



ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT [A]

7 December 2025



Please take the newsletter home with you for reference.

Parish Priest
Fr. Alessandro Renó,

1 Meeting Lane, Towcester NN12 6JX

✉ fralessandro.reno@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Office:

Opening time Wednesday & Friday 10.15am to 12noon

S.V.P. (Charity/Support):

Michael J. Emery

✉ michaeljemery@hotmail.co.uk

☎ 07157 613487

Safeguarding Parish Rep.:

Mary McAllister

Barbara Leay (support)

✉ safeguarding.towcester@northamptondiocese.org

Health and Safety:

Anthony McAllister

✉ mcallister18@hotmail.com

Children Liturgy:

Rosie Darwin

✉ rosiedarwin@aol.com

Music/Choir Group:

Chris Nikel

✉ chris@nikel.net

Finance Team:

Michael J. Emery: Chairman

Hugh Moran: Treasurer

💻 www.stthomasmorerc.org

TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 6 December –

5.30pm – Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

Sunday 7 December – Second of Advent [A]

11am –

Monday 8 December – Immaculate Conception

9.00am – Rosary

9.30am – Mass

Wednesday 10 December

9.00am – Silent Adoration

9.30am – Mass Alfredo Reno' Rip

Friday 12 December

9.00am – Rosary

9.30am – Mass

Saturday 13 December –

5.30pm – Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

Sunday 14 December – 3rd of Advent [A]

11am – Mass

Mass Readings:

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 71(72): 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

Psalm response:

In his days shall justice flourish,
and great peace for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Eucharistic Acclamation:

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 5.15pm to 5.30pm

If you need to arrange another time/day, speak
with Fr Alessandro.

EXPOSITION & ADORATION:

Saturday from 4.30pm to 5.10pm

ROSARY:

Monday and Friday at 9am

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: The Children's Liturgy
for those children who have not yet made their First
Communion at the 11.00 Mass start this Sunday!

**TEA AND COFFEE after the 11.00
Mass in the LOMBARD ROOM**

If you want to help to prepare, serve
and tidy. Please, speaks with Chris
Ash.



LAST SUNDAY COLLECTION:

Weekly collection: £ 477.76

FR ALESSANDRO WISH TO THANK:

All those who were participating to his induction mass last Thursday. My gratitude, to all who make the liturgy celebration so joyful through their service: readers, servers, ministers of the Eucharist, singers and musicians, welcomers and the beautiful and warm welcome and sharing in the Lombard Room, thanks to Chris N. and Edwina G. Moments that will build up special memories to me! GRAZIE A TUTTI!

TIDY OF THE UPPER ROOM on Wednesday the 10th of December and Saturday the 13th of December

We need volunteers to tidy up and organize, our Upper Room. If you want to give us a hand, please just show up on the 10th at 10.15am or the 13th at 10am.

ADVENT CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS:

The time of Advent is a season of preparation, reflection, and joyous anticipation, traditionally celebrated by Christians for four weeks leading up to Christmas. It is a time of hope, as it signifies the coming of Jesus Christ and the fulfilment of God's promises. The season also focuses on joy, peace, and love, encouraging believers to prepare their hearts and find joy in both the anticipated birth of Jesus and His future second coming. Our parish will celebrate Advent with moments of prayer, special Masses, the Christmas Novena, and the service of Reconciliation. [Here are some important dates to remember:](#)

- **Christmas Novena:** from 15 to 23 celebrating within the daily mass.
- **Christmas Market and Sale of cakes:** on Sunday 21st December at 12 noon in the Parish Garden.
- **Reconciliation Service:** on the 22nd of December confessions after morning mass from 10am to 12noon; and from 5pm to 7pm.
- **Christmas Eve Masses:** on the 24th December at 5pm the children and family mass; and at 8pm the "Midnight Mass"
- **Christmas Day:** on the 25th of December at 9am Nativity of the Lord's Mass at King's Sutton; and

11am at St Thomas More in Towcester.

