



THE PARISH OF ST. THOMAS MORE, KIDLINGTON & ST. HUGH OF LINCOLN, WOODSTOCK

<http://www.catholicparish.kidlingtonandwoodstock.uk>

Parish Priest: Fr. (Dr) Prem Fernando

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Part of the Arch Diocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity Number 234216

Parish School: Julieann Exley. Tel & Fax: 01865 373674, head@stthomas-more.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Reps.: Anastasia Hargreaves-Hand and Hannah Tebb sg.stthomasmore.kidlington@rcaob.org.uk

St Thomas More Parish Hall Contact: Ian Drury, 01865 371086, St Hugh's Centre Contact: Ruth Fiddy, 01993 812860



16th– 31st December 2023

3rd & 4th Sundays of Advent Yr B, & Christmas

Psalter weeks 3,4, & Octave



Gaudete Sunday - taken from the first word of the introit or the entrance antiphon we read. It is 'Rejoice in the Lord Always'. And so the focus of the Liturgy is towards the remembrance and commemoration of the Historical coming of Jesus. It is simply a big tamasha if there be no need for the coming of Christ in our personal lives and in our time and age. What would be then the use of His historical coming? It must have some if not great meaning to our life and living, it is your call, it is our call. Probably then we may hear the words of John the Baptist, we pray!

One could not doubt the need of Christ's coming, God's intervention as we live through the 'holocaust' of the Gazan people kept to our watch as mere spectators. It is the shame of our time and age. An untold travesty we are so unfortunate to witness in our life span. There is no Christmas for us when there is no Christmas surely in Bethlehem and for that matter where ever on Jesus' land - The Earth! So I invite the parish to pray for Peace! Little joy this Christmas.

On a different note could I also extend my heartfelt thanks to our Choir for the Lovely prayerful Taizé prayer service. Also for the carols singing and celebrations with the school raising funds for the parish and school through the sale of the raffle tickets. Thanks to Stephanie and Becky for the Christmas Craft Workshop raising £,770 for the school and the parish. Our gratitude to the fundraising teams of the school & the parish, a special mention to Mary Guilgunn-Jones and all those in her team. My thanks to the headteacher, the school teams, and not least, to all who supported!

Christmas Mass Times Catholic Parish of Kidlington (K) & Woodstock (W) Available on Zoom (Z)

Christmas Eve, 24th December

7.00pm Carols, 7.30pm Family Christmas Mass St Hugh of Lincoln, Woodstock (W)

10.30pm Carols, 11.00am Christmas Night Mass, St Thomas More, Kidlington (K) It will be Zoomed (Z)

After mass join in for a mulled wine and a mince pie, at STM hall wishing each other and all a 'Happy Christmas'

Christmas Day, 25th December

8.00am Dawn Mass (K)

9.30am Morning Mass (W)

11.00am Late Morning Mass (K), Zoomed



Thank you to our Choir and Music group for a beautiful Advent preparation with a Taizé Like Service held for us. We thank our Christian brothers and sisters for joining us, in being together with what we can do together. Watch it click on the image to watch it and pray with it.

Thank you!!

**The Retiring collection weekends 16th/17th help Parish Debt,
Christmas Eve and Day collection to value and support your priest**

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance And the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Anastasia Hargreaves-Hand and Hannah Tebb : sg.stthomasmore.kidlington@rcaob.org.uk**. They can be contacted at: [safeguarding email address] or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

ST THOMAS MORE, KIDLINGTON & St HUGH WOODSTOCK

Third Sunday of Advent Yr B, Week in Advent - Psalter Week 3, 4

Sunday 11am Mass is live interactive & streamed masses via zoom (Z) & YouTube join using the parish website, Catholic Parish of Kidlington (K) & Woodstock (W)

SATURDAY 16th Dec	Sunday Vigil St Thomas More Kidlington (K)	6.00 pm	<i>RIP Betty Thakurdas</i> (M May)	Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11 Lk 1:46-54 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8
SUNDAY 17th Dec 2023	Third Sunday of Advent Yr B St Hugh's Woodstock (W) St Thomas More Kidlington(K) <i>Zoomed & public attendance</i>	9.30 am 11am	<i>RIP Dan & Agnes Nagle</i> (Garrett) 13th Death Anni. Lilian Borucki (Maggie & Lou Borucki)	

Pope's Prayer Intention for December: For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

