



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH SHELDON

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Parish Priest
Fr Christopher Miller

Parish Administrator
Maxine Winspear
Safeguarding
Sue Nightingale

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 30th January 2022

Holy Mass

Saturday for Sunday

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Intention

Richard Lambe &
Deceased Lambe Family

SUNDAY

9:00am Holy Mass

Nancy Whyte RIP Anniv

11:00am Solemn Mass

Pro Populo

Weekday Masses

Monday 31st Saint John Bosco

----- NO Mass

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 1st

5:30pm Rosary & Novena

6:00pm Holy Mass

Paddy Jordan RIP Anniv

Wednesday 2nd THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

CANDLEMAS

9:30am Solemn Mass

George Cassidy RIP Anniv

Thursday 3rd Saint Blaise

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

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Holy Mass

Private Intention

Friday 4th First Friday

9:30am Holy Mass

John Smith RIP

10:00am – 11:00am

Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday 5th The Blessed Virgin Mary

9:15am Eucharistic Adoration &

First Saturday Devotion

10:00am Holy Mass

Alice Simon &

Santhamma Abraham

Next Sunday 6th FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday for Sunday

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Kate Ford RIP

SUNDAY

9:00am Holy Mass

John & Betty Kaminski RIP

11:00am Solemn Mass

Pro Populo

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday Evening only 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 Day of the Lord - Dies Domini

**Sunday encounter with Christ is vital,
indispensable and irreplaceable for**



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.

SAINT BLAISE

We know more about the devotion to Saint Blaise by Christians around the world than we know about the saint himself. His feast is observed as a holy day in some Eastern Churches. In 1222, the Council of Oxford prohibited servile labour in England on Blaise’s feast day. The Germans and Slavs hold him in special honour, and for decades many Catholics have sought the annual Saint Blaise blessing for their throats.

We know that Bishop Blaise was martyred in his episcopal city of Sebastea, Armenia, in 316. The legendary *Acts of St. Blaise* were written 400 years later. According to them Blaise was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Although the Edict of Toleration (311), granting freedom of worship in the Roman Empire, was already five years old, persecution still raged in Armenia. Blaise was apparently forced to flee to the back country. There he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, but he made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals for the amphitheater stumbled upon Blaise’s cave. They were first surprised and then frightened. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions and bears.

The legend has it that as the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise’s command the child was able to cough up the bone.

Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade Blaise to sacrifice to pagan idols. The first time Blaise refused, he was beaten. The next time he was suspended from a tree and his flesh torn with iron combs or rakes. Finally, he was beheaded.

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please take very great care as this is so sacred. As you approach the Priest remove your face covering so that you can receive the Host with great care and reverence. **Do not move while holding the Blessed Sacrament.** If you wish to receive on the tongue, please come to the communion rails last.

If you need the Most Blessed Sacrament brought to you at Holy Communion please sit at the front of the Church and in any case at the end of a bench so that the greatest amount of honour and respect can be shown to Jesus. It is not appropriate that the Priest or minister has to reach across other people.

GENEROUS DONATIONS

A number of donations towards the restoration of the Sanctuary. £500. Many thanks.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

Religious Sisters and Consecrated Women

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Recently Deceased – May they rest in peace

Kathleen McFarlane –

Reception Tuesday 8th February 6:45pm

Requiem Mass Wednesday 9th 11:00am

Paul Mahon –

Reception Thursday 10th 6:45pm

Requiem Mass Friday 11th February 11:00am

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS This week are sponsored for Mary Fitzgerald and in memory of Anna Joseph.

THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS This week are sponsored in memory of Annette Anderson RIP.

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

WEEKLY GIVING TO THE CHURCH

23.01.22 - Gift Aid: £133.00 Non-Gift Aid: £384.21

Total: £517.21

Thank you for supporting the work of the Gospel

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This Weekend – White Flower Appeal

Next Weekend – Pro Life

Survive Miva - £417.72

Please consider giving by standing order

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

A LISTENING CHURCH – THE SYNODAL PATHWAY

PRAYER FOR THE SYDODAL PATHWAY - *ADSUMUS*

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

WALKING TOGETHER - THE SYNODAL PATHWAY

Parish Meeting: **Tuesday 22nd February 6:30pm** after the Evening Mass in the Saint John Fisher Room. All welcome. The gathering of the People of God is to see how we can respond to the Holy Father's wish for the Synodal Pathway and then for the Church to prepare for the Synod in 2023 in Rome.

BAPTISMS For those wishing to get a child baptised the Next Baptism Preparation, Tuesday 8th March after 6:00pm Mass. Application forms can be collected from the sacristy after all Masses or from the presbytery during office open hours.

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This year the celebration is on **Friday 11th February. Holy Mass at 6:00pm** with the Anointing of the Sick. If anyone is ill, they are welcome to receive Anointing. There will be also be another occasion in the near future if this day and time is difficult.

NEW GUIDANCE FOR CHURCHES – COVID - JANUARY 2022

It is clear from scientific evidence that transmission from surfaces (touch transmission) is now minimal and so the use of hymn books, missals and other worship aids can be resumed with immediate effect. Whilst it is still good practice to sanitise hands on entry and exit of churches, there is no need for readers (or other ministers) to sanitise their hands before reading or performing other ministries in the church. All ministers of Holy Communion (clergy and lay people) should still sanitise their hands for the distribution of Holy Communion. Holy Communion will continue to be distributed at the same place but will not be guided by the stewards. Please do not move until the Blessed Sacrament has returned to the sanctuary.

The main form of virus transmission is via personal oral or nasal aerosol. Those attending an act of worship may continue to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) whilst in the church building. There is no need for formal social distancing in church buildings, although those present should be sensitive to the needs of others around them.

Offertory and Second collections will go back to pre-pandemic times using the red and blue collection bags.