Mass	Pro Populo
		5.00pm	STM	Vigil of Reception and Mass for Veronica Hammond (RIP)	
Monday 19 th	St Dunstan	11.00am	STM	Requiem Mass for Veronica Hammond (RIP)	
Tuesday 20 th	Easter Feria	9.00am	SJW	Mass	Elizabeth Banks (RIP)
		10.00am	SJW	Funeral Service for Elizabeth Banks (RIP)	
Wednesday 21 st	Easter Feria	11.00am	STM	Mass 'n' Mingle	Liam West (RIP)
Thursday 22 nd	Easter Feria	10.00am	STM	Mass (School)	David Warr
Friday 23 rd	Easter Feria	10.00am	STM	Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Claire Hughes (Ints)
Saturday 24 th	Easter Feria		SJW	No Mass	
	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	
5.00pm		STM	Vigil Mass	Breeda Kiely (RIP)	
Sunday 25 th		9.00am	STM	Mass	Laura Williams (Thanksgiving)
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Yvonne Tricett (RIP)
		12.45pm	SJW	Mass	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 invite us to reflect on God's presence among us, the importance of love and faith in times of betrayal, and the need to support one another in our faith journeys. These themes remind us of the central messages of Christianity: God's closeness, the call to love, and the strength found in community. God being close to us means He is involved in our daily lives. He is not distant or far away but is always near, offering comfort and guidance. This presence can be a source of strength and hope, especially during difficult times.

In the reading from Acts, Paul and Barnabas encourage the early Church to remain strong in their faith. They show us the importance of community and support. In the face of hardships, they continue to spread the Gospel, teaching us that faith and perseverance go hand in hand. The Book of Revelation offers hope with the vision of a new heaven and a new earth. It reminds us that God is with us, wiping away our tears and promising a future free of pain and suffering. This vision encourages us to hold on to our faith, knowing that God is always near to us. Finally, in our Gospel, Jesus' new commandment to love one another as He has loved us is a powerful message for this Sunday in Easter. Despite knowing He would be betrayed, Jesus focuses on love and service. His example teaches us to love others even in difficult times and to trust in God's plan.

Reflecting on these readings, we learn the importance of staying strong in our faith, supporting one another, and focusing on love and service. This reminds us that, even in the face of challenges and betrayal, our faith and love for others should remain unwavering.

Let us pray. Almighty Father, thank You for Your constant presence in our lives. Help us to love one another as Jesus taught us. Give us the strength to support each other in our faith journeys and to trust in Your plan. 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

Collections: STM: £695.50 | SJW: £198.00

Standing Orders: April: STM: £1342.00 | SJW: £1200.00

Clergy Training Fund: STM: £559.70 | SJW: £167.80

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.

WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF Josie McElroy, Keelin Treharne, Veronica Hammond, Elizabeth Banks, Patrick Mulqueen (Requiem Mass on Tuesday 3rd June) **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 Cuninghame, 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, Claire Hughes, Jennifer Bell, Tony Smith, Christopher Mason and Donal Heffernan.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: On Sunday, a number of children from the parish and school will be making their First Holy Communion at the 9.00am Mass. Please pray for the children at this important moment in their lives as they receive the Lord Jesus for the first time.

HEADTEACHER APPOINTMENT: Following a thorough recruitment process, we are delighted to inform you that the Board of Directors of Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company supported by the Local Governing Body of St Thomas More Catholic School have appointed Mrs Clare Staines as the new Headteacher of St Thomas More Catholic School, with immediate effect. Mrs Staines has been a valued and inspirational member of our School Community for many years, and we are thrilled that she will now be leading the school into this exciting new chapter. Her passion for education, deep commitment to the children and families, and her dedication to the Catholic ethos of our School make her the ideal person to take on this important role. We are confident that under her leadership, St Thomas More will continue to flourish and grow, as she brings her vision, energy, and compassion to this position. We are sure you will join us in congratulating Mrs Staines on her new post and wish her the very best as she takes on the leadership role for this wonderful school community.

