



ST THOMAS MORE PARISH
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
6th September 2026



Please take the newsletter home with you for reference.

Parish Priest
Fr. Jude Okelue,

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☎ 07831 248199

Hugh Moran: Treasurer

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✉ malcolm.alphonso@abbott.com

Altar Servers Group

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✉ dave.brennan@sylviajeffery.com

Children Liturgy:

Rose Darwin

✉ rosiedarwin@aol.com

Music/Choir Group:

Chris Nikel

✉ chris@nikel.net

Garden

Zena Pryke

✉ richandzena@gmail.com

Parish Website

Marco Gonzalez/Andrew Kirkpatrick

✉ marcogpl@gmail.com/andrewk.sarap@gmail.com

TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 5 September – 23 Ordinary Time [A]

5.00pm Rosary

5.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 6 September – 23 Ordinary Time [A]

11.00am Mass – People of the Parish

Monday 7 September

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass

Tuesday 8 September

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

6.00pm Mass and Rosary

Wednesday 9 September

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass

Friday 11 September

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass

Saturday 12 September

4.45pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions

5.00pm Rosary

5.30pm Vigil Mass – 24 Ordinary Time [A]

Sunday 13 September

11.00am Mass – 24 Ordinary time [A]

23 Ordinary Time Mass Readings:

Ezekiel 33: 7-9; Ps. 95 (94):1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9; Romans 13:8-10;

Matthew 18:15-20

Psalm response:

O that today you would listen to his voice. Harden not your hearts!

Gospel Acclamation

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

The Memorial Acclamation:

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

LAST SUNDAY COLLECTION:

Weekly collection: **£472.08**

Standing order: **£ 450 (estimate per week)**

TEA AND COFFEE

**Every Sunday and Wednesday
after mass in the LOMBARD
ROOM!**



END OF SUMMER PARISH BARBECUE AND FR ALESSANDRO FAREWELL MASS

As we come to the end of the summer, we warmly invite all parishioners to join us on Sunday the **6th of September** as we gather to celebrate our parish community and look forward with hope to the new pastoral year. The day begins with **Fr Alessandro's farewell mass at 11am** offering us the opportunity to thank him for his dedicated ministry at St Thomas More, to wish him every blessing his sabbatical, and stepping in his new role as school chaplain, and to assure him of our prayers. Following mass, everyone is warmly invited to our parish BBQ in the parish garden, where we can enjoy fellowship together, celebrate all that we have shared over the past months, and extend our best wishes to Father Alessandro in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere.

FR JUDE OKELUE WILL SOON BE WITH US

Our parish community is preparing to welcome Fr Jude OKELUE, assistant priest at St Augustine's in Milton Keynes, who will be in charge of our parish starting from the 7th of September.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY RETURNS: Our Children's Liturgy has returned from its summer break and we look forward to welcoming the children back on **Sunday 6th September**. If you wish to be a volunteer, please contact Rose Darwin at: rosiedarwin@aol.com

FOOD BANK:

Thanks to all those that contribute food for the local food bank. The box for donations is in the entrance area. The food bank needs essentials, so we'd be grateful if future donations could prioritise tins of meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, beans, soups and packets of rice and pasta.

Regularly updated information on Towcester's specific needs is at towcester.foodbank.org.uk or via bankthefood.com where you can download an app showing the most urgent needs.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION 2027 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

If your child wishes to prepare for First Holy Communion or Confirmation in 2027, registration forms are now available. You can collect a form from the parish board in the narthex or download it from the parish website. Please return completed forms to the Parish Office by the Feast of All Saints (1 November), leaving it in the office after mass or posting in the letter box at the Presbytery House. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Oliver Low, who will be happy to help: oliverlow@gmail.com

We look forward to accompanying our young people and their families on this important step in their journey of faith.

BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE

Please contact Fr Jude to book a date and to arrange the preparation course for the sacraments:

frjude.okelue@northamptondiocese.org

REPOSITORY

Cards, rosaries, crosses, icons, and much more available at the back of the church after mass; please contact Pat or Janette if you wish to buy or order any religious item.

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

14 September: Emanuela Coy and Michele Collins

DIOCESE

DIOCESAN MUSIC DAY

A day of music, formation, resources and fellowship for all involved in parish music ministry on **Saturday 19th September 2026 at Christ the King Church, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes** from 9.30am till 4pm. All are welcome! Musicians, singers, choir members, cantors, organists, directors, and clergy.

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE

The Diocese of Northampton Safeguarding Conference brings together clergy, parish safeguarding representatives, volunteers and those involved in the life of our parishes for a day of learning, reflection and renewal.

Through expert-led presentations, lived experience and practical discussion, the conference will deepen our understanding of adult safeguarding, place the voices of victims and survivors at the heart of our conversations, and explore how our communities can become places of safety, healing and hope.

As a diocese, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of safeguarding and to fostering a culture where every person is valued, listened to and protected. This conference is an opportunity to strengthen that commitment, learn from one another, and continue our shared mission of building communities that reflect the compassion, justice and love of Christ.

The Details

📍 . St Thomas Centre at Northampton Cathedral, Semilong Road, Semilong, Northampton, NN2 6DF

📅 . 3rd October

🕒 . 10.00AM arrivals – 3.00PM departures

📖 The day is free to attend

🍽️ Lunch is provided

🚗 There is plenty of parking in the St Thomas Centre car park off Semilong Road

♿ The St Thomas Centre is accessible for all.

✉ To secure your place email laura.lester@northamptondiocese.org

OTHER

SPUC NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) is inviting people of all ages to its National Conference in London on **Saturday 12th September 2026**. The conference offers an opportunity to gather with others committed to defending the dignity and sanctity of human life, deepen understanding of key pro-life issues, and learn practical ways to support the most vulnerable, especially unborn babies. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Regent's Park, Carburton Street, London. Tickets are £50. Both prices include lunch. Visit the SPUC website for further information and booking details.

+Useful Websites:

<https://northamptondiocese.org>

<https://www.catholicreadings.org>

<https://cbcew.org.uk>

<http://www.heavensroadfm.com>

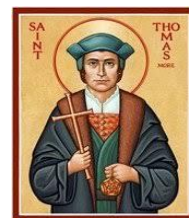
<http://www.walsingham.org.uk>

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

<http://cafod.org.uk>

A PRAYER TO ST. THOMAS

MORE, counsellor 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.

**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM FR
ALESSANDRO**

Dear St Thomas More Parish, as I prepare to leave, I want to say thank you. Serving this parish has been a privilege and a blessing. I am deeply grateful to all who serve so generously, the members of our parish teams and to everyone who has given their time, talent, and love to make St Thomas More such a joyful and welcoming parish. Though your dedication and quiet service, you have made our church, both inside and out, a warm and beautiful home of faith, touching countless lives, often in ways that go unseen, and for that I thank you from the bottom of my heart. With every blessing, Fr Alessandro Reno

