



# ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT [A]

8 March 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

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

## TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 7 March –

5.00pm – Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

Sunday 8 March – Third of Lent [A]

11am – Mass – Carmela Genesio

Monday 9 March –

9.00am – Rosary and Adoration

9.30am – Mass

Wednesday 11 March

9.00am – Rosary and Adoration

9.30am – Mass

Friday 13 March

9.30am Mass

10.00am Station of the Cross

Saturday 14 March

5.30pm - Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

Sunday 15 March – Fourth of Lent - Laetare [A]

11am – Mass –

## Mass Readings:

Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42

## Psalm response:

O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts.’

## Gospel Acclamation

Lord, you are really the saviour of the world: give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.

## Eucharistic Acclamation:

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

## CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 14 March from 4.45pm to 5.20pm

## EXPOSITION & ADORATION:

Mon and Wed from 9.00am to 9.30am and

## ROSARY:

Mon and Wed at 9.00am

## STATION OF THE CROSS:

Every Friday after morning mass

## SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR CAFOD - LENT FAST DAY.

### LAST SUNDAY COLLECTION:

Weekly collection: £ 403.26

### DONA ARRIVED IN OUR PARISH

We are happy to welcome in our parish the popular UK-based contactless donation terminal designed for churches to collect card payments securely.

#### Key Details About Dona Devices in our parish:

- **Ease of Use:** Donors select a predefined amount or enter their own, choosing among the option you want to make your donation for, tap their card/device, and can opt-in for Gift Aid.
- **Design & Functionality:** The device combines a tablet with an integrated SumUp card reader.
- **Connectivity & Power:** Units work via Wi-Fi or 4G, with an offline mode that stores donations if the internet drops. Battery life typically lasts 10-12 hours.
- **Cost:** While they offer various plans, they are powered by SumUp, which charges a transaction fee (approx. 1.69%).
- **Location:** You will find it at the back of the church, near the entrance.

Dona provides a secure, digital alternative to cash, particularly useful for visitors, weddings, or funerals, with many devices paying for themselves quickly.

### PARISH FINANCE GIFT AID

This Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of March, the envelopes boxes for the 2026/27 tax year will be handed by Mr Michael Emery, chairman of our Parish Finance Committee, after the mass. Mr Emery will attend on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> for those that attend the 5.30pm Vigil Mass.

### MOTHER'S DAY AND ST PATRICK'S DAY CARDS NOW AVAILABLE!

Please ask Mrs Pat Griffin if you need to buy it or to order some other religious items.

**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.

### 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.

### MISSIO RED BOXES



If you have collected in the past a missio red box, please ensure to return to the church by the end of March. You can leave it in the sacristy or at the feet of the altar.

### 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.*

### 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.

### **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](mailto: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**

### **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)

**RECRUITING:** We are currently recruiting three Property Area Coordinators, each responsible for the maintenance, compliance, and performance of a defined portfolio of properties within an allocated geographic area of the Diocese. The role ensures that buildings are safe, legally compliant, well maintained, and fit for mission and ministry, while providing support to parishes, clergy, and diocesan stakeholders. This is a full-time, 12-month fixed-term contract, with the possibility of extension or becoming permanent. As each role covers a different part of the Diocese, three area-specific Job Descriptions are available, and candidates should review the one relevant to their preferred location. The closing date for applications is Friday 7 March 2026. Full information for the position and an application form can be found by visiting <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs>. All candidates should complete a Diocesan application form and email it to: [hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org)

## **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:

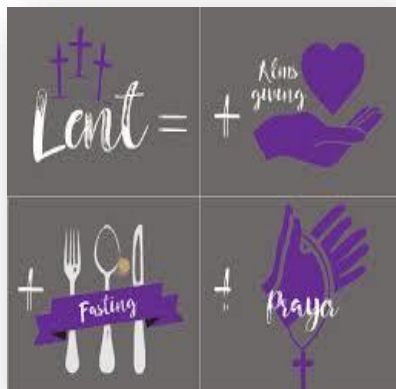
The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales.

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.*

