



St Thomas More Catholic Church

Parish Newsletter Supplement

Towcester

Issue # Advent 2

*“Hello and Welcome to you all !”*

Thank you all for the warm welcome back to me after my wonderful holiday – in the sun! A vote of thanks should also be given to the priests who supplied in my absence,

and all who undertook extra tasks to ensure as smooth and dignified celebration of the Mass through their preparation and oversight!

It has been quite a week since my return – not entirely surprisingly, what with ‘jetlag’ coupled with the colder weather here – I caught a rotten cold and lost my voice! What I wasn’t quite ready for was the collapse of part of my bedroom ceiling on Wednesday morning, nor the subsequent “cold” my mobile phone had – which resulted in my inability to use it! Still, my cats, Moses and Sheba had an equally lovely time with my parents – but it is good to be home!

**There is an important attachment to this newsletter – a matter for prayer and action!**

Do please also read Cathedral Hub newsletter as well as our newsletter supplement. This will enable you know what is happening in the wider church – especially at the Cathedral. Everyone is invited to join with Bishop David at Mass this coming Monday, for the Patronal Solemnity: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mass is at 12 noon. In the meantime, do look after yourselves and God bless us all.... *Fr James*

**Congratulations to Billie Ann** who was baptised into the family of the Church on Saturday afternoon, 7<sup>th</sup> December! It is another wonderful occasion to give God thanks and praise and for us all to hold in prayer our younger members in their journey of faith!

**First Communion / Confirmation** Having mentioned our younger members, we will commence our catechesis for those who have applied to receive these Sacraments, in January 2025. Please do keep an eye out for information given in this newsletter for more information.

**Weekday Mass** – as part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas, before Mass, from 9am there will be a time to spend with the Lord through a time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will also be available if requested.

**Advent Spiritual Nourishment** We have a selection of Advent resources to help us journey through the wonderful Season. The small booklets are £1 each, the larger booklets, £2 each. For children – why not visit <https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/advent-calendar-for-children>.

**Christmas 2024** – from this weekend please do consider signing up as a Reader, Eucharistic Minister or Welcomer for the Christmas Mass celebrations! There will also be a **retiring collection** next Sunday (*Gaudete Sunday*) for the Christmas flowers.

### **Other Diary Events...**

**Fridays during Advent:** Advent Reflections on the Advent Sunday Readings Lombard Room – from 10.30am for one hour. Everyone Welcome!

**19<sup>th</sup> December:** Churches Together in Towcester proudly present their annual **“Carols on the Square”**, from 6.30pm! All are welcome. A chance to come together to tell the Christmas story – supported by a brass band, children’s voices and afterwards with some festive spirit and mince pies!

Rumours of a certain someone’s birthday this weekend have been noted!