



# ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [A]



21 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](mailto: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](mailto:michaeljemery@hotmail.co.uk)  
☎ 07157 613487

### Safeguarding Parish Rep.:

Mary McAllister  
Barbara Leay (support)  
✉ [safeguarding.towcester@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding.towcester@northamptondiocese.org)

### Health and Safety:

Anthony McAllister  
✉ [mcallister18@hotmail.com](mailto:mcallister18@hotmail.com)

### Children Liturgy:

Rose Darwin  
✉ [rosiedarwin@aol.com](mailto:rosiedarwin@aol.com)

### Music/Choir Group:

Chris Nikel  
✉ [chris@nikel.net](mailto:chris@nikel.net)

### Finance Team:

Michael J. Emery: Chairman  
Hugh Moran: Treasurer

💻 [www.stthomasmorerc.org](http://www.stthomasmorerc.org)

### TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday 20 December –**  
5.30pm – Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

**Sunday 21 December – Fourth of Advent [A]**  
11am – Mass Rebecca Goode Rip

**Monday 22 December**

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

**Tuesday 23 December**

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

**Wednesday 24 December – Christmas Eve**  
5.00pm – Children & Family Mass  
8.00pm – “Midnight Mass”

**Thursday 25 December – Christmas Day**  
9.00am – Mass at King's Sutton  
11.00am – Mass

**Friday 26 December**  
No Mass

**Saturday 27 December –**  
5.30pm - Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

**Sunday 28 December – The Holy Family [A]**  
11am – Mass

### Mass Readings:

Isaiah7:10-14; Psalm 23(24): 1-6;  
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

### Psalm response:

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

### Gospel Acclamation

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Emmanuel which  
means, God with us.

### Eucharistic Acclamation:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
We proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come  
again.

### CONFESIONS:

Saturday 20 December from 5.15pm to 5.30pm  
Monday 22 December from 10am to 12noon  
and from 5pm to 7pm.

### EXPOSITION & ADORATION:

Saturday from 4.30pm to 5.10pm

### ROSARY:

Monday, and Tuesday at 9am

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY CHRISTMAS

**HOLIDAY BREAK:** The Children's Liturgy for those children who have not yet made their First Communion at the 11.00 Mass every Sunday will NOT be held on December 28th or January 4<sup>th</sup> due to the Christmas Holiday. It will be back the 11<sup>th</sup> of January.

## SECOND COLLECTION FOR CHURCH FLOWERS on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## 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: £ 519.95

Second Collection: £175.60

## 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.
- **Reconciliation Service:** on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December confessions after

morning mass from 10am to 12noon; and from 5pm to 7pm.

- **Christmas Eve Masses:** on the 24<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm the children and family mass; and at 8pm the "Midnight Mass"
- **Christmas Day:** on the 25<sup>th</sup> 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

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** Envelopes are available for those who wish to use them for your Christmas Offering. This collection is one that is donating to our parish priest as a Christmas gift.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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

Keep visiting our parish website. You can log in and click for news, newsletters, interesting facts, photos, and much more at:

[www.stthomasmorerc.org](http://www.stthomasmorerc.org)

## CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

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**

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORY for 2026 now available at £3 a copy.**

#### **Advent Resources:**

##### **Advent Novena**

Our Crown of Advent Novena begins today. This novena was created by clergy and parishioners of Our Lady of Walsingham Church, Corby. To pray Day One of the novena, please visit: <https://northhamptondiocese.org/advent-novena/#dayone>

##### **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](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/](http://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](http://ssg.org.uk/preparing-the-liturgy)

### 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 last week (Fourth Sunday) of Advent is **Love**, focusing on God's profound love in sending Jesus, the Angelic announcement, and preparing hearts to show that same love to others before Christmas Day. It's a time for reflecting on Mary's Magnificat and God's faithfulness, culminating in the fulfilment of His promise through Christ's birth.

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.*