



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

CHRISTMAS 24th/25th December

| Day | Aston | Nechells | Intention |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------|--|
| Saturday Christmas Eve | 12.30 am | 7.00 pm | Rachel Jackson |
| | 7.30 pm | | People of Parish TBA |
| Sunday CHRISTMAS DAY | 10.00 am | | Patrick McCarron |
| Monday St. Stephen | | 10.30 am | Howard Levett |
| Tuesday St. John | | | No Mass |
| Wednesday Holy Innocents | | 9.30 am | Green family |
| Thursday St. Thomas Becket | 10.00 am | | Marron & Hurley families |
| Friday Holy Family | Noon 2.00 pm | 11.45 am | Funeral Mass of Michael Breen Funeral Mass of Sharon Jackson Eucharistic Service |

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD 31st December/1st January

World Day of Peace

| Day | Aston | Nechells | Intention |
|----------|----------|----------|------------------------|
| Saturday | 12.30 pm | 6.00 pm | Derek Davis |
| | | | Gerry & Sharon Brennan |
| 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, Marie Parish, Maura Lawrence, Michael O'Reilly.



SACRED HEART COLLECTIONS

The collection last weekend came to £ 257.47

December **Fiver a month** collection £293.55

Christmas Party £508

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.

First reading Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.
Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.
The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Psalm 97:1-6

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Second reading Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.
God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
A hallowed day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word:
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.
A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.
The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh
or will of man
but of God himself.
The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.
John appears as his witness. He proclaims:
'This is the one of whom I said:
He who comes after me ranks before me
because he existed before me.'
Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –
yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,
who has made him known.

Reflection

In his magnificent Prologue John tells what impact Christmas has on us believers. He states that the Word Incarnate encountered both rejection and acceptance. Though he was in the world the world did not know him; though he came to his own people, they did not receive him. But the evangelist is quick to add that some accepted him. Those who received him and believed in him were extraordinarily blessed: they were given the power to become children of God. Today too, all those who accept and believe in Jesus become sons and daughters of God. They receive a new identity, a new status. It is a cause of great joy to know the son of God came to earth not only to enrich us with divine wisdom but also to transform us through his grace and truth. What a privilege it is to be assured that the Word took flesh and blood not only to free us from sin and death, but also to make us children of God and members of God's family! It is all the result of the divine action. All that is asked of us is to keep our hearts open to him, accept him as our Lord and Saviour and entrust ourselves to him totally. On this day of Christmas we praise and thank God for this special privilege bestowed upon us. How deep is my faith in Jesus as my Saviour and Lord? Have I grown enough to accept others as children of God?



Parish News

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 meets at Sacred Heart in the undercroft at 6.30 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.

ALL THREE PRAYER GROUPS MEET IN CHRISTMAS WEEK.

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.

THERE IS NO EXPOSITION ON CHRISTMAS DAY.