



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Pimlott

Telephone (0121) 327 0235

sacredheartaston@hotmail.com

website www.sacredheartaston.com

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

27th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 1st/2nd October

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 am	6.00 pm	People of parish Graham Mitchell
Sunday	10.00 am		Michael Delaney
Monday		9.30 am	Joe Wall
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	Darby family Mass in St. Joseph's school
Thursday (school)	9.30 am		Mary Scully Mass in Sacred Heart school
Friday Day of abstinence CAFOD Harvest Fast Day	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Alf Village Eucharistic Service

28th SUNDAY OR ORDINARY TIME 8th/9th October

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Derek Davis Special intention
SUNDAY	10.00 am		People of parish

Please Pray for the sick; Anne Stapleton, Bridie Murphy, Frances Goulding, Sheila O'Reilly, Elsie Levell, Marion Levell, Peter McKernan, Mary Joyce, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, May Walker, Nirosha Pathiraja, William Parish, Annie Kennedy, Joyce Johnson, Teresa Francis, Bill Lawton, Michael O'Connor, Andrew Dobb, Marie Parish.



SACRED HEART COLLECTIONS

The collection on 18th September came to £294.42 and the second collection for Catholic Evangelisation came to £139.64.

The collection last weekend came to £319.08 and the second collection for the Walsingham came to £208.66



This weekend there will be our **Fiver a month** collection.
Next weekend there will be the CAFOD Fast day

THE CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY is this Friday This Harvest Fast Day we are invited to join 32-year-old Nicanora, from Bolivia, on her journey from poverty to abundance. We can stand alongside Nicanora as she learns new skills and receives materials and seeds that will enable her to grow enough food to feed her family. Please pick up a Fast Day envelope and give what you can."

Website & facebook – please look at our parish website. We need to get facebook going for the Church so please start using it. You register through the website.



Someone doing research on wartime evacuees would love to hear from anyone in Aston who was an evacuee to Woodchester Mansion in Gloucestershire or who has friends or relatives who were evacuated there. Contact her at carolinejackson44@hotmail.co.uk

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicsingles.org.uk or email info@catholicsingles.org.uk

Parish News

THE GIFT – A LIFE IN THE SPIRIT COURSE This course has the backing of the Holy Father for the English speaking world. Sacred Heart Church and St Joseph's Church are joining up with St Vincent's Church to run the course for our three parishes. It will run for 7 weeks on Thursday evenings beginning on Thursday 22nd September. At St. Vincent's Church, Francis Street. B7 4JY (The Church is in Nechells Parkway, but if you are coming by car you must approach from St. Francis Street) This is a major initiative for our parishes. Please invite all the people you know to come.

FUND RAISING FOR THE ROOF We still have a very long way to go to raise all the money we need. **PLEASE ASK YOUR FRIENDS WHETHER THEY COULD MAKE A DONATION. Please try emailing them.** Cheques should be made out to "Sacred Heart Aston" or they can make an "online" donation through our church website www.sacredheartaston.com

DAILY EXPOSITION. In these days of political and economic uncertainty, it is important that all Catholics are praying for our country and that it may be protected from the schemes of evil one. Come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Any time between 10.00 am – 5.00 pm usually in the undercroft, or between 8.00 pm – midnight usually in the Presbytery. Ring the appropriate bell or if no reply try the other one.

THE LECTIO DIVINA (Sacred reading) Group for young adults will not meet on Tuesdays over the next few weeks to enable people to come to **THE GIFT meetings on Thursday evenings.**

Reading Habakkuk 1:2-3,2:2-4

How long, O Lord, am I to cry for help
while you will not listen;
to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear
and you will not save?
Why do you set injustice before me,
why do you look on where there is tyranny?
Outrage and violence, this is all I see,
all is contention, and discord flourishes.
Then the Lord answered and said,
'Write the vision down,
inscribe it on tablets
to be easily read,
since this vision is for its own time only:
eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive;
if it comes slowly, wait,
for come it will, without fail.
See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights,
but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'
Listen to this, you who trample on the needy
and try to suppress the poor people of the country,
you who say, 'When will New Moon be over
so that we can sell our corn,
and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat?
Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel,
by swindling and tampering with the scales,
we can buy up the poor for money,
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.'
The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob,
'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

Psalm 94:1-2,6-9

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

Reading Timothy 1:6-8,13-14

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."'