PARISH WEBSITE

The time has finally arrived! Our parish website is ready for you to visit. You can log in and click for news, newsletters, interesting facts, photos, and much more at:

www.stthomasmore.org

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

Dec 15 Kathy F. & Catherine B.

Dec 29 Emanuela C. & Michele

THE SVP (SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL) SICK & HOME VISITS:

If you know of anyone who is ill or housebound please refer to Michael Emery or Kate Wilson, so we can arrange for a visit and to receive Holy Communion if they wish.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

We are happy to announce that the parish preparation course for First Holy Communion and Confirmation will start on the new year 2026 (date TBC) in St Thomas More. Please, take the registration form on the back of the church and return it by the end of December 2025.

BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE: please contact Fr Alessandro Renó to book a date and to arrange the preparation course for the sacraments at: fralessandro.reno@northamptondiocese.org

PARISH REPOSITORY: Volunteers are sought to manage the repository and resume the sale of sacred objects and religious greeting cards. Please speak with Father Alessandro.

PARISH REGISTRATION FORM:

Parish registration forms are available now!

I kindly ask all parishioners, both current and new, to complete the form and return it to me by the end of November. This will allow us to register parishioners and maintain a list for our parish archives.

The primary reason for filling out a parish form is to officially register as a member of a church community. While many people attend a church regularly, registration is the formal step that includes you in the religious, social, and ministerial life of the parish.

For the parishioner

For an individual or family, the benefits of registering include:

- **A sense of belonging:** It is a way of publicly committing to a faith community and establishing your membership.
- **Communication:** Registered members receive bulletins, emails, and other communications about parish news, events, and important updates.
- **Access to services:** Registration may be required to schedule sacraments, such as baptisms or marriages, or to obtain a sponsor certificate to be a godparent.
- **Pastoral care:** If you or a family member becomes ill, being a registered parishioner ensures the church knows you and can provide pastoral visits or other support.
- **Easier administration:** Having your information on file simplifies administrative tasks for both you and the church office.

For the parish

For the church, parish forms are vital for several administrative and pastoral functions:

- **Maintaining records:** Parishes maintain records of their members and their families, including sacraments received and life events. This allows them to better serve the community.
- **Planning and budgeting:** A parish's census numbers often determine how many priests are assigned, what obligations the parish has to the diocese, and how Mass and other services are scheduled.
- **Encouraging participation:** The form may ask about skills, interests, and special needs, which helps the church connect parishioners with volunteer opportunities and support services.
- **Financial support:** Some forms include information on how a parishioner intends to support the church financially, which is essential for its operations.

DIOCESE

Advent Resources:

Mark 10 Mission

a moving rendition of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* sung by Sr Chiara, a Franciscan Sister of the Renewal. This ancient hymn, drawn from the Church's O Antiphons, expresses the longing and hope of God's people awaiting the Messiah, both in salvation history and in our lives today.

The video is ideal for schools, families, and parish communities, helping to foster a reflective and prayerful atmosphere throughout Advent. We encourage you to make use of it in liturgies, assemblies, classroom prayer, or moments of personal reflection.

Video

link: https://youtu.be/S_tXIIJxoEE?si=DHKEPPhKUS5wUmtF

Wave of Hope

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has released an excellent Advent resource entitled *Wave of Hope*. Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, this series offers 25 short multimedia reflections, one for each day, featuring contributors who share a personal moment from 2025 that has renewed their sense of hope.

These reflections are ideal for parish websites, social media, schools, and personal prayer. We encourage you to share this resource widely as a way of helping parishioners deepen their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

More here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wave-of-hope/>

Crown of Advent Novena

A reminder that the Crown of Advent Novena begins on 17th December. This beautiful nine-day devotion invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ through Scripture, prayer, and reflection on the themes of the Advent wreath.

