



# ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT [A]

30 November 2025



Please take the newsletter home with you for reference.

**Parish Priest**  
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**Finance Team:**  
**Michael J. Emery:** Chairman  
**Hugh Moran:** Treasurer

### TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday 29 November –**  
5.30pm – Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

**Sunday 30 November – First of Advent [A]**  
11am –

**Monday 1 December -**  
9.00am – Rosary  
9.30am - Mass

**Wednesday 3 December St Francis Xavier**  
9.00am – Silent Adoration  
9.30am

**Thursday 4 December**  
7.00pm Induction Mass Fr Alessandro

**Friday 5 December**  
9.00am – Rosary  
9.30am - Mass

**Saturday 6 December –**  
5.30pm - Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

**Sunday 7 December – 2of Advent [A]**  
11am – Mass

**Mass Readings:**  
Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122(121): 1-2. 4-5.6-7.8-9;  
Romans 13:11-14a; Matthew 24:37-44

**Psalm response:**

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.

### Gospel Acclamation

Show us, O LORD, your mercy,  
and grant us your salvation.

### Eucharistic Acclamation:

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

### CONFESSIONS:

**Saturday 5.15pm to 5.30pm**  
If you need to arrange another time/day, speak  
with Fr Alessandro.

### EXPOSITION & ADORATION:

**Saturday from 4.30pm to 5.10pm**

### ROSARY:

Monday and Friday at 9am

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** The Children's Liturgy  
for those children who have not yet made their First  
Communion at the 11.00 Mass start this Sunday!

**TEA AND COFFEE after the 11.00**  
**Mass in the LOMBARD ROOM**

Volunteers needed to prepare, serve  
and tidy. Please, speaks with Chris



Ash and sign the list on the board at the entrance of the church.

### **LAST SUNDAY COLLECTION:**

Weekly collection: £ 1170

### **FR ALESSANDRO INDUCTION MASS:**

We are happy to invite all parish community to the Father Alessandro's induction mass **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> of December at 7pm**; a formal Catholic ceremony where the new parish priest is officially presented to his parish community. During the Mass, presided by Canon Breandan Killeen, Dean of our pastoral area, Fr Alessandro will make the Profession of Faith and the Oath of Fidelity, and is ceremonially given the keys to the church, symbolizing his new responsibilities. The parish community also formally welcomes him and pledges to support him in his ministry. After mass we invite all of you for a refreshment in the parish rooms.

### **VOLUNTEERS TO ARRANGE LOMBARD ROOM ON THE 4<sup>th</sup> of DECEMBER**

We need volunteers to tidy up, organize, and decorate our Lombard Room to accommodate parishioners attending the Induction Mass on December 4th. Please contact Edwina Woods (available after Saturday evening Mass) or Chris Nash and Kate Wilson (both available after Sunday Mass).

**DECEMBER – Time of Advent** is a season of preparation, reflection, and joyous anticipation, traditionally celebrated by Christians for four weeks leading up to Christmas. It is a time of hope, as it signifies the coming of Jesus Christ and the fulfilment of God's promises. The season also focuses on joy, peace, and love, encouraging believers to prepare their hearts and find joy in both the anticipated birth of Jesus and His future second coming. Our parish will celebrate Advent with moments of prayer, special Masses, the Christmas Novena, and the service of Reconciliation. Our parish will celebrate Advent with prayers, special Masses, a Christmas Novena, and a service of Reconciliation. There will also be social events such as the parish Christmas market with mulled wine and a cake sale. Stay tuned for dates in the next newsletter!

### **PARISH WEBSITE**

The time has finally arrived! Our parish website is ready for you to visit. You can log in and click

for news, newsletters, interesting facts, photos, and much more at:

[www.stthomasmorercc.org](http://www.stthomasmorercc.org)

### **CHURCH CLEANING ROTA**

Dec 1 Chris N. & Christa D.

Dec 15 Kathy F. & Catherine B.

Dec 29 Emanuela C. & Michele

### **THE SVP (SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL) SICK & HOME VISITS:**

If you know of anyone who is ill or housebound please refer to Michael Emery or Kate Wilson, so we can arrange for a visit and to receive Holy Communion if they wish.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION**

We are happy to announce that the parish preparation course for First Holy Communion and Confirmation will start on the new year 2026 (date TBC) in St Thomas More. Please, take the registration form on the back of the church and return it by the end of December 2025.

**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](mailto:fralessandro.reno@northamptondiocese.org)

**PARISH REPOSITORY:** Volunteers are sought to manage the repository and resume the sale of sacred objects and religious greeting cards. Please speak with Father Alessandro.

### **PARISH REGISTRATION FORM:**

#### **Parish registration forms are available now!**

I kindly ask all parishioners, both current and new, to complete the form and return it to me by the end of November. This will allow us to register parishioners and maintain a list for our parish archives.

The primary reason for filling out a parish form is to officially register as a member of a church community. While many people attend a church regularly, registration is the formal step that includes you in the religious, social, and ministerial life of the parish.

#### **For the parishioner**

For an individual or family, the benefits of registering include:

- **A sense of belonging:** It is a way of publicly committing to a faith community and establishing your membership.
- **Communication:** Registered members receive bulletins, emails, and other

communications about parish news, events, and important updates.

- **Access to services:** Registration may be required to schedule sacraments, such as baptisms or marriages, or to obtain a sponsor certificate to be a godparent.
- **Pastoral care:** If you or a family member becomes ill, being a registered parishioner ensures the church knows you and can provide pastoral visits or other support.
- **Easier administration:** Having your information on file simplifies administrative tasks for both you and the church office.

