



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
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Safeguarding - Sue Nightingale
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The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: registered charity no. 234216

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 14th December 2025

Holy Mass

Saturday for Sunday

4:30pm – 5:15pm

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Intention

Confessions

Hugh Prunty RIP Anniv

SUNDAY

9:00am Holy Mass

10:00am-10:30am

Val Lennon RIP

Eucharistic Adoration

Confessions

11:00am Solemn Mass

Annie Reilly RIP

Weekday Masses

Monday 15th

9:30am Holy Mass

Kathleen Lavin

Tuesday 16th

9:30am Holy Mass

Cath & Thomas Larkin RIP

Wednesday 17th

9:30am Holy Mass

Joan McSkean

Thursday 18th

9:30am Holy Mass

William Sheil

Friday 19th

9:30am Holy Mass

10:00am – 11:00am

10:15am – 10:45am

Charlie McTernan

Eucharistic Adoration

Confessions.

Saturday 20th

NO Morning Mass

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday for Sunday

4:30pm – 5:15pm

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Confessions

James Gaffney RIP Anniv

SUNDAY 21st

9:00am Holy Mass

10:00am-10:30am

Joe Farrelly

Eucharistic Adoration

Confessions

11:00am Solemn Mass

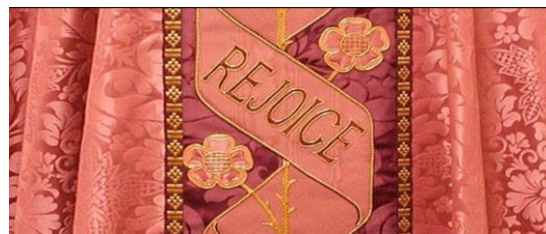
Tim O'Toole RIP

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Father Michael will be available to hear confessions after each mass here leading up to Christmas.

Rosary Monday – Friday before the morning Mass

Divine Mercy - During Adoration on Friday



The shift to a pink candle for the third week of Advent marks celebration amid a long period of waiting. In that way, Gaudete Sunday is similar to Lent's Laetare Sunday.

Advent's "Joy Sunday" reminds Jesus' followers that joy is possible — and commanded — even during difficult seasons of longing. The name Gaudete comes from the opening words of the Latin introit *Gaudete in Domino semper*, translated "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). As St. Paul teaches throughout the New Testament, this type of joy is deep and intentional, not superficial and haphazard.

People might interchange "joy" and "happiness" in daily conversations, but the Bible portrays them quite differently. Happiness often fluctuates depending on circumstances, such as our health, relationships and finances. True joy, meanwhile, springs from the goodness and grace of our heavenly Father. It is anchored in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — events that couldn't have happened without his birth.

Consider examples from Scripture. James 1:2-3 says, "Whenever you face various trials, consider it all joy," emphasizing that joy and hardship can coexist. "The joy of the LORD is your strength," according to Nehemiah 8:10, pointing to power independent of circumstance.

In the Christmas story, an angel proclaims "good news of great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10) when Jesus is born, linking the concept of rejoicing to Immanuel's arrival. Near the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus offers the disciples his own joy, saying it is made complete in relationship with him (see John 15:11).

No pain or disappointment can wipe out genuine joy, because the Holy Spirit sustains and restores it. For Christians, everlasting joy remains even when happiness fades

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

ST AUGUSTINES, Solihull.

Tuesday 16th December 7:00pm. The church has requested free car parking in the lower level of the Dominion Car Park for the duration of the service.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Stechford.

Wednesday 17th December from 5:00pm – 6:00pm during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, Yardley Wood.

Monday December 22nd at 7:30pm

There are no services at Our Lady of the Wayside or Olton Friary.



We aim to open the church for private prayer during the week. Please check the Newsletter for more details.

This week; Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th the Church will be open from 9:00am to 2:30pm.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

BAPTISMS

If you would like to arrange a baptism please call the parish office on 0121 743 2367. Monday to Wednesday between 10:30am & 2:30pm

Recently Deceased – *May they rest in peace*

Breda Hogan.

Martin De Vreede

Requiem Monday 22nd December 10:00am.

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS This week are sponsored for the intentions of Mick & Sheila Finneran and the McLoughlin Family.

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

WEEKLY GIVING TO THE CHURCH

07.12.25 - Gift Aid: £133.90. Non-Gift Aid: £416.56

Total: £550.46

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Poor Parishes Fund - £231.33

This weekend - Christmas Decorations for the Church.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR PRIESTS

The collections taken at all the Christmas Masses, will be to support Fr Michael Nnaji. Christmas Offering Envelopes are available at the back of church. Do please use them – especially if you are away over the Christmas Season.

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.

PARISH OFFICE - PLEASE NOTE - Whilst waiting for the appointment of a new parish priest, the presbytery will be closed. Any enquiries please telephone 0121 743 2367. If no answer please leave a message. You can also Email: stthomasmore.bham@rcaob.org.uk

If you need a priest in an emergency please Contact:

Sacred Heart & Holy Souls on 0121 706 0800 or

Olton Friary on 0121 706 0505.

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 21st

5:00pm Carol Service followed by refreshments. It would be lovely to see all the children wearing their national dress or favourite nativity characters at this event.

CHRISTMAS

WEDNESDAY 24th **Christmas Eve**

3:30pm

Vigil Mass

8:00pm

Solemn Mass of Christmas Night

THURSDAY 25th **Christmas Day**

9:00am

Dawn Mass

11:00am

Solemn Mass

CHURCH CLEANING

Monday 15th after the 9:30am Mass. Please help so that the Church can be ready for Christmas. Thank you.

CAROL SERVICE

If anybody would like to do a reading at the Carol Service. Please sign the sheet in the porch.

EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION AND READERS

Please sign the rota for the Christmas Masses. Thank you.

STEWARDS FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

We need help with all the Christmas Masses to make sure all runs very smoothly. Please can you sign the list in the Porch.

ALTAR SERVERS

Please sign the sheet in the porch if you are available to serve at any of the Christmas Masses.



POINSETTIAS

If anyone wishes to donate a Poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary please bring in on the weekend of 20th / 21st December – or during this week



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

Result for 8th December 2025 - **Winning Numbers 01-13-19-17**

Next Draw Monday 15th December after church cleaning.