

St Thomas More Church, Towcester  
(part of the Northampton Cathedral Hub)

## *Our Parish Newsletter Supplement*

*Don't forget to pick up a copy of the main Hub Newsletter!*

### **Hello and Welcome!**

Although the precise origins are uncertain, for centuries Catholics have been dedicating out month of May to Mary, the Mother of Our Lord: with devotional prayers and even processions as the month coincides with Spring and new birth. The devotional prayers are often accompanied by specific requests for Mary's intercession with God. Setting aside the month for Mary has been ratified by two popes. In 1954, Pope Pius XI proclaimed the Queenship of Mary through his encyclical, *Ad Caeli Reginam*. It was the first time a pope had given credit to Mary for her role in the Redemption with her son. In 1965, Pope Paul VI in *Mense Maio* wrote that May should be a time for special prayers for peace and devotion to Mary Mother of God. Our late, much loved, Pope Francis had a great devotion to Our Lady and once wrote these beautiful words, "Let us learn from the strong and helpful faith of our Mother Mary, in order to become living signs of God's mercy." I commend everyone to pray the rosary, or recite other Marian devotions, alone or even better, with others, especially during this month. At the end of Mass, we will sing a simple anthem or short hymn of praise in honour of Our Lady.

*Have a great bank holiday weekend, whatever you may be doing – and may we all be blessed this coming Week! Fr James*

**VE Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration.** An exhibition about Wartime Britain and VE Day will be held at Cold Higham Parish Hall over the weekend 9-11 May 25. Timings are 6-9pm Friday (with cheese and wine!); Saturday and Sunday 10am-3pm. All welcome. Free to all, voluntary donations in aid of SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity.

**Rest in Peace** Fr James is conducting 2 funerals this coming week, away from the Parish – on Wednesday and Thursday – for Dorothy Irvine and for Christopher Timms. Please hold these two people, and their families, in prayers this coming week. Thank you.

**Those little red boxes** Chris Nash has asked that over the next 2 to 3 weeks, we once again bring in the red *mission* boxes with whatever donations may be included. They will then become available again to take away and carry on giving as and when and what you can. Please clearly mark each box with your name and address, so we can accurately record information. Do visit [mission.org.uk](http://mission.org.uk) for more information or speak with Chris about how you can support this valuable outreach.

**Assisted suicide Bill - less than 2 weeks left!** The *Report Stage* of the assisted suicide Bill is on 16 May. It is vital that we contact our MPs urgently about this issue. Please act now and visit [www.righttolife.org.uk/ASVote](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/ASVote) to email your MP - it takes just 30 seconds!

**Churches Together in Towcester** – next Meeting here on 20 May at 7pm

### **A Date for the Diary**

**\* Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> June – Planned Parish BBQ – in the Parish Garden \***

Fr James to speak about this at the end of Mass this weekend!

**Northampton General Hospital chaplaincy support? Call the Hub Office: 01604 714556**

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