#### For the parish

For the church, parish forms are vital for several administrative and pastoral functions:

- **Maintaining records:** Parishes maintain records of their members and their families, including sacraments received and life events. This allows them to better serve the community.
- **Planning and budgeting:** A parish's census numbers often determine how many priests are assigned, what obligations the parish has to the diocese, and how Mass and other services are scheduled.
- **Encouraging participation:** The form may ask about skills, interests, and special needs, which helps the church connect parishioners with volunteer opportunities and support services.
- **Financial support:** Some forms include information on how a parishioner intends to support the church financially, which is essential for its operations.

### PARISH & PRESBYTERY LOCKERS AND KEY CHANGE

Following the recent situation where the identity of the people holding the keys to the parish, garden, and parish house is unknown, the diocese has strongly recommended that all door locks be changed to comply with the insurance and health and safety policies. Within a few weeks, those holding the keys will no longer be able to use them. They are therefore asked to contact Father Alessandro.

Diocesan Insurance and Compliance

- Meeting policy conditions: Insurance companies often require specific security measures to be in place, including proper key management (reducing the people to hold keys to just the one in charge of the church) and the fixing of safes or key cabinets according to manufacturer's instructions. Failure to comply can invalidate the insurance policy.
- Legal responsibility: Health and safety legislation applies to church buildings as to any other public building, and those responsible (e.g., the PCC in the UK) have a

duty of care to ensure a safe environment.

Proper key management is part of demonstrating this duty of care.

By updating key lockers and implementing robust key control procedures, churches can better manage access, mitigate security risks, and ensure a safer environment for everyone using the premises.

## DIOCESE

**ADVENT RESOURCES** As we enter this season of hopeful preparation, we invite you to explore our Digital Resource Page on the diocesan website. Here, you will find a range of online materials suitable for individuals, families, and parish groups.

We have also created a separate Advent Opportunities page featuring links to retreats, prayers, and other seasonal events to support you and your communities during this sacred time. Please share these resources within your parishes to help everyone prepare well for the coming of the Lord.

**ADVENT NOVENA** We are pleased to share the *Crown of Advent Novena*, a beautiful reflection based on the O Antiphons, created by parishioners of Our Lady of Walsingham Parish in Corby.

Individuals are warmly invited to sign up to receive the novena by email each day from 17 December through Christmas Day. This offers a simple yet profound way to prepare spiritually for the Nativity of the Lord. Please consider promoting this initiative within your parish communities as we journey together through the final days of Advent. [www.northamptondiocese.org/advent-novena/](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/advent-novena/)

### SOCIETY OF ST GREGORY – LITURGY PLANNING

The Society is making its comprehensive liturgy planner, *Preparing the Liturgy*, freely available online for a limited time over Advent and Christmas. This resource is part of the excellent materials the Society offers to priests, preachers, readers, bidding-prayer writers, and parish musicians of all kinds. Visit [ssg.org.uk/preparing-the-liturgy](http://ssg.org.uk/preparing-the-liturgy)

### EXPLORE CATHOLIC THEOLOGY BY DISTANCE LEARNING

Durham University's Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) offers flexible Distance Learning programmes in Catholic Theology, designed to fit around work, ministry, family, or other commitments. Options include a Postgraduate

Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, and MA, as well as single modules such as *Catholic Theology: A Preliminary Tour*, and new for 2026/27, *Catholic Social Thought and Practice* and *High Medieval Franciscan Theology*. Bursary funding is available for 2026-27. For more information, including videos from current students and details of bursaries, visit Durham University's Distance Learning pages, or contact the CCS Manager, Theresa Phillips at [theresa.phillips@durham.ac.uk](mailto:theresa.phillips@durham.ac.uk) or 0191 334 3952. <https://www.durham.ac.uk>

**DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP COURSE – Bethsaida** The Diocese of Northampton can announce the launch of the Bethsaida Leadership Course, a year-long programme designed to form leaders for a missionary Church. Are you already serving in your Parish, or do people naturally look to you for guidance? Do you feel called to grow in confidence and take a more active role in your Parish or Pastoral Area? The Course offers the opportunity to deepen your faith, strengthen your leadership skills and learn how to serve with your eyes fixed on Christ. Rooted in prayer and practical training, this course will help you grow as one of the living stones (see 1Peter 2:5) building up the Church today.

To find out more or to apply visit [northamptondiocese.org/catholic-leadership](http://northamptondiocese.org/catholic-leadership)

## OTHER

### **ADVENT WREATH MEANING AND THEMES**

The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God's infinite love for us – it is never-ending, just like the true Light of the World, Jesus, who leads us into eternal life with Him. The materials of the Advent wreath similarly lead us to reflect on the everlasting nature of God; traditionally, Advent wreaths have been made of evergreen leaves, such as pine or fir, which maintain their green colour beyond the season in which they are collected. Nowadays, there are many modern interpretations of Advent wreaths that still help us celebrate the traditional meaning of the wreath: preparing the way for the Light of the World, Jesus.

The theme for the first Sunday of Advent is **hope**, often symbolized by the "Prophet's Candle" on the Advent wreath. This theme looks forward to Jesus's arrival, recalls the prophecies about the Messiah, and prepares believers to be vigilant and ready for the coming of Christ.

If you have an Advent Wreath at home or at school, you can say this prayer lighting the candle:



*"Lord our God,  
we praise you for your Son,  
Jesus Christ:  
He is Emmanuel, the hope of  
the peoples,  
He is the wisdom that teaches  
and guides us,  
He is the Savior of every  
nation.*

*Lord God,  
let your blessing come upon us  
as we light the candles of this wreath.  
May the wreath and its light  
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us  
salvation.  
May He come quickly and not delay.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
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.*