

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [A] Gaudete



14 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:

Rose 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 13 December –

5.30pm – Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

Sunday 14 December – Third of Advent - Gaudete [A]

11am – Rebecca Goode Rip

Monday 15 December

9.00am – Rosary & Adoration
9.30am - Mass & Novena – Seamus & Anna Guinan

Wednesday 17 December

9.00am – Rosary & Adoration
9.30am – Mass & Novena

Friday 19 December

9.00am – Rosary & Adoration
9.30am – Mass & Novena – Alice & Gerald Ledwith Rip

Saturday 20 December –

5.30pm - Vigil Mass & Novena – People of the Parish

Sunday 21 December – 4th of Advent [A]

11am – Mass & Novena

Mass Readings:

Isaiah35:1-6,10; Psalm 145(146): 6-10;
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Psalm response:

Come, Lord, and save us.

Gospel Acclamation

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Eucharistic Acclamation:

We proclaim your death, O Lord,
and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

CONFESIONS:

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, Wednesday 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 every Sunday!

TEA AND COFFEE after the 11.00 Mass in the LOMBARD ROOM

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



LAST SUNDAY COLLECTION:

Weekly collection: £ 701

SECOND COLLECTION FOR CHURCH FLOWERS on the 13th & 14th of December.

As the Christmas season approaches, we are preparing to adorn our church's altar and common areas with beautiful flowers and greenery, creating a welcoming and festive atmosphere for all who gather.

This year, we want to ensure our space is especially beautiful, offering a place of peace and joy for everyone in our community during the holidays. This is where we need your help. Your generous contribution will go directly toward purchasing poinsettias, wreaths, and other beautiful floral arrangements.

DONATE A CAKE OR BISCUIT TO THE CHURCH:

We ask for your support for a very special cause. We are hosting a cake and biscuit sale on the 21st of December at our Church after the mass to raise vital funds to be divided between the parish SVP, Christmas decorations and various parish expenses.

The success of this event relies heavily on the generosity of wonderful bakers like you! We would be incredibly grateful if you would consider preparing and donating some delicious homemade (or even shop-bought, if time is tight!) cakes, biscuits, or any other sweet treats. **You can leave your cakes and products at the church (side door) on Saturday the 20th of December from 11am to 12pm.**

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY:

We invite all families and their children to attend the joyful Christmas Eve Mass on December 24th at 5 p.m. in our parish. If you wish, your children may come dressed as shepherds and angels. You can chat after Mass or contact Rose Darwin: rosiedarwin@aol.com

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026:

Registration for the First Communion and Confession and Confirmation courses has been extended until the end of December. The last day to submit the registration form is the 30th of December 2025. For any information, please contact Oliver Law or Fr. Alessandro.

FR ALESSANDRO WISH TO THANK:

All those who diligently and enthusiastically helped clear, organize, and clean the upper room. Once again, our parishioners demonstrated their love and care for the parish and their intention to make it ever more welcoming and hospitable.

PARISH WEBSITE

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.stthomasmorerc.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.

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

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=DHKE_PPhKUS5wUmtF

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 ssq.org.uk/preparing-the-liturgy

DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP COURSE –

Bethsaida The Diocese of Northampton can announce the launch of the Betsaida 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 Third Sunday of Advent is **Joy**, known as **Gaudete Sunday** (Latin for "Rejoice!"), emphasizing hopeful anticipation for

Christ's coming and celebrating salvation. It often features a pink candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing this joyful anticipation in the midst of the penitential purple season.

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.*