



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD 31st December/1st January World Day of Peace

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 am	6.00 pm	Derek Davis Gerry & Sharon Brennan
Sunday	10.00 am		People of parish
Monday		9.30 am	TBA
Tuesday		9.30 am	TBA
Wednesday			No Mass
Thursday			No Mass
Friday	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament TBA Eucharistic Service

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 7th/8th January

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	TBA TBA
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.



I would like to thank all of you who contributed so generously to the Christmas collection. I am most grateful to you all and will say a Mass for you all. God bless you all **Fr. Stephen.**

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 Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

Psalm 66:2-3,5,6,8

O God, be gracious and bless us.

Second reading Galatians 4:4-7

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
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.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told. When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.



Reflection

Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby *Jesus* as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation.

Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church.

Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith.

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.

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 & Diplomas, Bachelors and Masters in Theology at very reasonable rates. See leaflets at the back of Church for more information.

TAIZE INTERNATION EVENT in Birmingham called HIDDEN TREASURE. Young adults (16-35) are encouraged to register for this event Friday 28th April – Monday 1st May 2017. Go to the Taize website www.Taize.fr and search for Hidden Treasure.

The organisers are looking for people in the local area who could put up some of the young people. Their needs are modest, just floorspace would be acceptable, plus a modest breakfast in the morning. Please sign the list at the back if you think you might be able to help.

FACE2FACE For young men 14-18 yrs Wednesday 5th April 2017. Face2Face is a one-day, Christ-centered, prayer fueled immersion in Catholic teachings on leadership, evangelisation, and discipleship inspired by the life and witness of some awesome and inspiring real men of faith. We have a great line up, including local and world class speakers from overseas. They'll be talks, workshops, praise and worship, peer to peer engagement, prayer and encounter. For further information and to register go to www.vocations.org.uk

Stress in Your Marriage? – Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This programme has helped 6,000 couples who were experiencing difficulties in their marriage in the past year. For confidential information about or to register for the programme commencing with a residential weekend on 17th-19th March, 2017, the email info@retrouvaille.org.uk ; call or text 0788 729 6983 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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.

