



**St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Stephen Harding Catholic Church**

53 Great Hales Street, Market Drayton TF9 1JL

E-mail: [ssthomasandstephen@gmail.com](mailto:ssthomasandstephen@gmail.com)

[www.ss-thomas-stephen.org.uk](http://www.ss-thomas-stephen.org.uk)

Priest: Father Anthony Wild ☎ 01952 811299

Deacon: David Hill ☎ 01952 813004

Deacon: Wilf McSherry ☎ 07983 981931



Date	Time	Service	Intention
<b>Sunday 23 January</b> <i>Psalter week 3</i>	<b>MASS 11am</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Day of Prayer for Openness to the Word of God</b>	Eugenie Percival
<b>Monday 24 January</b>		St Francis de Sales	
<b>Tuesday 25 January</b>	<b>7pm</b>	CONVERSION OF ST PAUL <b>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</b> <b>Evening Prayer over Zoom</b>	
<b>Wednesday 26 January</b>	<b>MASS 10am</b>	SS Timothy & Titus	Priest's Intention
<b>Thursday 27 January</b>		Thursday of Week 3 <i>St Angela Merici</i>	
<b>Friday 28 January</b>	<b>7pm</b>	St Thomas Aquinas <b>Rosary over Zoom</b>	
<b>Saturday 29 January</b>		Saturday of Week 3 <i>St Vincent</i>	
<b>Sunday 30 January</b>	<b>MASS 11am</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Climate Sunday</b>	DRF Ford Family

**Sunday of the Word of God** was instituted by Pope Francis in 2019, on the feast of St Jerome, who translated the Bible. It is a Day of Special Prayer for Openness to the Word of God.



**Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18-25 January (Conversion of St Paul)**

**One in Christ Jesus, engaged in God's mission, empowered by the Spirit.**

**Churches Together in Market Drayton** Annual General Meeting today **Sunday**

**23 January 2022** via Zoom immediately following a short Zoom Unity Week

devotion commencing at 6pm – the timings are likely to be 6–6.15 Devotion;

Talk 6.15-6.45; AGM 6.45-7.30. The Zoom details for the service/AGM are:

Time: Sunday 23 January 2022 at 6pm. Meeting ID: 879 5826 7070 Passcode: 589409 Join Zoom

Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87958267070?pwd=Myt4WlBvNjh6SjRjd2tkYnR3dDFxZz09>



**Parish Evening Prayer & Rosary Evening Prayer** (Tuesday 7pm) over Zoom and the Rosary (Friday 7pm) over Zoom.? New pray-ers always welcome, contact [ssthomasandstephen@gmail.com](mailto:ssthomasandstephen@gmail.com) or Wilf. Why not start now?



**Friday is the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas. St Thomas Aquinas Pray for us**

**Please keep the following Parishioners in your prayers ...** Danny Bonner, Pam Lovett, Niall Gallivan, Marie-Sophie Szymanski, John McGrath, Doreen Dodd, Faye Hargreaves, Mary Goodwin, Julian and Dawn Huxley, Sheila Minnery, Shane McGroggan, Doreen Warrilow, Sylvia Mary Stanworth, & all sick and housebound of the parish.

**The Pope's Universal Intention for Evangelisation January 2022 For true human fraternity** We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

**Missio Red Boxes** Have you collected your empty box from the back of the church yet?



**Used Postage Stamps** We have just sent off a parcel weighing nearly 2Kg. So a big **THANK YOU**, to all those who have already handed in used stamps, in support of the Jesuit Refugee Service. So now we are collecting for the next parcel! We collect used stamps, all of them, not just the Christmas ones, at any time of the year. Please place in the box in the porch.



**Gospel Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen'** Seeing that many



others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara,

where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

*Commentary* Today's gospel passage starts the series of readings from Luke which will continue throughout the ordinary Sundays of the Year. Jumping over the preparatory stories of Jesus' infancy, baptism and testing in the desert, it comes directly to his programmatic manifesto in the synagogue at Nazareth. The gospel is offered to Theophilus – a Greek name, 'Lover of God' – and is written for gentile communities. So Luke stresses that Jesus' message is not just for Jews but for the peoples of the whole world. Twice in this short passage which gives Jesus' programme Luke stresses that Jesus is moved by the Spirit of the Lord. As we saw in the second reading, the Spirit was palpably at work in the early Christian communities. In Luke's stories of the annunciation, birth and infancy of Jesus the presence of the Spirit is constantly noted. In the earliest stories of the Church in the Acts of the Apostles the same guidance directs every move. *Henry Wansborough OSB*



**Saint of the Week St Vincent, died 304.** Deacon and martyr. Vincent was born at Huesca, Spain, he became a deacon and served St, Valerius at Saragossa until their martyrdom at Valencia during the persecutions under the Emperor Diocletian. St Valerius was exiled, but Vincent was cruelly tortured because he would not surrender the holy books. He converted the warden of the prison and then died. He was honoured by SS Augustine, Pope Leo I, and Prudentius, and is considered the patron saint of Lisbon and Valencia, and of vinedressers in some regions of Spain.

The Foodbank has no or low stock of the following items in order of urgency: If you are able to donate, please leave your items in the green bin in the Church porch:

**UHT Milk, Long life cartons of fruit juice, Coffee, Tinned fish (not Tuna), Custard, Rice pudding, Sponge puddings/ slab cake, Wash powder/ liquid/ tabs, Dry cat & dog food. THANK YOU.**

