



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

25th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 23th/24th September

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Frank O'Connor Joseph Wall
Sunday	10.00 am		People of Parish
Monday		9.30 am	Tom Kennedy
Tuesday (school)		9.30 am	Kath Povey in St. Joseph's school
Wednesday			No Mass
Thursday	10.00 am		Sr. Dona Maria
Friday	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Maura Flynn Eucharistic Service

26th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 30th September/1st October

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	People of Parish Sr. Pius
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Julie Lemathy

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 £336.75

The second collection for Catholic Evangelisation came to £245.28.

This 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.

Next weekend we shall have our September **Fiver a month** collection.

Raise The Roof Raffle: 16th/17th September No: 22 Sheila Mullins

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.

Sacred Heart School Community Lunch Club begins next Tuesday 26th September. It is intended for members of the community, especially for those living alone, who would welcome the opportunity to meet with others for a tasty cooked lunch and a social activity. Lunch is served at 12.00 pm, and usually consists of a cooked main course and dessert. Members are asked to pay just £4.00 towards the costs of the food. Please call the school on 0121 356 4721 for more details or to book a place.

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

First reading Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm 144(145):2-3,8-9,17-18

The Lord is close to all who call him.

Second reading Philippians 1:20-24,27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.
Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest heavens!
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leave his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first. On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified. A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who labored in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else? The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

Parish News

BEING A CATHOLIC A course is starting 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 continues each week on Monday 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 started on Thursday 21st September and continues this Thursday 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. It runs for 6 sessions.

Sehion UK ministry originates from Sehion Retreat Centre in Attapadi, Kerala. Under the direction of Fr. Soji Olikkal, it commenced in the UK in 2009. There are various different ministries conducted by Sehion that you can participate in such as:

Second Saturday Convention - Every 2nd Saturday of the month from 8am - 4pm at Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, B70 7JW (including a Rosary procession, Holy Mass, Confession, talks, spiritual sharing, testimonies, praise and worship and Eucharistic Adoration).

Bible Sharing Class - Every Tuesday here at 85 Prestbury Road from 8pm - 10pm. For further details, please visit the Sehion UK website at www.sehionuk.org

CHURCHPOP Have a look at the website churchpop.com. It contains all sorts of material of a Catholic nature set out in a fun way. Something for all the family to enjoy.

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.

What's going on in the Diocese

Fr. Krzysztof is being inducted as parish Priest of St. Michael's, Moor Street on Friday this week at 1.10 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 23rd September at 7.30 pm.

AN AFTERNOON WITH NEWMAN at Maryvale on Sunday 8th October 4 6 pm. A talk by Fr. Peter Conley. All welcome.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE will be starting again on Wednesday 27th September until Sunday 5th 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/> If you can't get there how about spending an hour each week before the Blessed Sacrament at Sacred Heart.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE KICK-OFF is this Sunday afternoon at 2.45 pm in the Upper Cloister Room at the Oratory, Hagley Road. "From 5 abortions to healing with Christ". See poster.

Everyone is welcome to an **ecumenical talk by Rev. Colin Marsh** 'A New Way of Being Churches Together' on Sunday afternoon 24th September, coffee from 1.30, talk 2-4.30, at Birmingham University Catholic Chaplaincy Newman House, Harrison's Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3QR. Colin is the Ecumenical Development Officer for Birmingham Churches Together. Everyone is very welcome - bring friends and family too - no entrance charge. Please tell your Anglican friends - and those from other churches - that they are most welcome to come along as well.

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

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

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

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.

THE CHARITY BALL in aid of The Kenelm Trust is on Saturday 14th 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