



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH SHELDON

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Fr Christopher Miller

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

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 17th December 2023

Holy Mass	Intention
<i>Saturday for Sunday</i>	
5:30pm Vigil Mass	Brendan McCartney RIP
SUNDAY O Sapientia	
9:00am Holy Mass	Pro Populo
11:00am Solemn Mass	Jimmy Gaffney RIP
12noon Holy Baptism	
4:00pm Reception	Seamus McGrory

Weekday Masses

Monday 18th O Adonai
11:00am Requiem Mass Seamus McGrory

Tuesday 19th O Radix Iesse
9:00am Rosary & Novena
9:30am Holy Mass Winifred Tyler RIP
Wednesday 20th O Clavis David
9:30am Holy Mass Hugh Prunty RIP Anniv
6:00pm Saint Thomas More School Carol Service

Thursday 21st O Oriens
5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration
6:00pm Holy Mass Adam Smith

Friday 22nd O Rex Gentium
9:30am Holy Mass Angela Aulton
10:00am - 11:00am
Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday 23rd O Emmanuel
---- NO Morning Mass

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:30pm Vigil Mass Alice Simon &
Santhamma Abraham

SUNDAY 24th
---- NO Mass at 9:00am
11:00am Solemn Mass Private Intention

Christmas Eve

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

3:30pm Vigil Mass Mae McLoughlin RIP
8:00pm Solemn Mass of Christmas Night
George Cassidy RIP

Monday 25th
Christmas Day
9:00am Dawn Mass Brendan McCartney RIP
11:00am Solemn Mass Thomas & Catherine Larkin
RIP

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday 10:00am – 10:30am
Rosary Monday – Friday before the morning Mass
Divine Mercy - During Adoration on Fridays



O Rex Gentium

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

From the very beginning, Christians celebrated what the Lord Jesus accomplished for the salvation of humanity. They did this every Sunday, the day of the Lord's resurrection, and as an annual feast on the Sunday after the first full moon of the spring equinox, Easter Sunday.

At the beginning of the 4th century, the liturgical calendar began to evolve, giving value to the "historical" Jesus as well. Good Friday was added to recall Jesus' death, and the Last Supper.... In that trajectory, the Nativity, the Birth of Jesus, was added. The first evidence of the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord dates back to the year 336. Soon after, in the Eastern Church, the Christmas feast of the Epiphany began to be celebrated on the 6th of January.

Christmas is the only liturgical celebration with four Masses, the Vigil Mass, the Mass during the Night, the Mass at Dawn and the Mass during the Day. The readings are the same for each of these Masses for all three liturgical years. This choice seeks to demonstrate and enhance, almost in slow motion, that Event that changed the course of human history: God became man.

The Vigil Mass: *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham... Matthan became the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ (Mt. 1:1-25).*

The Mass of Christmas Night: *"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Saviour has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Lk 2:1-14).*

The Mass of the Dawn: *When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place... So they went in haste... Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God (Lk 2:15-20).*

The Mass of the Day: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (Jn. 1:1-18).*



The Sacrament of Reconciliation
In Preparation for Christmas
 Friday after the morning Mass

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

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS This week are sponsored for the intentions and in memory of the Raponi Family.

Please use envelopes provided for Mass Intentions and Sanctuary Lamp sponsorship.

WEEKLY GIVING TO THE CHURCH
 10.12.23 - Gift Aid: £116.10. Non-Gift Aid: £426.59
 Total: £542.69.

SECOND COLLECTIONS
Poor Parishes Fund - £286.43

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. The Piety Shop helps to support the work of our parish so everything you purchase helps.

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

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 (see below). 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 for in order to remain in a state of grace one has to go to the Mass for Advent and then straight away 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 2024

Sunday 31st Dec. 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.

CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

After Mass on Tuesday 19th – Please Help !

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 – or during this week.



ST. THOMAS MORE'S PARISH TOTE - JACKPOT £250
 Result for 11th December 2023 - **Winning Numbers 21-22-12-09**
Next Draw Monday 18th December
 1 play = £1.00 for 4 numbers - 5 plays = £5 + 1 FREE GO
 Match 4 = Share Jackpot £250+. Match 3 = share £75+
JACKPOT £250