



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 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 3rd December 2023

Holy Mass

Intention

Saturday for Sunday

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Private Intention (PC)

SUNDAY

9:00am Holy Mass

Mary & Jimmy Early RIP

11:00am Solemn Mass

John Noone RIP Anniv.

Weekday Masses

Monday 4th

9:30am Holy Mass

Deceased of the Smith
Family & Relatives

Tuesday 5th Saint Birinus

9:00am Rosary & Novena

9:30am Holy Mass

Lorna Reid RIP

Wednesday 6th Saint Nicholas

--- NO Mass

Thursday 7th Saint Ambrose

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Holy Mass

Rose & Maurice Fullard RIP
Michael Fullard RIP
Raymond Fullard RIP

Friday 8th

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9:30am Holy Mass

Pro Populo

10:00am - 11:00am

Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday 9th

10:00am Holy Mass

Elisabeta Traiam

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Private Intention

SUNDAY 10th

9:00am Holy Mass

Ray Hughes &
Brian Gisborne RIP

11:00am Solemn Mass

Ann & Des O'Rourke RIP

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10:30am – 11:00am & 4:45pm – 5:15pm

Rosary Monday – Friday before the morning Mass

Saturday after the morning Mass

Divine Mercy - During Adoration on Fridays



THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Outstanding among the saints is Mary, Mother of the Lord and mirror of all holiness. In the Gospel of Luke we find her engaged in a service of charity to her cousin Elizabeth, with whom she remained for "about three months"

"*Magnificat anima mea Dominum,*" she says on the occasion of that visit, My soul magnifies the Lord". In these words she expresses her whole program of life: not setting herself at the centre, but leaving space for God, who is encountered both in prayer and in service of neighbour — only then does goodness enter the world. Mary's greatness consists in the fact that she wants to magnify God, not herself.

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.



ADVENT – The season invites the joy of expectation

Advent becomes an opportunity to reawaken within ourselves the true meaning of waiting, returning to the heart of our faith which is the mystery of Christ, the Messiah who was expected for long centuries and was born in poverty, in Bethlehem. In coming among us, he brought us and continues to offer us the gift of his love and his salvation.

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

Ann Naughton – Requiem Wednesday 13th Dec.10:00am
 Seamus McGrory - Reception 17th December 4:00pm
 Requiem 18th December 11:00am
 Thomas Croke – into Holy Family Church
 Reception 14th November 6:00pm.
 Requiem 15th December 10.30am

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS This week are sponsored in memory of Jimmy Murray & Family.

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

WEEKLY GIVING TO THE CHURCH

26.11.23 - Gift Aid: £101.65. Non-Gift Aid: £370.92
 Total: £472.57.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Catholic Youth Service - £207.22

This Weekend – Church Christmas Decorations
 10.12 – Poor Parishes Fund

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 concern.

PARISH DIARY

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 24th *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 HAMPER RAFFLE TICKETS

Are still on sale in the porch after all Masses. The draw will take place after the 11:00am Mass on Sunday 17th December 2023.

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.

MARY’S MEALS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 9th December 7.30pm, doors open 6.30pm

St Martin in the Bullring, Birmingham B5 5BB

Step in from the winter chill and join us for an evening of joyful music featuring Lichfield Gospel Choir. Hear from Mary’s Meals founder and Sunday Times best-selling author, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, browse seasonal stalls and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies. All proceeds help Mary’s Meals serve nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world’s poorest countries.

Tickets £10 from Eventbrite: averygospelchristmas.eventbrite.co.uk or call 0800 698 1212 or email info@marysmeals.org

ST. THOMAS MORE’S PARISH TOTE JACKPOT £250
 Result for 29th November 2023
Winning Numbers 06-15-22-13
No Jackpot Winner – 1 Winner with 3 Numbers
Next Draw Monday 4th December
after 9:30am Mass
 1 play = £1.00 for 4 numbers - 5 plays = 1 FREE GO
 Match 4 numbers = Share Jackpot £250+
 Match 3 numbers = share £75+