



# 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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### Holy Mass

### Intention

*Saturday for Sunday*

**5:30pm Vigil Mass**

Mary McLoughlin RIP

SUNDAY

**9:00am Holy Mass**

Catherine Ready RIP Anniv

**11:00am Solemn Mass**

Jimmy Gaffney

### Weekday Masses

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup>**

***O Radix Iesse***

---- NO Mass

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>**

***O Clavis David***

---- NO Mass

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>**

***O Oriens***

---- NO Mass

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

***O Rex Gentium***

---- NO Mass

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

***O Emmanuel***

9:30am Holy Mass

Deceased Carr & Gorman  
Families

10:00am - 11:00am

Eucharistic Adoration

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>**

---- NO Morning Mass

## THE SOLEMNITY OF

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

*In Vigilia Nativitatis Domini*

### Christmas Eve

**5:30pm Vigil Mass**

Noreen Donohoe RIP

**8:00pm Solemn Mass of Christmas Night**

George Cassidy RIP

SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup>

*In Nativitate Domini*

### Christmas Day

**9:00am Dawn Mass**

Pro Populo

**11:00am Solemn Mass**

Private Intention

### The Sacrament of Reconciliation

*In Preparation for Christmas*

Friday after the morning Mass

**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**

**Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations**  
 We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

**Recently Deceased – May they rest in peace**  
 Raymond Fullard, John Salt, Rita Mottram  
 Rosanna Lynch, Helena Harnett, Rosa Farrugia,  
 Gloria Freitas, Shayne Collins-Phillips.  
 Paul Fitzgerald –  
 Requiem Mass Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. 11:00am

**THE SANCTUARY LAMPS** This week are sponsored for Matthew O'Brien & Family and Rebekah Clarke.

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

**WEEKLY GIVING TO THE CHURCH**  
 11.12.22 – Gift Aid £110.00. Non-Gift Aid: £350.46  
 Total £460.46

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**  
**Church Christmas Decoration - £231.18**

**ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY 2023**  
 These are available from the Piety Shop - £4

**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.

**Office Hours:** The Parish Office is open between 10:30am and 2:30pm Mon, Tue & Wed. Any requests for Baptism Appointments, certificates, parish centre enquiries etc; should be made during these times. Tel. 0121 743 2367 or Email: [stthomasmore.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stthomasmore.bham@rcaob.org.uk)

**PARISH DIARY**

**DECEMBER**

**CHRISTMAS**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Eve**  
 5:30pm Vigil Mass  
 8:00pm Solemn Mass of Christmas Night

SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Day**  
 9:00am Dawn Mass  
 11:00am Solemn Mass

**JANUARY 2023**

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> **The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God**  
 5:30pm Vigil Mass - After Mass until 7:00pm  
 Eucharistic Adoration for the New Year  
 Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Masses 9:00am & 11:00am

**THE ARCHBISHOP**

A statement from His Grace, Archbishop Bernard, in relation to the tragedy at Babbs Mill Lake is available on the Diocesan website: News | Birmingham Diocesan Trust ([birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://birminghamdiocese.org.uk))

**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.

**SISTER HELEN OMEJE**

On behalf of my regional superior in English Region, SR EMILIA ARUM I hereby thank you and your parishioners immensely for your generosity and kind gestures. May God replenish abundantly all you have given toward the building of our SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL and for buying the CDS IN SUPPORT OF THE BUILDING TOO.

WARM WISHES  
 HELEN OMEJE

**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 Sacristy or in the Porch so we know everything is in place. This Ministry of welcome is so important. Also it will be especially important to make sure Holy Communion is organised and therefore the Blessed Sacrament is guarded and protected at all times. Thank you in anticipation.

**CHURCH CLEANING – FOR CHRISTMAS**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Thank you for all your help.

**ST. THOMAS MORE'S PARISH TOTE**  
**JACKPOT £600**  
 Result for 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
**Winning Numbers 16-13-01-18**  
**No Jackpot Winner – 1 Winner with 3 Numbers**  
**Next Draw Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December after Mass**  
 1 play = £1.00 for 4 numbers - 5 plays = 1 FREE GO  
 Match 4 numbers = Share Jackpot £250+  
 Match 3 numbers = share £75+