MONDAY 18th Dec	Advent Feria (K)	9.30 am	<i>RIP Joan Agnes Copeland</i>	Jeremiah 23:5-8, Ps 71 Matthew 1:18-24
TUESDAY 19th Dec	Advent Feria (K)	7 pm	<i>RIP Joan Agnes Copeland</i>	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25 Ps 70, Luke 1:5-25
WEDNES 20th Dec	Advent Feria (W)	11 am	<i>RIP Joan Agnes Copeland</i>	Isaiah 7:10-14, Ps 23 Luke 1:26-38
THURSDAY 21st Dec	Advent Feria (K)	9.30 am	<i>RIP Joan Agnes Copeland</i>	Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zeph3:14-18, Ps 32 Luke 1:39-45
FRIDAY 22nd Dec	Advent Feria (K)	11 am	<i>RIP Joan Agnes Copeland</i>	1 Samuel 1:24-28 1 Sam 2, Luke 1:46-56

SATURDAY 23rd Dec	Sunday Vigil St Thomas More Kidlington (K)	6.00 pm	RIP Michele Yvonne Allen (Paul Allen)	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 Ps 88 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
SUNDAY 24th Dec 2023	Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr B St Hugh's Woodstock (W) St Thomas More Kidlington(K) <i>Zoomed & public attendance</i>	9.30 am 11am	- 1st Death Anni Al Foley (Jo Foley)	



News from the charity Friends of the Holy Land

Bethlehem - In a departure from the traditional festive decorations and Christmas tree lighting, the Bethlehem Municipality has chosen to cancel Christmas festivities due to thousands killed and in a prayer for peace. Amidst the rubble and ruins, a poignant voice rises to declare that the light of hope will persist in the small West Bank town where the Christmas story unfolded.

Youstina Safar, a resident of Bethlehem and a student at Bethlehem University, has collaborated with the London-based band Ooberfuse to deliver a powerful message through their Christmas song, 'Hear Angels Cry'. The song resonates with the belief that hope for a better future, born in the hearts of humanity, remains resilient in the face of aggression. [Click here](#)

WHEN WAILING SIRENS CEASE A VOICE CRIES OUT FROM BETHLEHEM – HEAR ANGELS CRY

Piety Shop is now open for your card, medals, gifts etc.

Please show your support and appreciation! ~ **Eileen Perkins & Milagros Ponte**



ST THOMAS MORE, KIDLINGTON & St HUGH WOODSTOCK

Christmas Season Yr B, Week in Christmas- Psalter Christmas Octave

Sunday 11am Mass is live interactive & streamed mass via zoom (Z) & YouTube join using the parish website, Catholic Parish of Kidlington (K) & Woodstock (W)



SUNDAY 24th Dec. 2023	Christmas Eve Nativity of the Lord St Hugh's Woodstock (W) ----- St Thomas' Kidlington	7.00pm --- 10.30pm	Carols followed by Family Christmas eve mass (W) Carols followed by Christmas Night Mass (K) (Z)	Vigil Isaiah 62:1-5, Ps 88 (89) Acts 13:16-17, 22-25, Mat 1:1-25 Midnight Isaiah 9:1-7, Ps 95 (96), Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 Dawn Isaiah 62:11-12, Ps 96 (97), Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:15-20 Day Isaiah 52:7-10, Ps 97 (98), Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18
	Christmas Day St Thomas' Kidlington ----- St Hugh's Woodstock (W) ----- St Thomas' Kidlington (K)	8.00am --- 9.30 am --- 11am	Dawn Mass (K) --- Morning Mass (W) ----- Late Morning Mass (K) (Z)	

MAY THE PEACE OF CHRISTMAS
DAWN IN OUR WORLD

TUESDAY 26th Dec	Feast of St Stephen, First Martyr (K)	12noon	RIP Joan Agnes Copeland	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Ps 30, Mat 10:17-22
WEDNES 27th Dec	Feast of St John, Apostle, Evangelist (W)	11 am	RIP Joan Agnes Copeland	1 John 1:1-4, Ps 96 John 20:2-8
THURSDAY 28th Dec	Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs (K)	12noon	RIP Joan Agnes Copeland	1 John 1:5-2:2, Ps 123 Matthew 2:13-18
FRIDAY 29th Dec	Feast of St Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr (K)	12noon	RIP Joan Agnes Copeland	Col. 1:24-29, Ps 22 Luke 22:24-30 or Matthew 10:28-33



SATURDAY 30th Dec	Sunday Vigil St Thomas More Kidlington (K)	6.00 pm	RIP Joan Agnes Copeland	Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 127 Colossians 3:12-21 Luke 2:22-40
SUNDAY 31st Dec 2023	Feast of the Holy Family Yr B St Hugh's Woodstock (W) ----- St Thomas More Kidlington (K) Zoomed & public attendance	9.30 am --- 11am	- Death Anni Brendan Morrison (Cathy Morrison)	

Please email your news items to Fr Prem by two weeks on Wednesday

*This Newsletter is for the parishioners and friends of the parish. It is for the intended circulation.
Feel free to take it with you and share it with others especially the sick and the homebound.*



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM
OFFICE for MISSION
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."

YEAR OF PRAYER

PREPARING FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year - entitled "Pilgrims of Hope" - 2024 has been designated as a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. With its focus on the *Our Father*, it presents us with a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer.



