



# ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT [A]

22 February 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](mailto: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](mailto:michaeljemery@hotmail.co.uk)

☎ 07157 613487

## Safeguarding Parish Rep.:

Mary McAllister

✉ [safeguarding.towcester@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding.towcester@northamptondiocese.org)

## Health and Safety:

Anthony McAllister

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

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

## Children Liturgy:

Rose Darwin

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

## Music/Choir Group:

Chris Nickel

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

## Welcome

Jason Colin

Michelle Collins

✉ [jmauricecolin@gmail.com](mailto:jmauricecolin@gmail.com)

## Finance Team:

Michael J. Emery: Chairman

Hugh Moran: Treasurer

## Repository:

Pat Griffin

✉ [prg.74sc@gmail.com](mailto:prg.74sc@gmail.com)

## TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 21 February –

5.30pm – Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

Sunday 22 February – First of Lent [A]

11am – Mass – Kathleen and Stephen McAllister Rip

Monday 23 February –

9.00am – Rosary and Adoration

9.30am – Mass

Wednesday 25 February

9.00am – Rosary and Adoration

9.30am – Mass

Friday 27 February

9.30am Mass

10.00am Station of the Cross

Saturday 28 February

5.30pm - Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

Sunday 1 March – Second of Lent [A]

11am – Mass – Anne & Martin McAllister

## Mass Readings:

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7; Psalm 50(51):3-6,12-14,17

Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

## Psalm response:

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD!

## Gospel Acclamation

Man does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of  
God.

## Eucharistic Acclamation:

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

## CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 21 February from 4.45pm to 5.20pm

## EXPOSITION & ADORATION:

Mon and Wed from 9.00am to 9.30am and  
Saturday from 4.45pm to 5.15pm

## ROSARY:

Mon and Wed at 9.00am

## STATION OF THE CROSS:

Every Friday after morning mass

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** All children are welcome to get part of it. We still need your help: if you want to volunteer, please contact Rose Darwin at 07894.670438.

**TEA AND COFFEE after the 11 Sunday Mass and Wednesday after 9.30am Mass in the LOMBARD ROOM**



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

**LAST SUNDAY COLLECTION:**

Weekly collection: £ 662.60

**REPOSITORY IS AVAILABLE**

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

**STATION OF THE CROSS:**

**Every Friday, after morning mass.**

The Stations of the Cross (or Way of the Cross), is a Lenten devotion that meditates on the 14 key moments of Jesus Christ's final day, from condemnation to burial. It serves as a "mini-pilgrimage" allowing all of us to spiritually follow in Jesus' footsteps to reflect on his suffering.

**EUCCHARISTICH 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 27<sup>th</sup> of February at 7pm in the church.**

**SVP LUNCH:**

The next lunch arranged by the SVP is on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm** at *DnA Steak & Grill*. Main course £13.90. Please, contact Chris Nash on 07941 188047 to book.

**GARDENING TEAM:**

Do you love spending time outdoors? Are you looking for a way to serve that brings beauty to our community? Our church ground needs a few helping hands to keep them blooming!

We are looking for volunteers to join our Gardening Team. Whether you are a master gardener or just enjoy weeding and watering, we would love to have you. Come to the meeting **Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of March at 7pm in the Lombard Room.**

**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 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm** in Lombard Room. Please, speaks to Fr Alessandro previously to subscribe.

**A CLASSICAL SPRING CONCERT:**

A magical evening listening beautiful notes and works by Emilie Mayer and Beethoven performed by **Roselle String Quartet at St Thomas More Church Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm**. Tickets: "pay what you can" on the door or book via <https://roselletowcester.eventbrite.co.uk>

**SCHOOL VISITING ST THOMAS MORE:**

We are happy to welcome Saint Thomas Becket's School in our parish on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. The students will bring to our community, joy and enthusiasm, leading the 11 o'clock Mass. To organize an unforgettable welcome to them, please speak/contact Rose Darwin at 07894.670438.

