



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 IV 17th/18th December

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 am	6.00 pm	Thomas, Herbert, Howard In praise of Jesus Christ
Sunday	10.00 am		People of parish
Monday	10.00 am 7.00 pm	9.00 am	Angela Shanahan SH SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE IN CHURCH Service of reconciliation
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	TBA Mass in St. Joseph's school
Thursday	9.30 am	10.30 am	Annie Rooney & Tess Kehoe. SJ SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE IN CHURCH
Friday Day of abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Martin O'Gorman Eucharistic Service

CHRISTMAS

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm 7.30 pm	7.00 pm	Rachel Jackson People of Parish TBA
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Patrick McCarron

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, Michael Reilly.



SACRED HEART COLLECTIONS

The collection last weekend came to £ 287.66

The **Fr. Hudson's** second collection came to £316.03.

This weekend we have our December **Fiver a month** collection.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve 12.30 pm at Sacred Heart.

7.00 pm at St. Joseph's

7.30 pm at Sacred Heart

Christmas Day 10.00 am at Sacred Heart

It is customary for the Christmas collections to be a personal gift for the Parish Priest. Catholic priests in this country are not paid so they are heavily reliant on the Christmas & Easter collections for their personal income. There are brown envelopes for this collection if you wish to use 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 this Monday 19th December at 7.00 pm at Sacred Heart Church. It will be an important part of your preparation for Christmas.

CONFESSIONS – Father Stephen will be available for confessions after all the Masses and the Carol Service.

Parishioners are warmly welcomed to attend the School Carol Services.

Sacred Heart School Carol Service is on Monday at 10 am in Sacred Heart Church.

St. Joseph's School Carol Service is on Thursday at 10.30 am in St. Joseph's Church.

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

First reading Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us."

Psalm 23:1-6

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

Second reading Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.



Reflection

Matthew's narrative of the birth of Jesus is centred on Joseph. When the angel revealed to him that the conception of the child of Mary is by the Holy Spirit, Joseph agreed to cooperate with God's plan by bringing Mary into his home in marriage. Thus he eventually became the legal and foster father of Jesus, the Son of God and Emmanuel. The decision was not an easy one for Joseph. His own personal dreams were shattered; his own family would frown upon him; the society would cast aspersion on him. But Joseph chose to follow God's will against all odds. He believed in God's plan and cooperated to bring it to its fulfilment. He thus played a decisive role in salvation history which can never be equalled by anyone. The story of Joseph is a good example of what can happen when one chooses to cooperate with God even when His plans seem against human reasoning and personal expectations. It can result in deep personal renewal which can bring about massive social transformation. Examples of many saints in the history of the Church stand testimony to it. Do I embrace God's will joyfully even when it is against my plan? What is the role that God wants me to play in society and in the Church today?

Parish News

Michael Breen's funeral will be on Friday 30th December at noon here at Sacred Heart Church. He will be received into church at 4 pm the day before.

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 meet at Sacred Heart in the undercroft at 6.30 pm. This

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 CHURCH ROOF UPDATE The work has gone out to tender and we should receive the quotations soon and have an accurate notion of the cost. We have received £10,000 from the Garfield Weston Trust and the government roof grant has been increased by £10,000. Although that is good news, it looks as if the quotations may be higher than originally anticipated.

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

THE NEW EPARCHY OF GREAT BRITAIN in conjunction with the Alpha Institute of Theology & Science are offering courses in Theology for those who would like to go deeper into the faith. Diplomas, Bachelors and Masters in Theology at very reasonable rates. See leaflets at the back of Church for more information.

TAIZE PRAYER. This Sunday at 6.00 pm in Birmingham Children's Hospital. Young adults (16-35) are encouraged to register for the Taize international event in Birmingham Friday 28th April – Monday 1st May 2017. Go to the Taize website www.Taize.fr and search for Hidden Treasure.

Marriage Preparation Facilitators, Qualified Counsellors and Coordinator needed!

Marriage Care is the largest faith-based relationship support organisation in England and Wales. We are looking for **Marriage Preparation Facilitators, qualified Counsellors** and a **Coordinator/Administrator** to volunteer with us and help us in our mission to support couples in the best and worst of times. Please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk for more information.

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.

NATIONAL 2017 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATORY 8 DAY FATIMA PILGRIMAGE 10TH - 17TH July £725 with Fr. Gerard Kelly and Bishop Robert Byrne. For further information contact Mrs. Brigid McKenna on 0121 429 4145. Would a group from Sacred Heart & St. Joseph's like to join this? There may be some subsidy towards it.