



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Pimlott

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

ADVENT II 3rd/4th December

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 am	6.00 pm	TBA Pat Wall
Sunday	10.00 am		People of parish
Monday		9.30 am	Peter & Mary Slattery
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	TBA Mass in St. Joseph's school
Thursday (school)	9.30 am		TBA Mass in Sacred Heart School
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of our Lady	7.30 pm		TBA Mass in the undercroft.
Friday Day of abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament TBA Eucharistic Service

ADVENT II 10th/11th December

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	TBA People of Parish
SUNDAY	10.00 am		TBA

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, Marie Parish, Maura Lawrence.



SACRED HEART COLLECTIONS

The collection last weekend came to £260.30

The November **Fiver a month** collection came to £296.86

This weekend we have the **Poor Parishes** second collection.

Next weekend we have the Fr. Hudson Society collection.

VOLUNTEERSWe need plenty of volunteers to help with the running of the Church: Here are some we need together with the co-ordinator. Please contact the co-ordinator if you think you might be able to help.

TASK	Co-ordinator	Telephone
Church cleaning	Teresa O'Gorman	07585 907706
Counting collection	Mary Crotty	
Children's Liturgy	Sheila McKernan	0121 344 3028
Visiting sick & housebound	Sheila McKernan	0121 344 3028
Readers	Mary & Kate McManus	0121 523 9613
Welcoming ministry	Shirleyni	07583 177413
Altar Servers	Peter McKernan & Sr. Clare	0121 344 3028
Baptism Preparation	Fr. Stephen	0121 327 0235

Raise the Roof Raffle – 26th/27th November No: 42 Father Stephen

First reading Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion feed together,
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Psalm 71:1-2,7-8,12-13,17

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.

Second reading Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Reflection

On this second Sunday of Advent we find John the Baptist preparing the people of Israel to receive Jesus, the promised Messiah. The key word in his preaching is 'repentance'. True repentance involves a radical turning away of the person from sin and turning towards God. It demands a new perspective about life and consequently a new way of life. John insists that this sort of repentance is necessary for anyone who wishes to share in the blessings and salvation that the Messiah would bring. In these days when we are preparing to celebrate once again the Birthday of Jesus, a lifestyle that manifests true repentance is essential. In this context, the exhortation of John the Baptist is timely: bear fruit that befits repentance. John insists that anyone who is serious about repentance must demonstrate it externally through one's deeds. It is indeed one of the forceful teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Do I believe that I need repentance? What fruits of repentance does God demand from me?



Parish News

CAROL SINGING Children from Sacred Heart School will be singing carols in Tesco's on Wednesday 7th December 4 -5 pm. Why not go and support them?

RECONCILIATION SERVICE This year, following the new Life in the Spirit course and the Year of Mercy, we are going to have a joint Service of Reconciliation before Christmas. It will be on Monday 19th December at 7.00pm at Sacred Heart Church. Please note this date carefully and keep it free. It will be an important part of your preparation for Christmas

Can you join a prayer group? Not only do you pray, but you receive faith support from others which is vital for the Christian life. We have the following groups.

On a Tuesday, young people meet at St. Vincent's for Lectio Divina (bible study)

On a Thursday an all age group will start at Sacred Heart meeting in the undercroft at 6.30 pm. This Thursday because it is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception it will be followed by a Mass at 7.30 pm

On a Friday at 12 noon a group meets at St. Joseph's. It is preceded by a Eucharistic Service and a light soup lunch afterwards.

SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS PARTY is on Friday 16th December at 7 pm in the Club. Carol singing, Bingo, Raffle and buffet. Tickets Adults £5, children £2 which includes the buffet.

SACRED HEART CHURCH ROOF UPDATE We have appointed architects who are in the process of drawing up the schedule of works so that it can go to tender. We would hope to have the tenders in by Christmas or soon after. Then we shall know exactly what it is going to cost. We hope that work will start in the spring. We still have a lot of money to raise (approx. £150,000) and so need to keep raising money. We shall be going ahead with the work. The question is: How big will our overdraft be?

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 the evil one. Come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Any time between 10.00 am – 5.00 pm usually in the Presbytery, or between 8.00 pm – midnight usually in the Presbytery. Sometimes it may be in the undercroft. Ring the appropriate bell or if no reply try the other one.

What's going on in the Diocese

SECOND SATURDAY CONVENTION Saturday 10th December at the Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich. *.00 am – 4.00 pm. Mass at 9.30 am. Railway station Sandwell & Dudley. Plenty of parking at the Convention Centre.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES WINTER NIGHT SHELTER PROJECT The South Aston United Reform Church has agreed to host 12 homeless men on a Monday night 12th December on their Church premises, providing an evening meal, overnight accommodation, a cooked breakfast and a packed lunch on Tuesday. If you would like to help with this or to make a donation towards costs, please contact the Minister The Revd. Peter Little on 0121 551 0077.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES The Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, take a group of sick people to Lourdes Friday 5th May – Thursday 11th May with accommodation in the Accueil Notre Dame. They invite application from sick and disabled and aged people. It is heavily subsidised, but pilgrims would normally be asked to contribute £290. If you are interested in applying, please see Fr. Stephen.

RECONCILE FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER 6.00 – 8.00pm – an evening of music, adoration and confession at St. Chad's Cathedral for all those aged 18+. For more information email: reconcile2016@gmail.com