



# 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

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

## THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

**Holy Mass** Intention  
*Saturday for Sunday*  
5:30pm Vigil Mass Margaret & Cathal McGrory

**SUNDAY**  
9:00am Holy Mass Conway Family  
11:00am Solemn Mass Steve Simon  
3:30pm Solemn Vespers & Solemn Benediction

*Weekday Masses*

**JANUARY**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY  
THE MOTHER OF GOD**

10:00am Eucharistic Adoration  
11:00am Holy Mass Pro Populo

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Saint Basil the Great &  
Saint Gregory Nazianzen**  
---- NO Mass

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> The Holy Name of Jesus**  
---- NO Mass

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration  
6:00pm Holy Mass Alice Macklin  
**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>**  
9:30am Holy Mass Seamus McGrory RIP  
& Cathal McGrory RIP  
10:00am – 11:00am  
Eucharistic Adoration

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>**  
---- NO Morning Mass

## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

4:30pm – 5:15pm  
Eucharistic Adoration &  
First Saturday Devotions

5:30pm Vigil Mass Like Minded Ladies

**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup>**

9:00am Holy Mass Liam & Bridie Evans RIP  
11:00am Solemn Mass Alf & Mina Hanson RIP

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Friday 10:00am – 10:30am

& Saturday after the Vigil Mass

**Rosary** Monday – Friday before the morning Mass

**Divine Mercy** - During Adoration on Fridays



### MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

May the Virgin Mary, whom we venerate with the title of Mother of God, help us to contemplate the face of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. May she sustain us and accompany us in this New Year: and may she obtain for us and for the whole world the gift of peace.

The Gospel of the Mass finishes with a mention of the circumcision of Jesus. According to the Law of Moses, eight days after birth, baby boys were to be circumcised and then given their name. Through his messenger, God himself had said to Mary – as well as to Joseph – that the Name to be given to the child was “Jesus”; and so it came to be. The Name which God had already chosen, even before the child had been conceived, is now officially conferred upon him at the moment of circumcision. This also changes Mary’s identity once and for all: she becomes “the mother of Jesus”, that is the mother of the Saviour, of Christ, of the Lord. Jesus is not a man like any other, but the Word of God, one of the Divine Persons, the Son of God: therefore the Church has given Mary the title *Theotokos* or Mother of God.

### SOLEMN VESPERS – For the New Year

To celebrate the New Year there will be Solemn Vespers & Solemn Benediction on New Year’s Eve with the Te Deum at 3:30pm. On New Year’s Day we will have the Veni Creator Spiritus at Holy Mass at 11:00am.

A Plenary Indulgence can be obtained by attending both Liturgies and praying the Te Deum and the Veni Creator Spiritus. A prayerful and holy way to begin the New Year.

### THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

For Catholics, Jesus’ sacred name is the object of a special devotion. Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus was popularized by St. Bernardine of Siena, a 15th-century Franciscan, often symbolized by the monogram “IHS”, (sometimes called a Christogram), which is the first three letters of the Greek spelling of Jesus’ name.

Invoking the name of Jesus goes back even further to the Early Church in the form of the “Jesus Prayer”. This penitential prayer very simply says, “*Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner,*” which can be repeated on a prayer rope or ‘Jesus Beads’ just as the Hail Mary is prayed on the Rosary.



#### POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

**Recently Deceased – May they rest in peace**  
Kevin Alwright, Ann Naughton, Winifred Tyler  
Seamus McGrory, Albert Houghton

**THE SANCTUARY LAMPS** This week are sponsored for the intentions of the O'Meara Family.

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

#### WEEKLY GIVING TO THE CHURCH

Update will be given weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> January.

#### SECOND COLLECTIONS

14.01 – Pax Christi  
21.01 – White Flower

#### ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY 2023

These are available from the Piety Shop - £4

#### PIETY SHOP

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](mailto:sg.stthomasmore.bham@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

#### PARISH DIARY JANUARY 2023

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> **The Solemnity of the Epiphany**  
Vigil Mass 5:30pm  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Masses 9:00am & 11:00am

#### FEBRUARY

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> **The Presentation of the Lord – Candlemas**  
Mass 9:30am  
Eucharistic Adoration 10:00am – 11:00am

#### THANK YOU!

Many thanks for all your kind Christmas gifts and prayers and good wishes and thank you for your Christmas offering. To everyone who helped in preparing the church for Christmas, the cleaning team, the donations of Poinsettias and especially to Agnes for the beautiful flower arrangements, Paul for playing the organ at all the Solemn Masses. Thank you to Agnes and Sarah for all the help in the Sacristy. Thank you to Teresa and her Family for putting up the crib. Thank you to all the Stewards at the Masses, their help was very important to the smooth running of the Masses. And thank you to the Readers and Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

With my Prayers and Blessing for the New Year.

*Fr Christopher*

#### BAPTISM PREPARATION

This is an important part of getting ready for the actual celebration of Holy Baptism. The next meeting is **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**, at 6:30pm, after the evening Mass.

#### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Children not in Catholic Schools

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January** at 4:00pm in Church for all those who wish to make their First Holy Communion next summer. If you are not able to be at this meeting please let us know.

#### THE LADY CHAPEL WINDOW

After the vandalism and break in the restoration and repair with cost over £1700. We are looking at ways of having greater protection of the church with new CCTV and having the building alarmed.  
This week the work on the restoration of the window begins.



**ST. THOMAS MORE'S PARISH TOTE - JACKPOT £250**  
No Draw this week, 2 draws will take place on  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January after 9:30am 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**