



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH SHELDON

130 Horse Shoes Lane, Sheldon, B26 3HU ▪ Telephone 0121 743 2367

www.stthomasmorerccchurch.com

Parish Administrator - Maxine Winspear
stthomasmore.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Priest
Fr Christopher Miller

Safeguarding - Sue Nightingale
sg.stthomasmore.bham@rcaob.org.uk

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: registered charity no. 234216

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 10th December 2023

Holy Mass	Intention
<i>Saturday for Sunday</i>	
5:30pm Vigil Mass	Private Intention
SUNDAY	
9:00am Holy Mass	Ray Hughes & Brian Gisborne RIP
11:00am Solemn Mass	Ann & Des O'Rourke RIP

Weekday Masses

Monday 11th

9:30am Holy Mass Seamus Donningham RIP

Tuesday 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:00am Rosary & Novena

9:30am Holy Mass Shai Powell

Please note the change of time

Wednesday 13th

10:00am Requiem Mass Ann Naughton

Thursday 14th

10:00am Holy Mass at Saint Andrew's School

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Holy Mass Ann, Bill & Frank Rafferty

6:30pm ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Friday 15th

9:30am Holy Mass Joe McCartney

10:00am - 11:00am

Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday 16th

7:00am Rorate Caeli Mass

Catherine & Thomas Larkin RIP

---- NO Mass at 10:00am

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:30pm Vigil Mass Brendan McCartney RIP

SUNDAY 17th **O Sapientia**

9:00am Holy Mass Pro Populo

11:00am Solemn Mass Jimmy Gaffney RIP

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday NO Morning Confessions 4:45pm – 5:15pm

Rosary Monday – Friday before the morning Mass

Saturday after the morning Mass

Divine Mercy - During Adoration on Fridays

Advent 2023 - The start of the Year of Prayer

The Year of Prayer is not a year *about* prayer, but a year *for* prayer. The image of Christ in the manger speaks of a God who wants an intimate relationship with His creation. Advent will see initiatives that parishes can start engaging with.

Archbishop Bernard Longley calls on everyone to take part in this Year:

“The Year of Prayer starts on the first Sunday of Advent (3rd Dec). Pope Francis desires to see the Our Father become the “life programme” of every disciple, and so I invite our Diocesan family to prepare for the Jubilee Year, “Pilgrims of Hope”, through a deeper devotion to prayer in this Year of Prayer! “At our recent Bishops’ Conference meeting, we resolved to work towards a renewal of our adoration of Jesus Christ and our service of neighbour. I pray that our Lord will guide us to become a more synodal, missionary and prayerful Church, as we approach the Holy Year.”

Why the 'Year of Prayer'?

In preparation for the Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope", 2023-24 has been designated the Year of Prayer by Pope Francis, with a particular emphasis on the Our Father. This presents our Church with a significant opportunity to revisit the basics of prayer, and for us to become even more *a people of prayer*. Someone once said that '*prayer doesn't help our relationship with God, prayer IS our relationship with God!*' and so when we become more devoted to prayer, we are building up that Divine friendship. Being Pilgrims of Hope means that we should always be growing in our love of prayer on our journey of Faith. But the Year of Prayer also asks us to consider how we might help others to pray, so that they can experience a personal encounter with the risen Jesus.

RORATE CAELI MASS – THIS SATURDAY AT 7:00AM

“Rorate, caeli, desuper, et nubes pluant justum, aperiatur terra, et germinet Salvatorem.”

“Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened and bud forth a Saviour.”

The Rorate Mass is lit only by candlelight. Because it is a votive Mass in Mary's honour, white vestments are worn instead of Advent violet. In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honour the Light of the world, Who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illumined by the sun as our Faith is illumined by Christ.

The readings and prayers of the Mass foretell the prophecy of the Virgin who would bear a Son called Emmanuel, and call on all to raise the gates of their hearts and their societies to let Christ the King enter; asking for the grace to receive eternal life by the merits of the Incarnation and saving Resurrection of Our Lord.



ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Thursday 14th 6:30pm, after Holy Mass

Pope Francis says: "going to confession is not going to the dry cleaners to get a stain removed. No. It's something else." The first step for a good Confession, he said, "is precisely the act of faith, of abandonment, with which the penitent approaches Mercy."

"The pain for one's sins is the sign of such trusting abandonment to Love. To live Confession in this way means letting oneself be transformed by Love,"

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Recently Deceased – May they rest in peace

Kevin Alwright, Ann Naughton, Winifred Tyler.

Seamus McGrory - Reception 17th December 4:00pm

Requiem 18th December 11:00am

Thomas Croke – into Holy Family Church

Reception 14th December 6:00pm.

Requiem 15th December 10.30am

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS This week are sponsored for the intentions of Stephen Duffy.

WEEKLY GIVING TO THE CHURCH

03.12.23 - Gift Aid: £185.95. Non-Gift Aid: £500.70

Total: £686.65.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Church Christmas Decorations - £233.67

This Weekend – Poor Parishes Fund

PIETY SHOP

There is a large collection of Christmas Cards, Calendars, Diaries and Gifts available. Please come and have a browse. We are open before and after all weekend Masses, 5:30pm Saturday, 9:00am & 11:00am Sunday.

SAFEGUARDING

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Sue Nightingale. They can be contacted at: sg.stthomasmore.bham@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

PARISH DIARY

DECEMBER

Thursday 14th Advent Penitential Service 6:30pm

Saturday 16th Rorate Caeli Mass 7:00am.

Sunday 17th Hamper Raffle Draw after 11:00am Mass. Good Luck!

Wednesday 20th St Thomas More School Carol Service 6:00pm

All Welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE – SUNDAY 24th

The Masses for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ will begin in the afternoon of Christmas Eve, these are not the Sunday Masses of the Fourth Sunday of Advent – beginning with the Vigil Mass at 3:30pm. A priest is only allowed to say a maximum of three Masses in any given 24 hour period and for this reason there will be NO Mass at 9:00am on the morning of the 24th of December. In order to fulfil the Sunday obligation you will have to go to the Saturday evening Vigil Mass at 5:30pm or the Sunday Solemn Mass at 11:00am (or Masses at other times in other Churches). It is always difficult when Christmas Day is next to a Sunday. In order to remain in a state of grace one has to go to the Mass for Advent and then straight away to the Christmas Mass.

CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 24th

Advent IV

NO Mass at 9:00am

11:00am Solemn Mass

Christmas Eve

3:30pm

Vigil Mass

8:00pm

Solemn Mass of Christmas Night

MONDAY 25th

Christmas Day

9:00am

Dawn Mass

11:00am

Solemn Mass

JANUARY 2023

Sunday 31st

3:30pm Solemn Vespers & Benediction

Monday 1st

The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

10:00am Eucharistic Adoration

11:00am Holy Mass

CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR PRIESTS

Christmas Offering Envelopes are available at the back of church. Do please use them – especially if you are away at Christmas and wish to make a donation towards the support of your priests.

POINSETTIA

If anyone wishes to donate a Poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary please bring in on the weekend of 16th/17th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent.



ST. THOMAS MORE'S PARISH TOTE - JACKPOT £250

Result for 4th December 2023 - **Winning Numbers 18-03-04-22**

Next Draw Monday 11th December after morning Mass

1 play = £1.00 for 4 numbers - 5 plays = £5 + 1 FREE GO

Match 4 = Share Jackpot £250+. Match 3 = share £75+

JACKPOT £250