Please consider sharing the novena with your parish communities, through your website, newsletter, or social media, so that individuals and families may unite in prayer during these days of hopeful expectation.

More

information: www.northamptondiocese.org/advent-novena/

SOCIETY OF ST GREGORY – LITURGY PLANNING

The Society is making its comprehensive liturgy planner, *Preparing the Liturgy*, freely available online for a limited time over Advent and Christmas. This resource is part of the excellent materials the Society offers to priests, preachers, readers, bidding-prayer writers, and parish musicians of all kinds. Visit ssg.org.uk/preparing-the-liturgy

EXPLORE CATHOLIC THEOLOGY BY DISTANCE LEARNING

Durham University's Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) offers flexible Distance Learning programmes in Catholic Theology, designed to fit around work, ministry, family, or other commitments. Options include a Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, and MA, as well as single modules such as *Catholic*

Theology: A Preliminary Tour, and new for 2026/27, *Catholic Social Thought and Practice* and *High Medieval Franciscan Theology*. Bursary funding is available for 2026-27. For more information, including videos from current students and details of bursaries, visit Durham University's Distance Learning pages, or contact the CCS Manager, Theresa Phillips at theresa.phillips@durham.ac.uk or 0191 334 3952. <https://www.durham.ac.uk>

DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP COURSE – Bethsaida The Diocese of Northampton can announce the launch of the Bethsaida Leadership Course, a year-long programme designed to form leaders for a missionary Church. Are you already serving in your Parish, or do people naturally look to you for guidance? Do you feel called to grow in confidence and take a more active role in your Parish or Pastoral Area? The Course offers the opportunity to deepen your faith, strengthen your leadership skills and learn how to serve with your eyes fixed on Christ. Rooted in prayer and practical training, this course will help you grow as one of the living stones (see 1Peter 2:5) building up the Church today. To find out more or to apply visit northamptondiocese.org/catholic-leadership

OTHER

ADVENT WREATH MEANING AND THEMES

The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God's infinite love for us – it is never-ending, just like the true Light of the World, Jesus, who leads us into eternal life with Him. The materials of the Advent wreath similarly lead us to reflect on the everlasting nature of God; traditionally, Advent wreaths have been made of evergreen leaves, such as pine or fir, which maintain their green colour beyond the season in which they are collected. Nowadays, there are many modern interpretations of Advent wreaths that still help us celebrate the traditional meaning of the wreath: preparing the way for the Light of the World, Jesus.

The theme for the second Sunday of Advent is **Faith**, symbolized by the "Bethlehem Candle". This week focuses on the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, highlighting their faith in God's plan.

If you have an Advent Wreath at home or at school, you can say this prayer lighting the candle:



*"Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son,
Jesus Christ:
He is Emmanuel, the hope of
the peoples,
He is the wisdom that teaches
and guides us,
He is the Savior of every
nation.
Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us
salvation.
May He come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen."*

A PRAYER TO ST. THOMAS MORE, counselor of law and statesman of integrity, merry martyr and most human of saints!



PRAY that, for the glory of GOD and in the pursuit of His justice, I may be trustworthy with confidences, keen in study, accurate in analysis, correct in conclusion, able in argument, loyal to clients, honest with all, courteous to adversaries, ever attentive to conscience. Sit with me at my desk and listen with me to my clients' tales. Read with me in my library and stand always beside me so that today I shall not, to win a point, lose my soul. PRAY that my family may find in me what yours found in you: friendship and courage, cheerfulness and charity, diligence in duties, counsel in adversity, patience in pain—their good servant, and God's first. AMEN.

©Center for Thomas More Studies With ecclesiastical approval Bishop Joseph A. Galante March 5, 2003 This prayer is an adaption of "An Appeal to St. Thomas More" by Henry Bender, Jr., published in *The Catholic Mind*, Feb. 1951.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION to be used especially by those not receiving the Eucharist.

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and I unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*