

The Catholic Parish of St Thomas Aquinas and All Saints, Bletchley

Diocese of Northampton Registered charity No. 234091 / Pastoral Area of St Paul, Milton Keynes

Parish Priest: Fr Gerard Byrne

Parish Secretary: Mrs Jo Cerrone

Parish Office: 1 Sycamore Avenue, Bletchley MK2 2JE

Tel: **01908 372315**

Office Hours for Telephone Enquiries: Monday to Friday: 11am – 2pm

Parish Email: parish.bletchley@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Website: www.catholic-bletchley.com

Parish Safeguarding: **(CONTACTS FOR SAFEGUARDING ISSUES ONLY)**

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Marie - 07882 713797; Andrew - 07984 271499

safeguarding.bletchley@northamptondiocese.org

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 28th/29th December 2024

Home Visits

Do you have a loved one confined to home or care home who can no longer attend Mass? Would he/she like to receive Holy Communion or a visit from the Legion of Mary? If so, please contact Maggie on 01908 563277.

In Hospital?

Contact MK University Hospital Chaplaincy on 01908 996061.

Please inform them that you are a Catholic.

Local Catholic Schools:

Bishop Parker Primary School, MK2 3BT

01908 372129

www.bishopparker.co.uk

St Thomas Aquinas Primary School, MK3 5DT

01908 373977

www.st-thomasaquinas.co.uk

St Paul's Secondary School, MK6 5EN

01908 669735

www.st-pauls.org.uk

If you need help...call the SVP

If you or someone you know would benefit from their support, please make contact by calling **07788796378**.

If you want to make a financial donation to the work of the SVP via Bank Transfer, please use the following details: -

Account Name: **ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

Sort Code: **60-60-04** Account No: **46084789**

Angelus (said before the Vigil Mass)

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:

And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

Be it done unto me according to Thy word. Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh:

And dwelt among us. Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross ☩ be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Mondays: After 10.00am Mass, Benediction at 11.00am (STA)

Tuesdays: After 10.00am Mass, Benediction at 11.00am (AS)

Saturdays: After 9.30am Mass, Benediction at 11.00am (STA)

Time spent before the Blessed Sacrament in the best time you will spend on earth. (St Teresa of Calcutta)

Liturgies this Week

STA: St Thomas Aquinas Church, Sycamore Avenue, MK2 2JE

AS: All Saints Church, Shenley Road, MK3 6HG

Saturday 28th December Vigil

STA	6.00pm	Dr Andrea Fernando, Thanksgiving Int.
-----	--------	---------------------------------------

Sunday 29th December HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

AS	9.00am	Private Int.
----	--------	--------------

AS	11.00am	Giorgio Scrocca, RIP
----	---------	----------------------

AS	6.30pm	Pro Populo
----	--------	------------

Monday 30th December ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

STA	10.00am	Vincenzo Comparato, Anniv. RIP
-----	---------	--------------------------------

Tuesday 31st December 7th DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY

AS	10.00am	Donohue Family, Int.; Lyons Family, Int Dilleen Family, Int.
----	---------	---

		No evening Mass today
--	--	-----------------------

Wednesday 1st January MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

STA	12 noon	Julie Hattle, Int.
-----	---------	--------------------

Thursday 2nd January SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianen

AS	10.00am	Requiem: Jacky Harmer, RIP
----	---------	----------------------------

STA	7.00pm	Mathew Panikulam, Anniv. RIP
-----	--------	------------------------------

Friday 3rd January The Most Holy Name of Jesus

STA	10.00am	Franco D'Luca, Anniv. RIP
-----	---------	---------------------------

STA	7.00pm	Ellen McCarthy, RIP
-----	--------	---------------------

Saturday 4th January FERIA

STA	9.30am	Mark Tomlin, Int.
-----	--------	-------------------

STA	6.00pm	Giuseppe Tomeo, Anniv. RIP
-----	--------	----------------------------

Sunday 5th January THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

AS	9.00am	Pro Populo
----	--------	------------

AS	11.00am	Libera Pozzuto, RIP
----	---------	---------------------

AS	6.30pm	In Thanksgiving; Egejuru Family, Int.
----	--------	---------------------------------------

Regular Devotions

The Holy Rosary: Daily, 30mins before morning Mass, Monday to Friday; Saturdays, after 9.30am Mass

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Fridays, 9.10am (STA)

Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour:

After 10.00am Mass on Mondays, followed by Benediction

Confessions:

Thursdays: 9.30am (AS) (Not this week because of the funeral)

Saturdays: 10.00am to 11.00am (STA); and at call

Requiescant in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Jacqueline ('Jacky') Harmer whose Requiem Mass will be in All Saints Church, 10.00am on Thursday 2nd January.

Vivienne Smith whose Requiem Mass will be in All Saints Church, 10.00am on Thursday 9th January.

