



Dear friends,

I hope you are keeping well in these difficult and challenging times.

I am delighted to report that the work on the main building of the Cathedral Centre, which we have named the St Thomas Centre, is now complete. We are incredibly proud to have our new Centre which will allow us to serve the local community as well as the wider Catholic community. A virtual walkthrough is available by visiting <https://northamptondiocese.org/centre/>

As with every other sector of society currently we have been limited in our scope due to the pandemic, this is obviously hampering our ability to invite groups in and to achieve the potential the Centre gives us. However, once we emerge from this crisis programmes can be promoted that will support the mission of the Cathedral, as our Mother Church, and the diocese.

Whilst we are unable to have an opening ceremony due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic, Bishop David and myself are delighted that the first activity that is being hosted by our new Centre is a food bank which is helping some of the most vulnerable members of our town. We are working in partnership with Fair Share and a local charity Revolution Zero, together with donations from the Cathedral Community as well as the local schools to help distribute much needed food parcels to those in need. The responses from many who have received these has been incredibly moving.

This is a fresh beginning for us to reach out to our local community at this time of great need for so many. In fact, in just three short weeks of service we have supported over 150 families through the food bank initiative.

This vital work has been made possible due to your generosity and we look forward to promoting the St Thomas Centre within the parish, the diocese and the wider community in due course. You may be aware that we are still raising funds for the Centre and its vital work as we move into 2021. We look forward to welcoming you to the Centre in the near future.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and I wish you every blessing as we approach Christmas.

In these uncertain times the Christmas celebration reminds us of the nearness of God, revealed in the coming of his Son. Let us place our trust and confidence in the one who is the light of the world.

With best wishes, God Bless

Fr Mark Floody

Dean of Northampton Cathedral