INAUGURAL MASS: On Sunday 18th May, the Holy Father will be celebrating the beginning of his Petrine ministry in St Peter's Square as he celebrates his Inaugural Mass. Let us continue to pray for him and the great ministry which has been entrusted to him as the 267th successor of St Peter.

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.

MARIAN PROCESSION: On Thursday 22nd May, the 10.00am Mass will conclude with a May Procession to the Prayer Garden in the School Grounds. This will be a lovely way to seek the intercession of our Blessed Lady, so please do come along.

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.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: On Saturday next week, a number of parishioners from STM and SJW, together with 28 pupils from Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School will be travelling to be part of the Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes. During the pilgrimage, prayers will be offered at the Grotto and Masses said for all the parishioners at both STM and SJW.

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.

PLEASE NOTE that Mass on Tuesday morning in SJW will be at the earlier time of 9.00am due to the Funeral Service at 10.00am.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: Parish Development Fund

SVP CONERENCE has now been running for a few weeks and is slowly starting to take shape. During this time, they have been looking at possible outreach projects which would be helpful to our parishioners at both STM and SJW. A few more members in the conference would be a marvellous addition. If you would like more information, please speak to Fr Simon. Please also let us know if you know of anyone who might like a visit from a member of the SVP.

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.

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.'

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.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD is celebrated this Thursday 29th May. It is a Holyday of Obligation for us, therefore our duty to come to Mass. Masses will be celebrated at 9.30am in STM and at 11.00am in SJW. Please note that there will be no evening Mass on the Thursday.

LGBTQ+ MEETING will take place this Sunday evening at 7.00pm in 14 Stoney Road. For more information about the group and the meetings, please email Deacon Leo on dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk

STM SUMMER FAYRE on Friday 20th June from 3.30pm – 6.00pm. Thank you to the few people who came along to the meeting last week. Details of various items for donation and help will be given over the coming weeks. Please make a note in your diary of the event. Anyone wishing to hire a stall, priced at £15 each, should contact the parish office to make a booking.

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>

CITY PRAISE AND PRAYER on Sunday 1st June, at 6.30pm at CLM Church, CV1 2HG. We are inviting all believers, from all churches, to come together for a special evening of praise, worship and united prayer for Coventry and beyond.

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.

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

YEAR OF JUBILEE RETREAT DAY on Saturday 28th June in the MRR. This day will be led by Canon Michael Dolman, the Rector of Oscott College. A day based on suggestions for getting the most out of this Holy Year and how we might become greater Pilgrims of Hope throughout this Holy Year and beyond. More details to follow, but please do make a note in your diary.

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

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

WEBELIEVE is a festival of Catholic Life from 25th-28th July 2025, celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope, with parishes and families in mind. Four days of music, conversation and worship, in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's College, Oscott, Sutton Coldfield. Pilgrim-attendees can choose to come for the whole weekend (camping, staying locally or coming from home) at an adult Early Bird rate of £70, or for a day for £40. Early Bird Tickets available now at www.webeliefefestival.com.

HOPE COVENTRY are advertising for two positions. Firstly, a 'Good Neighbours Coordinator' for 15 hours a week and secondly a 'Good Neighbours Administrator' for 8 hours a week. Both are paid positions. Closing date for applications by Monday 26th May. More information about these roles and for details about applying can be found by visiting www.hopecoventry.org.uk/vacancies/

KNOW A CHILD THAT LOVES TO SING? Any children aged 7 to 10 years old are invited to audition for Coventry Cathedral's Choirs. They sing in services, concerts, and recordings 4 times a week during term time. Members receive a free world-class music education, plus scholarship payments. To find out more, email the Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral on rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk

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.

ONLINE GIVING: If you were unable to give 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 your 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.

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

*'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.

READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING

Acts 14:21b-27

In those days: Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145(144)

R: I will bless your name for ever, my God and king

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. *R*

All your works shall thank you, O Lord,
and all your faithful ones bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign,
and declare your mighty deeds. *R*

To make known your might to the whole human race,
and the glorious splendour of your reign.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule endures for all generations. *R*

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-5a

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.' And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,
that you love one another, just as I have loved you.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

John 13:31-33a, 34-35

When Judas had gone out from the upper room, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