*May Christ, who called you, take you to Himself;
may angels lead you to Abraham's side.*

Receive their souls and present them to God the Most High

Bereavement Support Group

Do you miss someone? Would you like to talk about it? Our Parish Bereavement Group gives you the safe space to share your grief following the loss of a loved one. We listen and talk about those who are gone and reflect on our faith to guide us through. The group are taking a break from in person meetings until the spring, but they are still available should you wish them to visit or to speak over the phone. Contact can be made through Jo in the Parish Office on 01908 372315.

Junior Youth Group for years 4, 5 & 6

The next youth group will be on **Monday 13th January** from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Youth Group is for children in years 4,5 & 6 at St Thomas Aquinas Church Meeting Room. All Welcome. *Junior Youth Group is held on 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month.*

Bletchley Parish Youth Group for ages 11+

The next meeting will be on **Saturday 11th January** from 2pm to 3pm in St Thomas Aquinas Church Meeting Room. Come along for games, activities, music, movies, art, fun learning about Jesus, snacks and much more. All welcome. *Youth Group is always held on 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month.*

Please Remember In Your Prayers

As many of us celebrate Christmas with family and friends, please remember in your prayers those for whom this is sadly not a time of joy: the sick, the housebound, the lonely and the bereaved; we remember too the homeless, the hungry and those around the world who live in war zones or face persecution simply for following Jesus. May Christ grant them grace and peace this Christmas; and may they know that despite their trials they are surrounded by our love, support and prayers.

Congratulations

Our sincere congratulations to John Scott who was recently presented with a Spirit of MK3 Community Award 2024 for his outstanding work for 46 years with the local conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. John was nominated for the award by fellow SVP member Brian McNeaney. Well done, John.

Well Done, Bishop Parker School

Following a recent RE inspection of Bishop Parker School a report has been published that recognises the great work that takes place within the school to teach the Catholic Faith and to promote Catholic principles in the lives of the children and whole school community. Well done to all the staff, governors, children and their families for their commitment and hard work. You can read the report on the Diocesan Education Service website: <https://northamptondioceseschools.org/download/bishop-parker-catholic-primary-school-bletchley-november-2024/>

New Year's Eve Watchnight

To usher in the New Year, on Tuesday 31st December beginning at 10.00pm in Christ the Cornerstone Church, 300 Saxon Gate West, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 2ES there will be Holy Mass, a sharing of the Scriptures, a time of praise and worship along with testimonies. The theme of the evening will be 'Do not forget ...' (Psalm 103:2) led by Fr Emmanuel Okami and Fr Francis Higgins. Contact details: mkprayers@outlook.com

Crib Offerings

This year we will support our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land through the charity *Aid to the Church in Need* (ACN). The help provided by ACN in the Holy Land since October 2023 has included emergency aid, food, housing, school fees, medical assistance to hundreds of Christian families, also job creation programmes, pastoral projects and support for Christian-run organisations. ACN also provides subsistence aid, Mass stipends, transportation, support for church construction projects and help with the formation of priests and religious congregations.

1st Friday and 1st Saturday Devotions

In 1673 Our Lord appeared to St Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation nun at Paray-le Monial in France and revealed to her the Devotion to His Most Sacred Heart, asking that on the first Friday of nine consecutive months, the faithful:

1. Receive Holy Communion on each of the First Fridays
2. The nine first Fridays must be consecutive
3. They must be made in honour of and in reparation to His Sacred Heart

In December 1925, Our Lady appeared to Sister Lucia, giving her the following guarantee of salvation for those who complete the First Five Saturdays Devotion, and who on 5 consecutive months:

1. Go to Confession
2. Receive Holy Communion
3. Say five decades of the Rosary
4. Keep Our Lady company for 15 minutes, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary
5. Have the intention of making reparation to Our Lady

I encourage you to make these devotions part of your spiritual life. To facilitate people to make these Devotions, on the First Friday of the month there is an additional Mass in St Thomas Aquinas Church on the First Friday of each month; and on the First Saturdays, following the 9.30am Mass, the Rosary is prayed before the Blessed Sacrament exposed, concluding with Benediction. Confessions are heard during this time.

White Flower Appeal 2025

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual White Flower Appeal the weekend of 11th/12th January. SPUC's vision is for a world where abortion is unthinkable. SPUC works to raise awareness of pro-life matters; and your donations allows them to continue their tireless work to build a culture of life, through a variety of pro-life. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC in their great work to defend human life, from conception to natural death.

A Heartfelt 'Thank You'

I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to you all for the cards, lovely messages and wonderful gifts I received; and for your incredibly generous Christmas offering; your generosity to me is truly humbling. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who during the year help in so many different ways in our churches, especially our wonderful Parish Secretary, Jo Cerrone; Parish Worker Angela White; Maggie Osgathorp, the musicians and singers; the sacristans, the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, the readers, cleaners, altar servers, collectors and counters, the catechists and Youth Group leaders; those who organise Children's Liturgy; the people who run the Repositories, the KSC, the Legion of Mary, the SVP, the Finance Committee; the SEPO and CAFOD committees and all those who run groups that help and support parish life; and to all those who help in any way in ensuring the smooth running of our parish. May God bless you all in this Holy Year.

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts and in your homes in the New Year. Fr Gerard