



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH SHELDON

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Parish Priest
Fr Christopher Miller

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

THE IV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 28th January 2024

Holy Mass	Intention
<i>Saturday Evening for Sunday</i>	
5:30pm Vigil Mass	William Buckley RIP
SUNDAY	
9:00am Holy Mass	Gerard O'Malley RIP
11:00am Solemn Mass	Timmy Miller RIP

Weekday Masses

Monday 29th

9:30am Holy Mass John Sheehan

Tuesday 30th

6:00pm Holy Mass Michael Flynn

Wednesday 31st Saint John Bosco

9:30am Holy Mass Maureen Milligan Ints

FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st

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

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Holy Mass Sonia, Agaton, Matilde,
Pablo, Luciana, Paulino RIP

Friday 2nd The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Candlemas

9:30am Holy Mass George Cassidy RIP

10:00am – 11:00am
Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday 3rd Saint Blaise

10:00am Holy Mass & The Blessing of Throats
For Matthew

10:30am Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & First Saturday Devotions

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:30pm Vigil Mass Paddy Jordan RIP Anniv

SUNDAY 4th

9:00am Holy Mass Nancy Whyte RIP

11:00am Solemn Mass Pro Populo

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11:00am & 4:45pm – 5:15pm

Rosary Monday – Friday before the morning Mass
Saturday after the morning Mass

Divine Mercy - After the morning Mass on Fridays



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – CANDLEMAS

In the encounter between the old man Simeon and Mary, a young mother, the Old and New Testaments come together in a wondrous way in giving thanks for the gift of the light that shone in the darkness and has prevented it from prevailing: Christ the Lord. The feast recalls the occasion when Mary and Joseph, in observance of Jewish custom, presented their first-born son to the priest in the temple in Jerusalem 40 days after his birth.

There they were met by the old priest Simeon who was promised that “he should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” It is he who declared the infant to be “the light to enlighten the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. The theme of Christ the Light, which has characterized the series of Christmas feasts and culminated in the Feast of the Epiphany, is taken up and extended to the celebration today.

SEPTUAGESIMA – Preparation for Lent

Just as Lent recalls the forty years that the Hebrews spent in the wilderness, Septuagesima recalls the seventy years of the Babylonian Exile, when the Chosen People were so homesick that they could not sing a song of Zion.

Septuagesima and Lent are sober reminders of our status as wayfarers living east of Eden, “justly afflicted for our sins” in a valley of tears. That hope, which is an echo of Psalms is present at every Mass in the *Suscipiat*, when the faithful pray that God will accept this Eucharistic sacrifice for the praise and glory of His name. Septuagesima is a time we have lost but it is good for our spiritual well-being to start to think about how to prepare for the holy season of Lent.

SAINT THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

Please pray for all the children who are making their commitment at the Solemn Mass today in preparation for their Confirmation.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

Saturdays are traditionally the day on which Mass is in honour of our lady, known as *Our Lady's Saturday*. The Novena will move from Tuesday to Saturday and follow the morning Mass. You will be able to have prayer intentions prayed for at the Novena.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

For the Terminally Ill

The Holy Father encourages prayers "so that terminally ill patients and their families always receive necessary medical and human care and support."

Recently Deceased – May they rest in peace

Beryl Aldred, Breeda Harrison.

James Queenan Reception 5th February 5:00pm

Requiem 6th February 11:30am

Angela Martyn Reception 6th February 5:00pm

Requiem 7th February 11:00am

Cornelius McKay - Reception 14th February 7:00pm

Requiem 15th February 11:00am

Tom Conlan Requiem 22nd February 10:15am

Maura Dowling Requiem 23rd February 11:00am

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS This week are sponsored for the intentions of Liam & Conor McLoughlin.

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

WEEKLY GIVING TO THE CHURCH

21.01.24 - Gift Aid: £131.90 Non-Gift Aid: £411.29

Total: £543.19.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

White Flower - £286.73

This Weekend – World Leprosy Day

11.02 – Pro Life

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY 2024

These are available from the Piety Shop - £4

FUND RAISING MEETING

We would like to invite parishioners to join us for a meeting to discuss which causes/charities we raise money for this year. **Friday 9th February at 1:30pm in the Church Hall**

SIFA FIRESIDE

Thank you to our parishioners who kindly supported the SIFA Fireside fundraising lunch at Scanlon's on Saturday 9th December 2023.

The final total raised was £15,000

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

MARY'S MEALS

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your precious gift of £381.38, which is helping us to transform the lives of hungry children around the world with a nutritious daily meal in school.

Your kindness is bringing food, joy and hope to the children who eat Mary's Meals, allowing them to make the most of their education and giving them the chance of a better future.

As part of our Double The Love appeal, your donation will be matched – all thanks to a group of generous donors who are doubling donations, up to £1 million, at this time. This means your gift will feed even more hungry children with Mary's Meals.

The presence of Mary's Meals at Saleha's school in Yemen has helped her focus on her love of learning, gaining the skills she needs to fulfil her ambitions, rather than the hunger she used to feel throughout the day. The seven-year-old says: "I felt more encouraged to go to school after we started receiving the meals. I love school and I especially love that I am learning to read and write.

"I hope to be a doctor when I grow up. I want to help people."

Today, more than 2.4 million hungry children in 18 of the world's poorest countries – including South Sudan, Ethiopia, Malawi and Yemen – are sitting in classrooms with full stomachs, and learning how to read and write, thanks to supporters like you.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your incredible generosity which will have a life-changing impact on some of the world's poorest children, providing them with energy, education and hope for a brighter future.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Barlow

Executive Director, Mary's Meals UK



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

Result for 24th January 2024 - **Winning Numbers 12-09-04-24**

Next Draw Wednesday 31st 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