



ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

3rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME [A]

25 January 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

Safeguarding Parish Rep.:

Mary McAllister

✉ safeguarding.towcester@northamptondiocese.org

Health and Safety:

Anthony McAllister

✉ mcallister18@hotmail.com

🌐 www.stthomasmore.org

Children Liturgy:

Rose Darwin

✉ rosiedarwin@aol.com

Music/Choir Group:

Chris Nickel

✉ chris@nikel.net

Welcome

Jason Colin

Michelle Collins

✉ jmauricecolin@gmail.com

Finance Team:

Michael J. Emery: Chairman

Hugh Moran: Treasurer

Repository:

Pat Griffin

✉ prg.74sc@gmail.com

TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 24 January –

5.30pm – Vigil Mass – Tony O'Driscoll Rip

Sunday 25 January – Third Ordinary Time [A]

11am – Mass – Andrew Grant Rip

Monday 26 January –

9.30am – Rosary and Adoration

Wednesday 28 January

9.30am – Rosary and Adoration

Thursday 29 January

10.30am – Funeral Service Andrew Grant

Friday 30 January

9.30am – Rosary and Adoration

Saturday 31 January –

5.30pm – Vigil Mass – People of the Parish

Sunday 1 February – Fourth Ordinary Time [A]

11am – Mass – Peggy & Bernard McAllister Rip

Mass Readings:

Isaiah 9:1b-4; Psalm 27(26):1.4.13-14;

1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17; Matthew 4:12-23

Psalm response:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom and healed every affliction among the people.

Eucharistic Acclamation:

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

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 7 February from 4.45pm to 5.20pm

EXPOSITION & ADORATION:

Mon, Wed and Fri, from 9.30am to 10am and Saturday from 4.45pm to 5.15pm

ROSARY:

Mon, Wed and Fri at 9.30am

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: The Children's Liturgy for those children who have not yet made their First Communion at the 11.00 Sunday Mass. If you want to volunteer, please speak with Rose Darwin.

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: £ 590.62

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL & SECOND COLLECTION:

"White Flower Appeal" is about the annual fundraising and awareness campaign by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) to support the protection of unborn children, drawing inspiration from the non-violent German White Rose resistance. **This weekend in our parish a second collection will take place to support them.**

LET'S GET PART OF THE WELCOME TEAM:

A church welcome is a warm, inclusive greeting for everyone, especially visitors, making them feel they belong by breaking down barriers, offering genuine connection, and providing practical info, rooted in Christian principles of welcoming outsiders as Christ did. If you want to be part of the team please speaks or contact Jason Colin and Michelle Collins after the Sunday Mass.(or contact on the front page)

REPOSITORY IS BACK!

Our parish repository is back again 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!

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL:

The Annual Mission Appeal is mandated by the Bishop's Conference and organised by the Catholic Missionary Union (CMU). It is not simply an occasion for taking a collection but gives parishioners the opportunity to hear about the work of the Xaverian Missionaries

and to give some insight into the missionary life of the Church. **Fr Patrick Duffy, Provincial of Xaverian Missionaries, will visit our parish the 31st January and 1st February**, celebrating the week-end masses. There will be a second collection to support them.

VISITING THORNTON SCHOOL:

A lovely invitation from Thornton School on **4th February from 11am to 1pm** for St Claudines day to the parishioners of St Thomas More's. Refreshments and entertainment by the pupils.

If you would like to join the trip, please speak with Chris Nash on 07941 188047 or a member of SVP.

SVP LUNCH at DnA:

The next SVP lunch is on **Thursday 12th February at 12.30pm** in DnA *Steak and Grill*. Cost £13.90 for a main course. To book, please contact Chris Nash on 07941 188047.

READING AT MASS 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 20th of February at 7pm in the church.

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 27th of February at 7pm in the church.

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

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

FR ALESSANDRO AWAY:

I shall be away from Monday 26th January to Monday 2nd February for my post-Christmas week break, hence no Masses during the week but only Rosary and Adoration from 9.30am to 10am. Saturday Vigil and Sunday Mass as usual. For any emergency, please contact the Dean of our pastoral area Canon Brendan Killeen tel: 01604 402301.

SAD NOTE:

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the death of our beloved parishioner, Andrew Grant, who passed away last week. He was a cherished member of our church family and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Funeral Service will be celebrated by Fr Brendan Killeen:

- Date: Thursday 29th January 2026
- Time: 10.30am
- Location: St Thomas More

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to his family and friends during this difficult time. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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

2 Feb: Jim and Brenda Ince

16 Feb: Chris Nash and Christa Darragh

2 March: Kathy Finnegan and Catherine Blackman

16 March: Edwina Woods and Janet Linehan

DIOCESE

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY for 2026 now available at £3 a copy.

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!

LUX.Belong Running from 13-15 February at King's Park Centre, Northampton. This event is for those aged between 11 and 18. It is an annual event where each year a particular theme is explored through workshops, drama, music, worship, Mass, prayer times, games, inputs and time with friends. This year's there is 'Belong.' Visit nymo.org/lux-belong-2026/ or email NYMO.admin@northamptondiocese.com find out more.

OTHER

POPE LEO XIV has chosen Bishop Richard Moth of Arundel and Brighton to be the next Archbishop of Westminster when Cardinal Nicholls retires. Bishop Moth is to be installed as 12th Archbishop of Westminster on 14 February next year. Please keep him and the retiring Archbishop, in your prayers at this time.

RETRouvaille:

The Retrouvaille organisation exists to support marriages, and can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next programme begins on 12th February 2026. Visit: www.retrouvaille.org.uk for information.

READERS OF THE LOST ARK:

Are you interested in joining a book club? We are Readers of the Lost Ark and meet every 6 weeks in the upper room of Waitling Village Pub. If you are interested in joining us please contact Richard Appleby on 07835 468982.

JOURNEY WITH JESUS THROUGH LENT:

During Lent, the Pastoral Development Vicariate is offering the opportunity for online

small group sessions once a week for 6 weeks beginning w.c. 16th February.

During each weekly small group session, facilitators will be using St Beuno's Outreach Prego resources, allowing you to pray and reflect on Scripture for the coming Sunday. Within the session, there will also be time for silent reflection and sharing what spoke to you from the readings. Sessions will be available on multiple days and at different times.

Sign-up to our introductory webinar on Tuesday 27th January from 7:30pm on the link <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1963574>

You can also find out more on the diocesan website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/lenten-journey/>

NEURODIVERSITY & FAITH RESEARCH

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales, and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. If you are an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a caregiver for such a person, they would like to hear from you. Your experiences will help them to become more inclusive and responsive to your needs. To find out more and to complete a short survey, please visit www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergentcatholic-surveys

DON'T MISTAKE ORDINARY TIME FOR A SEASON OF DULL ROUTINE:

The season of Ordinary Time consists of 33 or 34 weeks and is divided into two parts. It is easy to mistakenly think the liturgical year is about sanctifying time. The truth, however, is that the liturgical year is about growing in relationship with Jesus Christ. The richness of Ordinary Time is found in the opportunity to know Christ more intimately in the everyday realities of life. The gospel readings proclaimed on these Sundays reveals the teaching and healing and mission of Christ, allowing us to better understand God who became human. We learn that Christ is about humility rather than pride, vulnerability rather than power. We learn that Christ is about including the excluded, eating with social and religious outcasts, and dismantling structures of sin and injustice. We learn that Christ is about self-giving love that is only possible through authentic relationship.

Ordinary Time is anything but monotonous. It is a time of conversion where we grow into who we are called to be by imitating the lived reality of Jesus.

+Useful Websites:

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



An Act of
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.