



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 15th/16th July

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Annie Kennedy + Baptism Owen Fitsimmons
Sunday	10.00 am		Annie Kennedy
Monday		10.00 am	Funeral Mass for Peter Rodway
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	Renee Muller Mass in St. Joseph's school
Thursday (school)	9.30 am		Sr. Catherine Cronin Mass in Sacred Heart school
Friday	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Annie Kennedy Eucharistic Service

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 22nd/23rd July

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Angela Doman Bridget Reynolds
Sunday	10.00 am		Otobong's Thanksgiving for a successful academic year

Please Pray for the sick; Anne Stapleton, Bridie Murphy, Sheila O'Reilly, Marion Levell, Peter McKernan, Mary Joyce, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, May Walker, Nirosha Pathiraja, Teresa Francis, Michael O'Connor, Marie Parish, William Parish, Michael O'Reilly, Julie Gallagher, Irene Nelson.



The collection last weekend came to £266.33.

Last weekend's collection for the "Apostleship of the Sea" came to £291.69.

This weekend there will be a second collection for the "Peter's Pence"

You are invited to celebrate the graduation of one of your parishioners at the Symphony Hall on Wednesday 26th July at 9.30 am prompt. If you would like to support him on his special occasion, please contact Otobong on 07440735526.

First reading Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm 64(65):10-14

Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop

Second reading Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.**

Alleluia!



Gospel Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

Reflection

Jesus' parable of the soil, seed and sower reminds us that the grace of God's word is there for everyone who is open to receive it. If the seed takes root in rich soil, the harvest is assured. If it misses the mark and falls on the path, the benefit is for the birds alone and not for the human community. If the soil is rocky, the growth is premature and short-lived and the harvest is very limited, so that the birds are deprived along with the human community. If the seed falls among thorns, it is choked-so once again, there is no harvest. The readiness of the soil is all important, though the extent of the yield is the measure of God's abundant grace.

This parable reflects Jesus' closeness to the whole Earth community and his familiarity with the lives of ordinary people. While scattering of seed before ploughing seems a rather wasteful method of sowing a crop, such a practice is attested in the ancient world. Is the sower an extraordinarily generous God or an exploitative and wasteful estate owner? Parables tease their hearers and invite them to ponder their many levels of meaning. We have to bring our own life experience into dialogue with the word of each parable and search out its meaning for us. When we consider our children, the parable of the soil, seed and sower may yield its wisdom more slowly than parents and teachers may wish. Young people tend to mature at different rates and their faith develops in myriad ways that only God as harvester truly comprehends. We do whatever we can and trust that God will ensure an abundant harvest.

Parish News

Do you want to become a Catholic? If you do, please talk with Fr. Stephen, either directly or by phone or by email (see contact details at the top of the newsletter). Perhaps you know someone who might and an encouraging word might help.

RAISE THE ROOF RAFFLE WINNERS: No: 30 – J. Pollard

SACRED HEART CHURCH WEBSITE Please mark this website and view it regularly. There is a report and photos about the recent Brightlights that many of our young adults attended. Also get others to look at it and at our facebook page.

Please pray for: Daniella Youwudi who is being baptised at the 12.30 pm Mass next Saturday and for her parents, Daniel & Giselle.

Fr. Robert Murphy's Induction as Parish Priest of St. Anne's Digbeth and English Martyr's, Sparkhill will take place on Monday 24th July at 7.00 pm at English Martyr's, Evelyn Road, Sparkhill, B11 3JN. All are invited to attend to give him a good welcome to the Deanery.

KINGDOM WARRIORS Young adults are invited to join our young adults group called the Kingdom Warriors. They meet each Tuesday at 6.30 pm at St. Vincent's Church in Nechells Parkway, B7 4JY for Lectio Divina. At present they are studying St. Matthew's Gospel.

GIFT AID If you are a taxpayer, please see Chris Brown and he will be able to arrange for us to claim money you have paid to the taxman back for the Church with no pain to yourself.



What's going on in the Diocese

Tabor House, Birmingham's only permanent night shelter for homeless people, is opening in September. Could you volunteer as a host or mentor. Contact Christy Acton on 01675 434064 to find out more.

REBOOT On Monday 17 July 2017, from 6.30pm-9pm, St Catherine of Siena Church, Bristol Street Birmingham will be hosting Reboot, including music by the Mercy Tour. Reboot is provided by Chris Stefanick who is an internationally acclaimed speaker and author from the USA. Chris presents fun, inspiring and practical experience of applying the beauty and genius of the heart of the Gospel to every aspect of your life. From prayer and spirituality, to work, marriage, parenting, health and more. It would be wonderful for people from across the Archdiocese to attend this life-changing event. Please contact Natalie Orefice (Advisor for Parish Evangelisation) for further details by email: parishevang@maryvale.ac.uk or telephone: 07718910585.

THE ANNUAL APF – MILL HILL MISSION MASS is on Sunday 23rd July at 11.00 am at St. Chad's Cathedral. Our Archbishop will be the principal celebrant.

THE BIRMINGHAM CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE is 7th -11th August. Keep those dates free. More information later. <http://www.bccrc.org.uk/>

Pilgrimage to Fatima Celebrate the centenary of Fatima this November with fellow pilgrims from the diocese. Departing 26th November spend 4 nights in a 4* hotel on a half board basis. Flights included from Birmingham. Early bird offer of £485 available until 15/08/2017. To find out more visit aglowpilgrimages.com/fatima or call 0800 689 4792.

FERTILITY CARE Life Fertility Care offer treatment for infertility and miscarriage. There are leaflets about it at the back of church. If you know anyone needing help, please take a leaflet or visit www.lifefertilitycare.co.uk

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE OR RELIGIOUS STUDIES Why not study the faith in greater depth so that you can communicate it more effectively? See notice on notice board in church and/or go to www.brs-ccrs.org.uk or phone 0207 901 1900.

St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School Nursery, Vauxhall Grove, Nechells, B7 4HP. You can apply now for a place in September by phoning 0121 675 2359.

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information visit www.catholicsingles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498

JOB VACANCIES - RN Nurses vacancies for permanent and bank shifts day and nights needed at St. Joseph's Home in Harborne.

Please contact Mother Kathleen or Josie Conway HR Officer on 0121 427 2486 for more information.