



ST THOMAS MORE PARISH
PALM SUNDAY
& HOLY WEEK
29 March 2026



Please take the newsletter home with you for reference.

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Will be open again the 13th of April!

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☎ 07157 613487

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Michael J. Emery: Chairman
☎ 07831 248199
Hugh Moran: Treasurer

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Welcome
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www.stthomasmorerc.org

TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday 28 March
5.30pm – **Vigil Mass** – People of the Parish

29 March – Palm Sunday [A]
10.45am – **Mass**

Monday 30 March
5.30pm - Confessions
6.00pm – **Mass**

Tuesday 31 March
5.30pm - Confessions
6.00pm - **Mass**
6.30pm - Station of the Cross

Wednesday 1 April
5.30pm – Confessions
6.00pm – **Mass**
6.30pm – Station of the Cross

Maundy Thursday 2 April
8.00pm **Mass of the Lord's Supper**
9.30pm till **Midnight Adoration**

Good Friday 3 April
3.00pm – **Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord**

Saturday 4 April
8.00pm – **Easter Vigil Mass**

Easter Sunday 5 April – Resurrection of the Lord [A]
9.00am **Mass at Kings Sutton**
11am – **Mass at St Thomas More**
Sunday Mass Readings:
Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22(21):8-9.17-18a.19-20.23-24;
Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

Psalm response:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Gospel Acclamation

Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

Eucharistic Acclamation:

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

LAST SUNDAY COLLECTION:

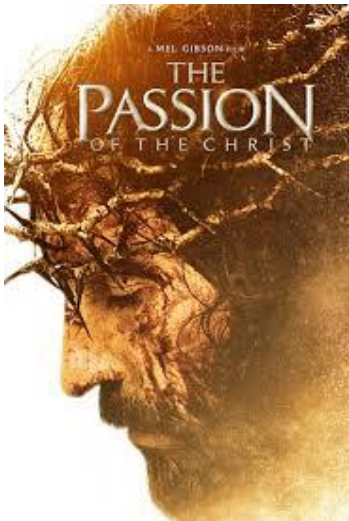
Weekly collection: £ 680.81

Second collection (flowers): £ 105.64

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).

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.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 5.30pm to 5.55pm



REMEMBER CLOCKS

"spring forward":

by one hour at 1:00 am on Sunday 29 March 2026, marking the

start of British Summer Time (BST). This shift provides longer, lighter evenings, though it means losing an hour of sleep. Clocks return to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) on the last Sunday in October.

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.

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 12th 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.stthomasmorerc.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.**

OTHER

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

+UsefulWebsites:

<https://northamptondiocese.org>

<https://www.catholicreadings.org>

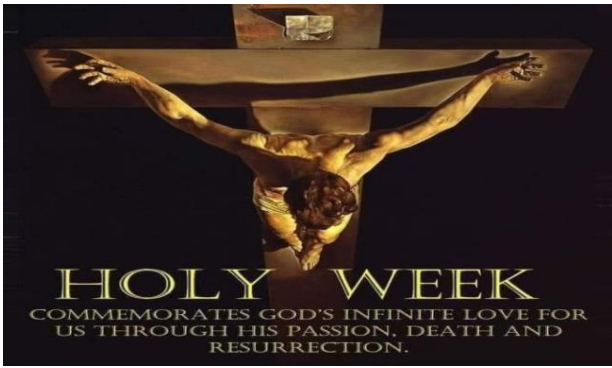
<https://cbcew.org.uk>

<http://www.heavensroadfm.com>

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

<https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/>

<http://cafod.org.uk>



Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum constitute the pinnacle of the Christian liturgical year, commemorating the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Palm Sunday: Begins the week, celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

The Sacred Triduum is a single, continuous, three-day liturgy:

Holy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper): Commemorates the institution of the Eucharist, the priesthood, and the washing of feet, symbolizing servant leadership.

Good Friday: A solemn day of fasting and reflection on Jesus' passion and crucifixion, focusing on his ultimate sacrifice to save humanity from sin.

Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil: Reflects on Christ's time in the tomb, culminating in the joy of the Resurrection at the Vigil, celebrating victory over death.

The Triduum is the ultimate fulfillment of the Jewish Passover, where Jesus serves as the true Paschal Lamb. It is a time to contemplate the depth of God's love and the weight of sin. The liturgies invite believers to walk with Jesus, transitioning from darkness to light and from death to new life.

The week acts as the culmination of Lent, preparing individuals to renew their baptismal promises at Easter.

The Holy Week is considered more important than Christmas, as it focuses on the essential purpose of Jesus' coming: his redemptive sacrifice.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY WEEK

*Lord Jesus,
This Holy Week we follow you on your
sorrowful and glorious journey,
your journey to the Cross and Resurrection.
Today we ask that we may walk with you,
give us grace to see the deep love you show
us. As you were welcomed with joy and
acclaim to the Holy City,*

*your betrayal by the crowds soon
overwhelmed their cries of Hosanna.
On the Cross, you made yourself servant
taking the sins of the world upon yourself.
May our lives reflect your desire to serve God
our Father first;
that we may serve you in our brothers and
sisters.*

*When we face suffering and disappointment,
may we know your love.*

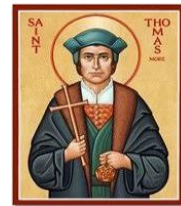
*When we are feeling lost, may we know that
you are with us.*

*When we are worried, may your Cross be a
sign of hope and strength.*

*May this Holy Week be for us a time of
renewal in faith and love. 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.*

