



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH SHELDON

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Telephone 0121 743 2367

www.stthomasmorerccchurch.com

Parish Administrator - Maxine Winspear
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Parish Priest
Fr Christopher Miller

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

THE SECOND SUNDY OF THE YEAR

Sunday 14th January 2024

Holy Mass

Intention

Saturday for Sunday

5:30pm Vigil Mass

David Hannon RIP Anniv

SUNDAY

9:00am Holy Mass

Michael Whyte

11:00am Solemn Mass

Pat Middleton RIP

12noon Holy Baptism

Weekday Masses

Monday 15th

9:30am Holy Mass

Fr Christopher Greaney RIP

Tuesday 16th

5:30pm Rosary & Novena

6:00pm Holy Mass

Private Intention

Wednesday 17th

9:30am Holy Mass

Patricia & Frank McDonald

Thursday 18th

10:00am Holy Mass at Saint Andrew's School

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Holy Mass

Michael Mullen RIP

Friday 19th

--- NO Mass or Adoration

Saturday 20th

--- NO Morning Mass

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Martin Byrne

SUNDAY 21st

9:00am Holy Mass

Theresa Sheehan

11:00am Solemn Mass

Katie Ford RIP

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday 10:00am – 10:30am

& Saturday 4:45pm – 5:15pm

Rosary Monday – Friday before the morning Mass

Divine Mercy - During Adoration on Fridays



THE FORGOTTEN SEASON OF EPIPHANY

For many centuries, the Catholic Church celebrated a “Christmas cycle” that typically began at the end of November and extended through the end of January. Within this liturgical cycle, there existed three distinct seasons.

The first season was “Advent” and continues to be celebrated as it has always been. The second season was “Christmastide,” which included the days of Christmas from December 25 until January 6. On January 6, the feast of the Epiphany, inaugurated “Epiphanytide,” a third season that ran until the beginning of the Pre-Lenten liturgy.

The End of the 40 Days of Christmas, Candlemas (i.e., the Feast of the Purification of our Lady) is another day which the modern world greatly overlooks in importance. The Feast of Candlemas, exactly 40 days after Christmas, commemorates the Blessed Virgin Mary’s obedience to the Mosaic law by submitting herself to the Temple for ritual purification, as commanded in Leviticus.

The Feast of the Purification is called Candlemas for the traditional blessing and distribution of candles on that day. It is customary to bring candles from home to be blessed – at least 51% beeswax candles that one uses for devotional purposes (candles for the family altar, Advent candles, etc.) so they can be lit after dusk on All Saints’ Day, during the Sacrament of Extreme Unction, and during storms and times of trouble.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – 18th – 25th January

This year the theme *“You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself”* (Lk 10:27) has come from an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso. They have reflected on the familiar story of the Good Samaritan, and all are encouraged to *Go and do likewise*. It is a story about crossing boundaries that calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family.

“Those who are touched by God’s grace cannot turn in on themselves and live only for themselves; they are always on the march, always driven to go forward – and to go forward together.”

Again, like the Magi, whom tradition represents as representatives of diverse cultures and peoples, Christians today are “challenged to take our brothers and sisters by the hand... and move forward together.” Pope Francis encouraged Christians to help one another advance “ever closer to God.”



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

Vitor Antônio da Silva Freitas, Jim Queenan, Fr Christopher Greaney.

Cornelius McKay - Reception 14th February 7:00pm
Requiem 15th February 11:00am

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS This week are sponsored in memory of Hannah Dorgan.

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

WEEKLY GIVING TO THE CHURCH

07.01.24 - Gift Aid: £137.12. Non-Gift Aid: £393.76
Total: £530.88.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

The Collection taken at St Thomas More Carol Concert On Wednesday 20th December - £207.37

Crib Offering - Friends of the Holy Land - £362.04

This Weekend – Pax Christi

Next Weekend – White Flower

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY 2024

These are available from the Piety Shop - £4

ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

Have spaces available, Please contact the school office.
Closing date for Reception Applications 2024/2025,
Monday 15th January.

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.

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

PARISH DIARY

JANUARY 2024

Sunday 28th Saint Thomas More School Confirmation Commitment Mass 11:00am

FEBRUARY

Friday 2nd **The Presentation of the Lord – Candlemas**
Mass 9:30am

Eucharistic Adoration 10:00am – 11:00am

Sunday 4th Saint Andrew’s School Confirmation Commitment Mass 11:00am

Wednesday 14th **Ash Wednesday**
Masses 9:30am & 6:00pm

Wednesday 21st Saint Thomas More School First Confessions 10:30am

Saturday 24th Saint Andrew’s School First Confessions 10:30am

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD – 21st January

Please can all Readers renew their commitment to this ministry at any of the Sunday Masses over this weekend, the Sunday of the Word of God. Thank you.

CAFOD

The Church relies on people getting involved. Our parish, our community, our world needs you. Could your New Year’s resolution be getting more involved in the life of our church? Which aspects of church brings you life or joy? Could you give a bit of time to help those parts flourish?

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help in our parish, inspiring our church to help build a better world or by visiting our local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the area? Could you support local volunteers or share your admin or people skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with Sylvester at birmingham@cafod.org.uk Or could you take part in The Big Lent Walk? cafod.org.uk/walk

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Children not in Catholic Schools

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 6th February** 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.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

The Birmingham and Wolverhampton Walsingham Association is organising a pilgrimage to Walsingham this year from Sat 6th April to Mon 8th of April. The cost is £299pp for En-suite and £261pp for budget accommodation. This includes coach travel from various pick-up points across Birmingham and Wolverhampton. For more details and bookings please contact Charles Keily before Friday 19th January on 07710 189036. All are welcome and look forward to seeing you there!



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

Result for 10th January 2024 - **Winning Numbers 01-05-11-12**

Next Draw Wednesday 17th 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