



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH SHELDON

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www.stthomasmorerccchurch.com

Parish Priest
Fr Christopher Miller

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

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 3rd March 2024

Holy Mass	Intention
<i>Saturday Evening for Sunday</i>	
5:30pm Vigil Mass	Gloria Freitas
SUNDAY	
9:00am Holy Mass	Fr Arkadiusz Baron RIP
11:00am Solemn Mass	Tom Browne RIP

Weekday Masses

Monday 4th	
9:30am Holy Mass	Teresa Wiley
Tuesday 5th	
6:00pm Holy Mass	Sonia Boronio RIP
Wednesday 6th	
9:30am Holy Mass	Patricia McGuinness
10:30am – 11:30am	
Confessions – Saint Thomas More School	
6:00pm	Saint Andrew's School First Confessions - <i>In Church</i>

Thursday 7th

10:00am	Holy Mass at Saint Andrew's School
5:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration
6:00pm	Holy Mass Geraldine McGrory

Friday 8th

9:30am	Holy Mass Angela Martyn RIP
10:00am – 11:00am	
Eucharistic Adoration	
6:00pm	Holy Mass Mary Hawkins RIP
6:30pm	Stations of the Cross

Saturday 9th

10:00am	Holy Mass Steve Simon Ints.
10:30am	Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

5:30pm Vigil Mass	Barbara Prunty Ints
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SUNDAY 10th

9:00am Holy Mass	Ian Salt RIP Anniv
11:00am Solemn Mass	Michael Kerrigan RIP Anniv

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10:30am – 11:00am & 4:45pm – 5:15pm

Rosary Monday – Friday before the morning Mass

Divine Mercy - During Adoration on Fridays

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2024

Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom

Dear brothers and sisters!

When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Ex 20:2). These are the first words of the Decalogue given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Those who heard them were quite familiar with the exodus of which God spoke: the experience of their bondage still weighed heavily upon them. In the desert, they received the “Ten Words” as a thoroughfare to freedom. We call them “commandments”, in order to emphasize the strength of the love by which God shapes his people. The call to freedom is a demanding one. It is not answered straightaway; it has to mature as part of a journey. Just as Israel in the desert still clung to Egypt – often longing for the past and grumbling against the Lord and Moses – today too, God’s people can cling to an oppressive bondage that it is called to leave behind. We realize how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination. Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more – in the words of the prophet Hosea – the place of our first love (cf. Hos 2:16-17). God shapes his people, he enables us to leave our slavery behind and experience a Passover from death to life. Like a bridegroom, the Lord draws us once more to himself, whispering words of love to our hearts.

The exodus from slavery to freedom is no abstract journey. If our celebration of Lent is to be concrete, the first step is to desire to *open our eyes to reality*. When the Lord calls out to Moses from the burning bush, he immediately shows that he is a God who sees and, above all, hears: “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey” (Ex 3:7-8). Today too, the cry of so many of our oppressed brothers and sisters rises to heaven. Let us ask ourselves: Do we hear that cry? Does it trouble us? Does it move us? All too many things keep us apart from each other, denying the fraternity that, from the beginning, binds us to one another.

I bless all of you and your Lenten journey.

FRANCIS



POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

For the new martyrs

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

Recently Deceased – May they rest in peace

Fr Arkadiusz Baron, Angela Martyn, Beryl Aldred, Breeda Harrison. James Queenan, Cornelius McKay, Tom Conlan, Maura Dowling.

John Cunniam -

Requiem Tuesday 12th March 11:30am

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS This week are sponsored in memory of Ian, Iris & John Salt.

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

WEEKLY GIVING TO THE CHURCH

25.02.24 - Gift Aid: £121.59. Non-Gift Aid: £439.82. Total: £561.41

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Cafod - £384.14

This Weekend - Cathedral Maintenance

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

MARCH

- Wednesday 3rd Saint Andrew’s School First Confessions 6:00pm
- Thursday 7th Cluster Parishes Meeting 7:00pm
At Saint Thomas More - Church Hall
- Tuesday 19th The Solemnity of Saint Joseph
Holy Mass 9:30am

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Maundy Thursday 28th
Solemn Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:00pm

Good Friday 29th
The Passion of the Lord 3:00pm

Holy Saturday 30th
Solemn Paschal Vigil Mass of the Resurrection 8:00pm

Sunday 31st
EASTER DAY
Holy Mass of the Resurrection 9:00am
Solemn Mass of the Resurrection 11:00am

APRIL

Sunday 7th Divine Mercy & Solemn Benediction 3:00pm

LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE – Wednesday 20th 7:00pm at CORPUS CHRISTI STECHFORD

This will be for all the Churches in the Cluster at Corpus Christi.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Children not in Catholic Schools

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 12th March** 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.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

This is an important part of getting ready for the actual celebration of Holy Baptism. The next meeting is **Tuesday 12th March**, at 6:30pm, after the evening Mass.

CLUSTER PARISHES

Meeting of Parishioners across the Cluster Parishes

This will take place as the “follow up” to the listening meeting and will be held at St Thomas More Sheldon on **Thursday 7th March 7pm-8.30pm**. This will be a general invitation to all parishioners across the cluster parishes to come together and explore ways in which we can work together.



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

Result for 28th February 2024 - **Winning Numbers 11-01-18-17**

Next Draw Wednesday 6th March 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