**JOIN OUR ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY!**

The altar server ministry is for both children and adults. All members of our parish are invited to serve the eternal High Priest by joining our Altar Server ministry. If you are interested in becoming an altar server, or if your child is interested in becoming an altar server, please contact **Dave Brennan at: [dave.brennan@sylviajeffery.com](mailto:dave.brennan@sylviajeffery.com)** or speak with Fr Alessandro. To be an altar server, you must have received First Communion. If you have a question about guidelines and restrictions, please take part to the meeting on the **12<sup>th</sup> of April in the church after morning mass.**

*May the Lord form in each of us a desire to love and serve Him through the ministry He sets before us.*

### PARISH FINANCE TEAM REQUEST:

We have a standing order being paid month with the name "director". We also have separately envelope *Number 53*. Could both people, please contact Michael Emery on 07831 248199.

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

### 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

2 March: Kathy Finnegan and Catherine Blackman  
16 March: Edwina Woods and Janet Linehan  
30 March: Emanuela Coy and Michelle Collins

### DIOCESAN DIRECTORY:

The Diocesan Directory 2026 are still available at £3. Ask Fr Alessandro.

## DIOCESE

### HEALING SERVICE AT THE CATHEDRAL:

A moment of prayer and reflection free and open to all. Maybe consider inviting a friend! They might not even be interested in Church, but often people are open to the idea of receiving healing! **28<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Northampton Cathedral** with Fr Patrick Gonyeau and Sarah Kaczmarek, both Encounter ministries.

### LENT RESOURCES:

Bringing together a wide range of Lenten resources to support both groups and individuals on their journey through this sacred season, our Lent resources page on the diocesan website is now live.

Whether you are looking for prayer materials, reflections, or practical ideas for fasting and almsgiving, these resources are designed to help deepen faith and encourage spiritual renewal throughout Lent. All materials are offered to support parishes, families and individuals across the diocese as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter.


<https://northamptondiocese.org/lent-resources/>

### LENT RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY:

We are delighted to introduce you to the new CELEBRATE Family Activity Pack for Lent which includes creative ways to help families grow close to God during this season. There are engaging ways to count down the days in Lent, reflective prayer and discussion, craft, games, books and movies to help families draw close to God. CELEBRATE has also created a Lent game this year - Journey to Easter Joy - which encourages children to focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving, in fun and interactive ways this Lent.

### Come & See Lent Course:

You are invited to sign up for the Lent 2026 Bible Studies—a FREE, 6-week

journey  presented LIVE ONLINE by Mauro Iannicelli (Come & See Catholic Formation Ministries).

**REGISTER NOW:** [comeandsee.org/lent26](http://comeandsee.org/lent26)

**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!

## OTHER

### 'BORN FOR THIS' – Symphony Hall – Wednesday 25 March, 7.00pm

CJM Music and young people from six Catholic secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham are collaborating for a special performance.

You are invited to experience the power and passion of *Born For This* in a special 30th anniversary event. This dramatic and musical

retelling of the Stations of the Cross has moved audiences in churches nationwide, including the iconic Westminster Cathedral. Now, a vibrant cast, including young people from across Birmingham and Solihull, will bring the story to life with fresh energy and heartfelt devotion. Featuring stirring music performed live by Jo Boyce with band and chamber orchestra and uplifted by a 300-strong choir of young voices, this unforgettable production promises an inspiring journey of faith, hope and beauty.

The performance is taking place at Symphony Hall on Wednesday 25 March at 7.00pm.

Tickets can be purchased directly from Symphony Hall using the following link: <https://bmusic.co.uk/events/born-for-this>

### SVP & CAFOD WORK EXPERIENCE:

The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales.

The experience will run from 21–26 June in London. Candidates must be aged 18–25 years; priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university.

Applications close on 6 April.

For any queries, please contact: [KeziaH@svp.org.uk](mailto:KeziaH@svp.org.uk)  
[https://svp1.formstack.com/forms/work\\_experience\\_application\\_form\\_2026](https://svp1.formstack.com/forms/work_experience_application_form_2026)

### The Season of Lent



is a 40 days

season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture;

we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

### +UsefulWebsites:

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

### 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.*