



ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

5th SUNDAY OF LENT [A]
22 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

Parish Office:

Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am to 12noon

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

Michael J. Emery

✉ michaeljemery@hotmail.co.uk

☎ 07157 613487

Finance Committee:

Michael J. Emery: Chairman

☎ 07831 248199

Hugh Moran: Treasurer

Safeguarding Parish Rep.:

Mary McAllister

✉ safeguarding.towcester@northamptondiocese.org

Health and Safety:

Anthony McAllister

✉ mcallister18@hotmail.com

Readers Group:

Malcolm Alphonso

✉ malcolm.alphonso@abbott.com

Children Liturgy:

Rose Darwin

✉ rosiedarwin@aol.com

Music/Choir Group:

Chris Nikel

✉ chris@nikel.net

Welcome

Jason Colin

✉ jmauricecolin@gmail.com

Michelle Collins

Repository:

Pat Griffin

✉ prg.74sc@gmail.com



www.stthomasmorerc.org

TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 21 March

5.30pm – Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

Sunday 22 March – Fifth of Lent [A]

11am – Mass – John Doyle

Monday 23 March

9.00am – Rosary and Adoration

9.30am – Mass – Leslie Cox Rip

Wednesday 25 March

9.00am – Rosary and Adoration

9.30am – Mass – Mary Walley Rip

Friday 27 March

9.30am Mass -

10.00am Station of the Cross

Saturday 28 March

5.30pm - Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

Sunday 29 March – PALM SUNDAY [A]

10.45am Blessing of the Palms in the Parish Garden

11am – Mass –

Sunday Mass Readings:

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130(129):1-2.3-4.5.6b.6c-8;
Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

Psalm response:

With the LORD there is mercy,

In him is plentiful redemption.

Gospel Acclamation

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.

Everyone who believes in me shall never die.

Eucharistic Acclamation:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we
proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 21 March from 4.45pm to 5.20pm

EXPOSITION & ADORATION:

Mon and Wed from 9.00am to 9.30am and

Sat from 4.45pm to 5.20pm.

ROSARY:

Mon and Wed at 9.00am

STATION OF THE CROSS:

Every Friday after morning mass during Lent.

LAST SUNDAY COLLECTION:

Weekly collection: £ 576.22

FLOWERS FOR EASTER:

Spring is in the air, and we are preparing to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! One of the most beloved traditions is the filling of our church with vibrant flowers, creating a fitting atmosphere of joy and new life.

We invite you to participate in this tradition by contributing to our Easter Flower Fund, today on the second collection or using the Dona device at the back of the church choosing Flowers.

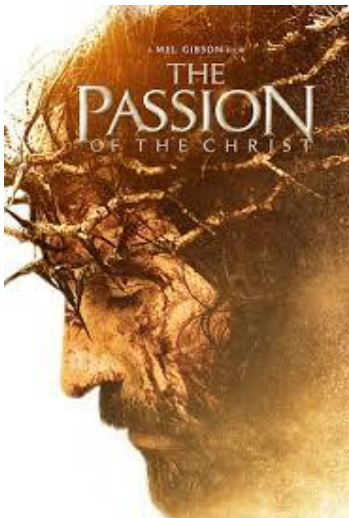
EASTER RECONCILIATION SERVICE:

An opportunity to celebrate the mercy of God through the sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter; Fr Alessandro will be available in the Church Saturday 28th of March from 11am to 12noon and from 4pm to 5pm.

HOLY WEEK AT ST THOMAS MORE:

Holy Week, the final week of Lent, is the most sacred time for each one of us, marking Jesus' final days, crucifixion, and resurrection. It represents a spiritual journey of love, sacrifice, and redemption, guiding believers from the joy of Palm Sunday and the joy of the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday, to the sober reflection of Good Friday and the victory of Easter Sunday. These are the celebrations and events in our parish to live this special week with Jesus:

- **Blessing of the Palms and Mass: Sunday 29th March at 10.45am** (starting in the Parish Garden);
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“THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST” by Mel Gibson will be shown on a large screen at St Thomas More on the **30th March at 7pm**. All are welcome and the admission is free. Due to the graphic nature of the scenes, the movie is recommended for adults and mature teenagers with

parental guide. If you and your family have not seen it please do. It is hard to watch but it is

very much like the scriptures read about the events;

- **Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 6pm;**
- **Station of the Cross: Tuesday and Wednesday at 6.30pm;**
- **Mass of the Lord's Supper: Thursday 2 April at 8pm;**
- **Adoration in front of the Altar of Repose: Thursday 2 April from 9.30pm till midnight;**
- **Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord: 3 April at 3pm;**
- **Easter Vigil: 4 April at 8pm** (starting in the Parish Garden with the blessing of the fire);
- **Easter Sunday Mass: 5 April at 9am in Kings Sutton (St Peter & Paul – CoE) and at 11am in Towcester (St Thomas More).**

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** 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 **12th 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY BREAK: Children's liturgy will take a break for two Sundays for the Easter holidays. **We will be back on Sunday 19th of April.**

SCHOOL VISITING ST THOMAS MORE:

We are happy to welcome Saint Thomas Becket's School in our parish on Sunday the 19th 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 ADMIN VOLUNTEER REQUEST:

Our parish thrives on the help of our community. We are currently looking for volunteer to assist with 2hrs on Monday or Wednesday or Friday:

- Weekly newsletter preparation and update of the parish boards.
- Greeting visitors in the parish office.
- Basic administrative support.

If you have basic office skills and a welcoming spirit, please contact Fr Alessandro or Michael Emery.

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:** No fee. You pay only your donation!
- **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.

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



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.stthomasmore.org

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

30 March: Emanuela Coy and Michelle Collins

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY:

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

DIOCESE

CHRISM MASS This Mass, where the Holy Oils to be used throughout the year are blessed and consecrated will take place at the Cathedral in Northampton on Wednesday **1st April, beginning at midday.**

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/>

'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:

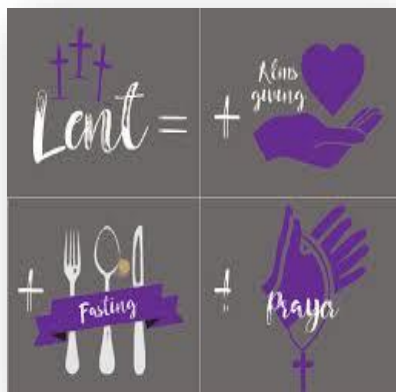
The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales.

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
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.

