



ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

2nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME [A]



18 January 2026

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:
Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am to 12noon

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

Michael J. Emery
✉ michaeljemery@hotmail.co.uk
☎ 07157 613487

Safeguarding Parish Rep.:
Mary McAllister
✉ safeguarding.towcester@northamptondiocese.org

Health and Safety:
Anthony McAllister
✉ mcallister18@hotmail.com

💻 www.stthomasmorerc.org

TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 17 January –
5.30pm – **Vigil Mass** – Hamilton Family

Sunday 18 January – Second Ordinary Time [A]
11am – Mass – Fr Alessandro's Ordination Anniversary

Monday 19 January –
9.00am – Rosary and Adoration
9.30am – **Mass** – Mc Elligott Family

Wednesday 21 January
9.00am – Rosary and Adoration
9.30am – **Mass** Tynan Weedon

Friday 23 January
9.00am – Rosary and Adoration
9.30am – **Mass** – Copsey Weedon

Saturday 24 January –
5.30pm - **Vigil Mass** – People of the Parish

Sunday 25 January – Third Ordinary Time [A]
11am – **Mass** – Andrew Grant Rip

Mass Readings:
Isaiah 49:3,5-6 Psalm 39(40):2,4,7-10;
1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

Children Liturgy:

Rose Darwin
✉ rosiedarwin@aol.com

Music/Choir Group:

Chris Nikel
✉ chris@nikel.net

Welcome

Jason Colin
Michelle Collins
✉ jmauricecolin@gmail.com

Finance Team:

Michael J. Emery: Chairman
Hugh Moran: Treasurer

Repository:

Path Griffin
✉ prg.74sc@gmail.com

Psalm response:

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation

Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!

Eucharistic Acclamation:

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

CONFESIONS:

Saturday 24 January from 4.45pm to 5.20pm

EXPOSITION & ADORATION:

Mon, Wed and Fri, from 9am to 9.25 and Saturday from 4.30pm to 5.10pm

ROSARY:

Mon, Wed and Fri at 9am

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: The Children's Liturgy for those children who have not yet made their First Communion at the 11.00 Sunday Mass. If you want to volunteer, please speak with Rose Darwin.

TEA AND COFFEE after the Sunday Mass in the LOMBARD ROOM and Wednesday after morning mass



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

LAST SUNDAY COLLECTION:

Weekly collection: £ 570.41

LET'S GET PART OF THE WELCOME TEAM:

A church welcome is a warm, inclusive greeting for everyone, especially visitors, making them feel they belong by breaking down barriers, offering genuine connection, and providing practical info, rooted in Christian principles of welcoming outsiders as Christ did. If you want to be part of the team please speaks or contact Jason Colin and Michelle Collins after the Sunday Mass.(or contact on the front page)

REPOSITORY IS BACK!

Our parish repository is back again selling religious items like books, rosaries, statues, and cards. It will always open after Sunday Mass to support parish activities. Please ask Mrs Path Griffin if you need to buy or to order something!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026:

22nd of January from 7pm till 8pm parents meeting at St Thomas More's (entrance by the side door) and **1st Class on the 25th of January** from 10am to 10.45am in the upper room (entrance by the side door).

READING AT MASS and COMMISSIONING:

For all those who have performed this service in the parish in the past and would like to be reconfirmed and for new parishioners who wish to perform this service, I invite you to participate in the meeting that will be held:

Friday the 20th of February at 7pm in the church.

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS and COMMISSIONING: For all those who have

performed this service in the parish in the past and would like to be reconfirmed and for new parishioners who wish to perform this service, I invite you to participate in the meeting that will be held:

Friday the 27th of February at 7pm in the church.

MEETING FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO JOIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

Several meetings involving prayer, study, community involvement, and formation, to explore faith and learn Catholic teachings, Scripture, and traditions, culminating in receiving sacraments like Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil, will start **Friday 6th March at 7pm** in Lombard Room. Please, speaks to Fr Alessandro previously to subscribe.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:

A "White Flower Appeal" will be in our parish the **24th and 25th of January** with the annual fundraising and awareness campaign by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) to support the protection of unborn children, drawing inspiration from the non-violent German White Rose resistance.

