



# SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH SHELDON

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

www.stthomasmorerccchurch.com

Parish Administrator - Maxine Winspear  
stthomasmore.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Priest  
Fr Christopher Miller

Safeguarding - Sue Nightingale  
sg.stthomasmore.bham@rcaob.org.uk

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

## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Holy Mass

### Intention

*Saturday for Sunday*

4:30pm – 5:15pm

Eucharistic Adoration &

First Saturday Devotions

**5:30pm Vigil Mass**

Like Minded Ladies

### SUNDAY

**9:00am Holy Mass**

Liam & Bridie Evans RIP

**11:00am Solemn Mass**

Alf & Mina Hanson RIP

### Weekday Masses

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

9:30am Holy Mass

The Cassidy Family

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>**

5:30pm Rosary & Novena

6:00pm Holy Mass

John O'Neill RIP Anniv

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Holy Mass

Elizabeth, Thomas &  
Catherine McKenna RIP

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Holy Mass

Nancy Grogan & Family

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Holy Mass

Richard Kelly RIP Anniv

10:00am – 11:00am

Eucharistic Adoration

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>**

---- NO Morning Mass

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

**5:30pm Vigil Mass**

David Hannon RIP Anniv

### SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup>

**9:00am Holy Mass**

Michael Whyte

**11:00am Solemn Mass**

Pat Middleton 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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

What amazes us each time when we listen to the Gospel about the Magi is that they prostrated themselves before a simple baby in his mother's arms, not in the setting of a royal palace but, on the contrary, in the poverty of a stable in Bethlehem.

### EPIPHANY BLESSING

“20+C+M+B+24.”

The numbers represent the current year and the letters stand for the first letters of the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar.

The letters are also an abbreviation for “Christus Mansionem Benedicat,”  
“May Christ bless this dwelling.”

### CRIB OFFERING – The Friends of the Holy Land

#### A dark Christmas in Bethlehem

in Bethlehem, all the Christmas lights have been taken down in solidarity. The celebrations usually attended by thousands of tourists and pilgrims have been cancelled and the hotels stand empty.

For the 80% of Bethlehem residents and some 5,000 Christians in Jerusalem who depend on tourism to survive, this is a disaster on top of a frightening time and many are losing hope. We need to get urgent support to these families at Christmas, as well as those suffering in Gaza.

#### Now is the time to light a candle for our brothers and sisters

The Holy Land's Christians have been a light, both spiritually and practically, in the region for thousands of years. They follow Jesus where he walked and love their neighbours by providing the vast majority of hospitals, quality schools, universities and social care in the Palestinian territories.

#### We can't let that light go out in our generation.

As violence rages in the Holy Land, the situation for our Christian family there has gone from very difficult to critical.

Caught in the middle of terrible conflict after a year of pressure, many more families from places like Bethlehem, East Jerusalem and Ramallah are thinking seriously about emigrating.

We face the possibility of the last members of the ancient Christian community leaving the homeland of our faith forever.

Your support can make all the difference

### SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND



**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**

Kevin Alwright, Ann Naughton, Winifred Tyler  
Seamus McGrory, Albert Houghton,  
Vitor Antônio da Silva Freitas

**THE SANCTUARY LAMPS** This week are sponsored for the intentions of the Maun Family.

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

**WEEKLY GIVING TO THE CHURCH**

24.12.23 - Gift Aid: £125.97. Non-Gift Aid: £364.03  
Total: £490.00.  
31.12.23 - Gift Aid: £143.71. Non-Gift Aid: £418.15  
Total: £561.86

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

**Today – Crib Offering - The Friends of the Holy Land**  
**14.01** – Pax Christi  
**21.01** – White Flower

**ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY 2024**

These are available from the Piety Shop - £4

**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](mailto:sg.stthomasmore.bham@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:stthomasmore.bham@rcaob.org.uk)

**PARISH DIARY  
JANUARY 2023**

**The Solemnity of the Epiphany**  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Vigil Mass 5:30pm  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Masses 9:00am & 11:00am  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Saint Thomas More School Confirmation Commitment Mass 11:00am

**FEBRUARY**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> **The Presentation of the Lord – Candlemas**  
Mass 9:30am  
Eucharistic Adoration 10:00am – 11:00am  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Saint Andrew’s School Confirmation Commitment Mass 11:00am  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> **Ash Wednesday**  
Masses 9:30am & 6:00pm  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Saint Thomas More School First Confessions 10:30am  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Saint Andrew’s School First Confessions 10:30am

**THANK YOU!**

Many thanks for all your kind Christmas gifts and prayers and good wishes and thank you for your Christmas offering. To everyone who helped in preparing the church for Christmas, the cleaning team, the donations of Poinsettias and especially to Agnes for the beautiful flower arrangements, Paul for playing the organ at all the Solemn Masses. Thank you to Agnes and Sarah for all the help in the Sacristy. Thank you to Teresa and her Family for putting up the crib. Thank you to all the Stewards at the Masses, their help was very important to the smooth running of the Masses. And thank you to the Readers and Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

With my Prayers and Blessing for the New Year.

*Fr Christopher*

**BAPTISM PREPARATION**

This is an important part of getting ready for the actual celebration of Holy Baptism. The next meeting is **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**, at 6:30pm, after the evening Mass.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Children not in Catholic Schools**

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January** 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.

**THE LADY CHAPEL WINDOW**

After the vandalism and break in the restoration and repair with cost over £1700. We are looking at ways of having greater protection of the church with new CCTV and having the building alarmed. The section of the window has now been taken away for restoration.



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

Result for 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - **Winning Numbers 07-21-12-18**  
Result for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 - **Winning Numbers 07-01-12-23**  
**Next Draw Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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**