Reflection

Saffron is a spice of great value widely used in the cuisines of the world. The tiniest amount of saffron will impart a luminous yellow colour to a dish large enough to feed many people. This disproportion between the amount of saffron used and its effects has a parallel in what Jesus said to the disciples about "faith the size of a mustard seed" being able to move mountains. Many of us struggle with faith. There can be periods when God seems absent from our lives and we feel we are drifting away from him. We don't have the uplift of experiencing the presence of God in our lives, and our decisions to act in accord with faith are sometimes painful exercises of the will. It may seem as if our faith has dwindled to less than the size of a mustard seed or a speck of saffron. The sense of losing our faith can be profoundly disturbing. The most useful attribute at a time like this is objectivity. Standing back and looking at what we are doing that is in accord with faith in God and discipleship can be very revealing. Helping those in need, commitment to family and work, exercise of virtues such as honesty and truthfulness, and even our attempts at prayer are all evidence of faith. Like the colouring of saffron they show that we have faith, and it is suffusing our lives. St Teresa of Calcutta used to encourage people to be Christ to others with the words: "Christ in our hearts, Christ in the poor we meet, Christ in the smile we give and in the smile that we receive." Her writings published after her death show that at the same time she was experiencing a deeply painful sense of God being absent and she even thought she had lost her faith: "If there be God -- please forgive me. When I try to raise my thoughts to Heaven, there is such convicting emptiness that those very thoughts return like sharp knives and hurt my very soul," she wrote. "How painful is this unknown pain -- I have no Faith." When Jesus speaks to the disciples about the servant doing his duty he is reminding them that discipleship has obligations. At the very time Mother Teresa felt that she had no faith her actions were living proof that her faith – like the speck of saffron – was infusing everything she did and that she was fulfilling the obligations of discipleship with great dedication.

What's going on in the Diocese

SERIES OF PUBLIC TALKS for the Year of Mercy at St. Mary's College, Oscott.

Monday 17th October - Divine Mercy and Healing of Memories by Dr. Dawn Eden Goldstein

Monday 7th November - The Year of Mercy – the way ahead by Canon David Oakley

All talks begin at 8 pm with Compline at 9 pm.

The next **40 DAYS FOR LIFE** will be starts on Wednesday 28th September and runs until Sunday 9th November. They require many people who will go to pray peacefully outside the Marie Stopes abortion clinic in Arthur Road, Edgbaston from 8 am until 8 pm everyday. Go to the website <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/birmingham-2/> for details and to book in a prayer slot when you are able to be at The Abortion Clinic in Arthur Road, praying.

THE SECOND SATURDAY CONVENTION at the Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich is in Saturday 8th October. Take a leaflet in the Church for further details.

THE THIRD TUESDAY of Live praise and worship, Word of God, Holy Mass and Adoration takes place as usual on Tuesday 18th October 6-9 pm at St. Gerard's, Castle Vale. All welcome.

REFUGEE WALK OF WITNESS on Sunday 2nd October with Archbishop Bernard starting at St. Chad's Cathedral at 12.30 pm following the 11 am Mass and walking along the canal to Birmingham ICC, venue of the Conservative Party Conference.

A SAINT FOR THE MIDLANDS Blessed John Henry Newman. 3 events, 3 locations.

1. Saturday 1st October at Oscott College 2.00 pm exhibition open, talks at 3.00 pm.

2. Monday 14th November at Newman University 6.00 pm exhibition 7.00 pm talks.

3. Saturday 26th November at Maryvale Institute 2.00 pm exhibition talks 3.00 pm.

See notice at the back of Church for more details.

POPE BENEDICT XVI LECTURE on Monday 3rd October at 8 pm at Oscott College. Dr. Graham McAleer, Professor of philosophy at Loyola University will be speaking on "Man is both a seed and in some degree also a gardener" Tolkein: The Natural and Religious background to the Lord of the Rings.

THE CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP invite you to a Conference Church Service at 5.30 pm Sunday 2nd October at Birmingham City Church, Parade, B1 3QQ and to a reception after the Service.

Autumnal Concert Saturday October 15th 2016 7.30pm at **St. Barnabas Church, Erdington.**

Featuring works by: Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Poulenc, Faure, Thomas Arne, Vaughan Williams, Bartok, Cole Porter and The Beatles.

Tickets: £7 (Adults) £3.50 (Children & Students) Includes **free** interval wine and nibbles. All proceeds go towards St. Barnabas Church Funds.

MARCH FOR LIFE FUND RAISING CONCERT with internationally famous singer and guitarist Martin Aelred, who has performed for HRH Prince Charles, The United Nations and for the Pope. Saturday 3rd December. Doors open 7 pm at St. Anne's Centre, Alcester Street, Digbeth, B12 0PH. Booking required, places limited. Tickets £10. To book tickets email info@marchforlife.co.uk or phone Isabel on 07773501721.

PROCLAIM BITESIZE (2016-2017) Using social media for parish catechesis and evangelisation at Maryvale Institute, Old Oscott Hill, B44 9AG Wednesday 19th October 7pm – 9pm. It would be very helpful if some people from our parishes could go to this.

