



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH SHELDON

130 Horse Shoes Lane, Sheldon, B26 3HU ▪ Telephone 0121 743 2367

www.stthomasmorerccchurch.com

Parish Administrator - Maxine Winspear
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Safeguarding - Sue Nightingale
sg.stthomasmore.bham@rcaob.org.uk

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 21st December 2025

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| Holy Mass | Intention |
| <i>Saturday for Sunday</i> | |
| 4:30pm – 5:15pm | Confessions |
| 5:30pm Vigil Mass | James Gaffney RIP Anniv |

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| SUNDAY 21st | O Oriens |
| 9:00am Holy Mass | Joe Farrelly |
| 10:00am-10:30am | Eucharistic Adoration |
| | Confessions |
| 11:00am Solemn Mass | Tim O'Toole RIP |

Weekday Masses

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| Monday 22nd | O Rex Gentium |
| 10:00am Requiem Mass | Martin De Vreede |

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| Tuesday 23rd | O Emmanuel |
| 9:30am Holy Mass | Michael Pakes RIP |

Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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

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| Thursday 25th | Christmas Day |
| 9:00am Dawn Mass | People of the Parish |
| 11:00am Solemn Mass | Brendan McCartney RIP |

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| Friday 26th | Saint Stephen |
| 11:00am Holy Mass | Tony & Paul Mahon RIP |

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| Saturday 27th Saint John the Evangelist, Apostle | |
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THE HOLY FAMILY

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|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Saturday for Sunday</i> | |
| 4:30pm – 5:15pm | Confessions |
| 5:30pm Vigil Mass | John O'Sullivan RIP |

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| SUNDAY 28th | |
| 9:00am Holy Mass | Special Intention |
| 10:00am-10:30am | Eucharistic Adoration |
| | Confessions |
| 11:00am Solemn Mass | Deceased of Rooney & O'Reilly Families. |

Rosary Monday – Friday before morning Mass



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Matthew 1:18-25 THE IMPORTANCE OF MARY

The opening words of this reading announce its central theme: Jesus, born of Mary, is the Messiah, long awaited by the Jewish people and prophesied in the Jewish Scriptures. At a first reading Joseph appears to have a more prominent place in this account than Mary; we hear how he was shocked by Mary's pregnancy and intended to break up with her quietly until instructed by an angel in a dream to take her as his wife.

Unlike in Luke's Gospel there is no account of the annunciation of the angel Gabriel to Mary or of Mary's reaction to the astonishing situation she found herself in. However, at a deeper level, Matthew's account of the events leading up the birth of Jesus clearly revolves around Mary and the child to whom she will give birth.

The text places great emphasis upon Mary's virginity and the fact that her pregnancy is miraculous, not brought about by an act of man but through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. Because Jesus has no earthly father, only his heavenly, eternal Father, he is truly Son of God, and because he is born of Mary, he is truly human. Mary provides the eternal Son of God with his human nature, through her God is with us, in her son, our saviour. If Jesus had not been born 'one like us' (cf. Hebrew 2:17), he would not have been able to redeem humanity. The name Jesus in Hebrew literally means 'God saves', and Mary plays an essential role in the salvation brought about by her son.

Matthew's Gospel stresses that Jesus is the fulfilment of prophecies in the Jewish Scriptures, and this text contains one of the most famous of these prophecies, announcing how Mary's role in the salvific power of the Incarnation fulfils Isaiah 7:14: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (a name which means 'God with us'). However, Mary is more than the fulfilment of certain prophecies in the Jewish Scriptures; through her, a Jewess, all the promises made to Israel, God's chosen people, reach their fulfilment. She is the one in whom the Old and New Testaments are united. She is truly "the highest honour" of the Jewish race (cf. Judith 13:18) and the truest image of the Church, for through her, Jesus, the Messiah, is God among us.



The Church will be open this week;

Monday 22nd
and
Tuesday 23rd
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, Elizabeth (Lily) Kelly, Ena Comerford, Ambrose Whyte, Martin De Vreede

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS This week are sponsored in memory of Tony and Paul Mahon.

THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS Are sponsored In memory of the McGrory Family

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

WEEKLY GIVING TO THE CHURCH

14.12.25 - Gift Aid: £185.00. Non-Gift Aid: £387.27
Total: £572.27.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Christmas Decorations for the Church – £229.69

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 priest.

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.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I wish you a happy and blessed Christmas.

Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God's gift of love, hope, and salvation to the world.

May the peace of the newborn Christ fill your hearts, your homes, and our parish community. May his light guide us to love one another more deeply.

Thank you for your kindness and welcome.

May God bless you always.

Fr. Michael Nnaji.

PARISH DIARY

DECEMBER

Monday 29th 11:00am Holy Mass
Tuesday 30th 11:00am Holy Mass

New Years Eve

Wednesday 31st 11:00am Holy Mass

JANUARY 2026

New Years Day

Thursday 1st **The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God**
11:00am Holy Mass

Friday 2nd *First Friday*

9:30am Holy Mass
10:00am -11:00am Eucharistic Adoration

FEBRUARY

Monday 2nd **The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple**
Candlemas
9:30am Holy Mass

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, Yardley Wood. Monday December 22nd at 7:30pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES

EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION, READERS and STEWARDS

Please don't forget to sign the sheets in the porch for the Christmas Masses. Thank you in anticipation



POINSETTIAS

If anyone wishes to donate a Poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary please bring in this weekend if you can. or during this week



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

Result for 15th December 2025 - **Winning Numbers 05-23-13-19**

Next Draw Tuesday 23rd December after Mass