FR ALESSANDRO AWAY:

I shall be away from Monday 26th January to Monday 2nd February for my post-Christmas week break, hence no Masses during the week but only Rosary and Adoration from 9.30am to 10am. Saturday Vigil and Sunday Mass as usual. For any emergency, please contact the Dean of our pastoral area Canon Brendan Killeen tel: 01604 402301.

SAD NOTE:

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the death of our beloved parishioner, Andrew Grant, who passed away last week.

He was a cherished member of our church family and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Funeral Service will be celebrated by Fr Brendan Killeen:

- Date: Thursday 29th January 2026
- Time: 10.30am
- Location: St Thomas More

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to his family and friends during this difficult time. May his soul, and the souls of all

the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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

19 Jan: Eileen Fitzgerald and Sheila O'Driscoll
2 Feb: Jim and Brenda Ince
16 Feb: Chris Nash and Christa Darragh
2 March: Kathy Finnegan and Catherine Blackman

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

DIOCESE

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

THE ASCENT Are you 16-18 and looking to grow in your faith? The ascent aims to help you to do just that, bringing young people together to learn about their faith and grow in their relationship with Jesus. The programme has three parts: 3 residential weekends providing opportunities for learning, growth and prayer while associating with other like-minded persons; Weekly 'PoD's' (Pockets of Disciples) which are small groups meeting online for friendship and formation; Monthly 1:1 mentoring giving you a space to talk, process and find support. Contact NYMO@northamptondiocese.com or visit nymo.org/the-ascent-2 to find out more. There are only 6 places left for the 2026 group, so don't miss out!

LUX.Belong Running from 13-15 February at King's Park Centre, Northampton. This event is for those aged between 11 and 18. It is an annual event where each year a particular theme is explored through workshops, drama, music, worship, Mass, prayer times, games, inputs and time with friends. This year's theme is 'Belong.' Visit nymo.org/lux-belong-2026/ or email NYMO.admin@northamptondiocese.com find out more.

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.

RETRouveille The Retrouvaille organisation exists to support marriages, and can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next programme begins on 12th February 2026. Visit: www.retrouveille.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>

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

JOURNEY WITH JESUS THROUGH LENT:

During Lent, the Pastoral Development Vicariate is offering the opportunity for online small group sessions once a week for 6 weeks beginning w.c. 16th February.

During each weekly small group session, facilitators will be using St Beuno's Outreach Prego resources, allowing you to pray and reflect on Scripture for the coming Sunday. Within the session, there will also be time for silent reflection and sharing what spoke to you from the readings. Sessions will be available on multiple days and at different times.

Sign-up to our introductory webinar on Tuesday 27th January from 7:30pm on the link <https://www.tickttaillor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1963574>

You can also find out more on the diocesan website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/lent-journey/>

DON'T MISTAKE ORDINARY TIME FOR A SEASON OF DULL ROUTINE:

The season of Ordinary Time consists of 33 or 34 weeks and is divided into two parts. It is easy to mistakenly think the liturgical year is about sanctifying time. The truth, however, is that the liturgical year is about growing in relationship with Jesus Christ. The richness of Ordinary Time is found in the opportunity to know Christ more intimately in the everyday realities of life. The gospel readings proclaimed on these Sundays reveals the teaching and healing and mission of Christ, allowing us to better understand God who became human. We learn that Christ is about humility rather than pride, vulnerability rather than power. We learn that Christ is about including the excluded, eating with social and religious outcasts, and dismantling structures of sin and injustice. We learn that Christ is about self-giving love that is only possible through authentic relationship.

Ordinary Time is anything but monotonous. It is a time of conversion where we grow into who we are called to be by imitating the lived reality of Jesus.

+Useful Websites:

<https://northamptondiocese.org>

<http://www.catholicreadings.org>

<https://cbcew.org.uk>

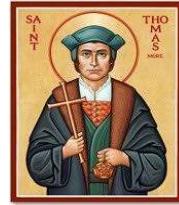
<http://www.heavensroadfm.com>

<http://www.walsingham.org.uk> <https://www.cbcew.org.uk>

<https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/>
<http://cafod.org.uk>

A PRAYER TO ST. THOMAS MORE

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.



An Act of
Spiritual
Communion