

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH



THE HOLY FAMILY [A]



28 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:

Closed till 4th of January

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:

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✉ rosiedarwin@aol.com

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Chris Nikel

✉ chris@nikel.net

Finance Team:

Michael J. Emery: Chairman

Hugh Moran: Treasurer

Repository:

Chris Nash

✉ christinenash@btinternet.com

💻 www.stthomasmorerc.org

TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 27 December –

5.30pm – Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

Sunday 28 December – The Holy Family [A]

11am – Mass – Mary Whooley Rip

Monday 29 December – St Thomas of Canterbury

9.30am - Mass – David Fitzgerald Rip

Wednesday 31 December –

9.00am – Rosary

9.30am – Mass & Te Deum

Friday 2 January

9.30am – Mass – Richard & Eily M. Fitzgerald Rip

Saturday 3 January –

5.30pm - Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

Sunday 4 January – Second after Nativity [A]

11am – Mass – Adriana Carlos

Mass Readings:

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14 Psalm 127(128):1-5;
Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Psalm response:

Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.

Gospel Acclamation

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
Let the message of Christ find a home with you.

Eucharistic Acclamation:

Save us, Saviour of the world,
For by your Cross and Resurrection,
You have set us free.

CONFESIONS:

Saturday 27 December from 4.45pm to 5.20pm

EXPOSITION & ADORATION:

Saturday from 4.30pm to 5.10pm

ROSARY:

Wednesday 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 4th due to the Christmas Holiday. It will be back the 11th of January.

A HEARTFELT NOTE OF GRATITUDE AFTER OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

My dear parishioners,
As we continue to celebrate the Christmas season and look ahead to the New Year, I want to express my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to all of you who made our Christmas Masses and celebrations so beautiful and faith-filled.

The true spirit of Christmas—the joy of Christ's birth and the warmth of our community—was truly evident throughout the season.

- **To all who decorated our Church:** A special thank you for the countless hours spent adorning our altar, sanctuary, and grounds. The beautiful decorations created a welcoming and sacred space for all to worship and reflect on the Nativity.
- **To our liturgical ministers:** Thank you to the altar servers, lectors, musicians, cantors, and choir members. Your dedicated service and beautiful music elevated our liturgies and helped us all to pray and experience the presence of God more deeply.
- **To our dedicated volunteers:** For all those who worked quietly behind the scenes—our cleaning team, parish staff, and everyone who helped organize events and ensure smooth operations—your efforts do not go unnoticed. The parish functions because of your selfless service.
- **To all who offered their generosity:** I am deeply grateful for your generous contributions to our Christmas collections, and the gifts you shared with one another. I'd like to mention Edith and Marco, now in Mexico who donated the outdoor Nativity. Your stewardship reflects the true appreciation for the gift of our Catholic faith and our parish family.

Your love, devotion, and sacrifice are a testament to your appreciation for our shared faith. I am truly blessed to be the shepherd of such a vibrant and loving community.

May the Baby Jesus bless you abundantly with His peace, joy, and love throughout the New Year, and may you continue to experience His presence in your daily lives.

Fr Alessandro

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: £ 655.60

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.

UPPER ROOM SET UP AND CLEANING:

We'd like to restore the upstairs room to normal use. A great deal of work has already been done by many volunteers who have dedicated their time to clearing it of various clutters. But there's still much to do. If you'd like to donate some of your time to this service, please speak or contact Chris Nash: christinenash@btinternet.com, who will help organize the work.

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

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@northamptondiocese.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.

RETROUVAILLE The Retrouvaille organisation exists to support marriages, and can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next programme begins on 12th February 2026. Visit: www.retrouvaille.org.uk for information.

THE THEOLOGY OF ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN & ITS RELEVANCE FOR TODAY's CHURCH

Tuesday 20 January, 5.30pm

In celebration of St John Henry Newman's importance for Catholic education, the Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge, together with the Newman Association, has developed a six-session short course designed to deepen your understanding of key themes in Newman's theology and their relevance for the Church today.

The course will be team-taught by leading theologians and delivered live online, one Tuesday evening each month.

Registration link:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-theology-of-john-henry-newman-its-relevance-for-todays-church-tickets-1906599794309>

OTHER

POPE LEO XIV has chosen Bishop Richard Moth of Arundel and Brighton to be the next Archbishop of Westminster when Cardinal Nichols retires. Bishop Moth is to be installed as 12th Archbishop of Westminster on 14 February next year. Please keep him and the retiring Archbishop, in your prayers at this time.

NEURODIVERSITY & FAITH RESEARCH

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales, and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. If you are an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a caregiver for such a person, they would like to hear from you. Your experiences will help them to become more inclusive and responsive to your needs. To find out more and to complete a short survey, please visit www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergentcatholic-surveys

+Useful Websites:

<https://northamptondiocese.org>
<http://www.catholicreadings.org>
<https://cbcew.org.uk>
<http://www.heavensroadfm.com>
<http://www.walsingham.org.uk>
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk>
<https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/>
<http://cafod.org.uk>

CURIOSITY ABOUT CHRISTMAS TIME: It's a period of celebration, reflection, and togetherness, encompassing Advent, Christmas Day, and the festive days following, called Yuletide or Christmastide. The Twelve Days of Christmas, lasts 12 days, from 25 December to 5 January, the latter date being named as Twelfth Night. These traditional dates are adhered to by the Lutheran Church and the Anglican Church. In the "usus antiquior" of the Roman rite, per the general rubrics of the Roman Breviary, "Christmastide" includes both "the season of Christmas" (the 12 days seen earlier) and "the season of Epiphany," which is the eight days from the Epiphany on Jan. 6 to the commemoration of the Baptism of the Lord on Jan. 13. What is now called the season of Epiphany was, until 1955, observed as the Octave of the Epiphany.

But here it is the surprise!!! Candlemas, or the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, is Feb. 2. On this day, many Catholics bring candles to the church to be blessed. They can then light these candles at home during prayer or difficult times as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Candlemas is the last day that the Marian hymn "Alma Redemptoris Mater" is sung at the end of the night prayer of the Divine Office. The "Alma Redemptoris Mater" is used from the beginning of Advent through Feb. 2, and so Candlemas has come to be associated with the close of the Christmas season.

So what is the exact right time to observe the end of the Christmas season? That is largely a personal call based on your own traditions, customs, practical matters, and other factors. For safety reasons, I recommend that you take your tree down as soon as it starts shedding a lot of needles, but other than that, there's an argument for leaving things up as late as Feb. 2. Of course, your neighbours may disagree.

Merry Christmas!

PRAYER AT CHRISTMAS TIME:

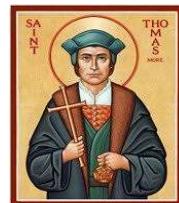
Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wise men. Help us to rise bigger than we are. 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.