



# Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

## 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> September Home Mission Sunday

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	People of parish Sr. Pius
Sunday	10.00 am		Sr. Jasmin & Sr. Dona Maria
Monday		9.30 am	Colleen Coxington
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	Bernadette Farnan in St. Joseph's school
Thursday (school)	9.30 am		Sr. Jasmin in Sacred Heart school
Friday	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Flory Jayathilaka Eucharistic Service

## 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 23<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> September

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	1.30 pm 6.00 pm	Frank O'Connor Wedding of John Forbes & Michelle Brady Joseph Wall
SUNDAY	10.00 am		People of Parish

**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 £242.15

The second collection for the Catholic Education Service came to £180.60

This weekend there is a second collection for Catholic Evangelisation.

Next weekend there will be a second collection for Fr. Hudson's Society. Father Hudson's mission is to provide Catholic social care in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, reaching out to support vulnerable people young and old. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

**ASTON & NECHELLS FOOD BANK** Please help local people in crisis by buying items from the list below and giving them to Aston & Nechells Foodbank collection point. \* Tinned fruit \* Tinned vegetables \* Coffee \* Fruit juice (carton) or squash \* Tinned meat \* Tinned fish \* Milk (long-life or powdered) \* Pasta sauce (jar) \* Tinned rice pudding \* Tinned tomatoes \* Instant mashed potato \* Toilet rolls \* Hand soap \* Toothpaste/toothbrushes \* Feminine hygiene products \* Deodorants \* Nappies \* Chocolate/snacks In the last twelve months, we gave out 21,000 kilograms of emergency food, feeding 1753 adults and 1138 children. For more information about the work of our Foodbank, please talk to one of our volunteers or look at our website: [www.astonnechells.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.astonnechells.foodbank.org.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](http://www.brs-ccrs.org.uk) or phone 0207 901 1900.

**First reading Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9**

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

**Responsorial Psalm 102(103):1-4,9-12**

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

**Second reading Romans 14:7-9**

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Matthew 18:21-35**

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

## Reflection

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading, Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable, we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable, the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

## Parish News

**BEING A CATHOLIC** A course will start on the Catholic faith both for those adults who would like to become Catholics and to help those who are already Catholics to get a more adult understanding of the faith. It will start on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 3.45 pm in Sacred Heart School in Earlsbury Gardens. The sessions will finish at 5 pm. Please come and bring your friends.

**GIFT – A New Life in the Spirit course** will start on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 1.00 pm in St. Joseph's School. This is again for adults and enables people wherever they may be to share their faith. It finishes at 3 pm in time to take children home from school.

**SACRED HEART CHURCH WEBSITE** Please mark this website and view it regularly.

**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

**Fr. Robert Murphy** is being inducted as parish Priest of St. Anne's, Alcester Street, Digbeth on Tuesday this week at 7.00 pm. You are invited to attend to welcome him to our Deanery.

**NEWMAN AND THE NEW EVANGELISATION** A public lecture by Professor Stephen Bullivant at the Maryvale Institute, Old Oscott Hill, B44 9AG on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30 pm.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE** will be starting again on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September until Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November. During that time we are asked to pray outside the Abortion Clinic in Arthur Road, Edgbaston between 8 am and 8 pm. You can just turn up and join with others praying the rosary, but it is helpful to the organisers if you can book in a slot on the website <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/birmingham-2/> If you can't get there how about spending an hour each week before the Blessed Sacrament at Sacred Heart.

**CHASE THE CAKE** The Diocese has taken a lead in responding to the needs of people sleeping rough by opening Tabor House in Birmingham later this month. We have a one day bike ride (or walk) on October 1st at Cannock Chase to help us raise some funds for this important work. Please join us. There is a poster in the porch with information or email [michael@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk](mailto:michael@stjohnrctamworth.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](http://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](http://www.lifefertilitycare.co.uk)

**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](http://www.catholicsingles.org.uk) or tel. 0161 941 3498

**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.

**AN EVENING WITH BARRY McGUIGAN** - The Irish Boxing legend comes to The Irish Centre in Digbeth on Friday 20th October. Tickets £25 available in tables of 10 or Individual - Tickets online from [www.shamrockevents.co.uk](http://www.shamrockevents.co.uk)

**THE CHARITY BALL in aid of The Kenelm Trust** is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm at the Belfry Hotel and Spa in Sutton Coldfield. Tickets £45 call 01538 703224 or email [events@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk](mailto:events@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk)

**Home Mission Sunday** The Home Mission Office exists to help the Church throughout England and Wales to share the joy of the Gospel. It can seem daunting to share such a personal part of our lives as our faith in Jesus Christ. However, we can pray that the people we carry in our hearts will encounter him for themselves. Prayer cards and prayer maps for families can be ordered from [www.homemission.org.uk](http://www.homemission.org.uk). If you would like to pray for the spread of the Good News on a regular basis, please sign up to our newsletter via [www.homemission.org.uk](http://www.homemission.org.uk) Please consider contributing to today's second collection. The money received from this collection ensures that the Catholic Faith Centre is resourced and is able to respond to those who have questions about the Catholic Faith. It is possible to donate online at: <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Donate>