Click image

Advent Contemplative Circle. An opportunity to come together for a prayerful advent, using a different sacred text each week, with reflection and prayer. Thursdays 6-730 pm (7th, 14th and 21st December) Meet at St Thomas More's Parish Hall For more information contact Kathleen on kathleenikelly@yahoo.com

Night Prayer via Zoom - Tuesdays in Advent at 9.30pm for 20 minutes. All are welcome to join in the peace of Compline (the Night Prayer of the Church), via Zoom, on Tuesdays in Advent (5th, 12th & 19th Dec) at 9.30pm. Just join here [click here](#) John Kirwan 07985098544

Christmas Offerings To your Priest: As you know Catholic priests are not employed and don't receive a salary nor do they claim a living wage, if not a clergy salary although they are entitled to like anyone else. They are given an allowance, mass stipends, stole fees and they are offered the Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve / Day offerings as their dues. This is your opportunity to show justice and appreciation towards your priest's services to the parish and the church, valuing it. **Thank you.**



WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHOSE DEATH ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR DURING THIS TIME

John Dorrington, Violet Hollis, Joseph Lavery, Patricia Stenning, William Hayes, Desmond Woolmer, Elsie Mould, Albert Bennett, Cleaver Clapperton, Olive Simons, Herbert Coleman, Faith Hawkins, Jean Grant, Lilian Borucki, Joseph Baggaley, Bridget Jones, Arthur Grace, Bernadette Davey, Al Foley, John Conaty, Michael Kearney, Eileen Hayes, Eveline Ramsbotham, Joyce Clarke, Annie McLain, Rosa Liggins, Jim Lally, John Stevens, Kathleen Trumpess, Richard Cousins, Gordon Mease, Cornelius Sheehan, James McLean, Imogon Dennis, Joseph Santos, Ellen Cato, Percival May and Joseph Nolan.

*~ Eternal rest grant unto to them O' Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them,
may they rest in peace. Amen*

- Archdiocesan news [click here](#)
- Catholic Bishop's conference latest [click here](#)
- Vatican news [click here](#)
- For Young [Kenelm Youth Trust Summer camp click](#)
- Justice Peace [click here](#)
- Responding to the call of creation [click here](#)

Christmas Flowers St Thomas More £125.70 ~ Margaret, St Hugh's £111.07 ~ Sandra ~~ **Thank You**

Parish Diary

- 19th December 2023 - School Carols, 6pm
- 25th February 2024 Parish Assembly with a finger lunch 12 noon
- 9th June 2024, Sunday, First Holy Communion Mass 3.30pm
- 23rd June 2024, Sunday at 3.30pm Confirmation Mass with the Episcopal Vicar for our region.

Fund Raising Events for the School & the Parish

- ♦ **St Hugh's Monthly Draw** - 1st Sunday of the month. All welcome.
- ♦ **Last Friday of the Month (out side of Lent)** - Soup lunch after Midday mass.
- ♦ **Sunday 17 December, Parish Christmas Raffle (Joint)**
- ♦ **Saturday 3 February 2024, BINGO Evening**
- ♦ **Saturday 9 or 16 March 2024 TBC, SILENT AUCTION (Joint)**
- ♦ **TBC St Hugh's Lecture series**
- ♦ **Sunday 30 June 2024 - Parish Celebrations** Come up with yours!! Have an idea!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Catherine Elford (McCann), Geoffery & Eileen Groom, Rebecca Lambert, Kit Murphy, Mary Couchman, Anne Howard, June O'Leary, Tracy Richards, Christopher Browne, Neil Greenwood, Joyce Franklin, Sheila Cooper, Geoff Boorman, Veryan Boorman, Mary Sheehan, Sandra Lenagan, Gay Luff, Debbie, and Baby Martha ~Kindly help to keep this list updated



SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP

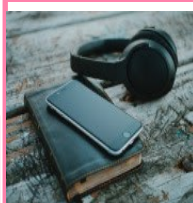
The next monthly meeting will be held on the Mondays.

8th January, 12th February, 11th

March, 8th April, 13th May, 10th June, 8th July at 2pm St Thomas More Church Hall.

Sr Christina will lead the Reflection. All are welcome. For more information please contact Jane Lemon Janemcgrathlemon@gmail.com

Advent reflection - there'll be a short talk about the work of FHL Advent Reflection Sunday 17 December, 4pm at Corpus Christi Church, Margaret Rd, Headington, OX3 8AJ. All are welcome to join us for a service of prayer and music and enjoy a moment of peace and preparation in this busy season, followed by mulled wine and mincepies. There will be a collection for the Friends of the Holy Land. ~ John Kirwan.



'Pause for Prayer' video resource
[Click here](#)



Modern Slavery- What is it? And what you can do to help survivors
[click here](#)