



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 25th/26th February

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 am	6.00 pm	Margaret O'Reilly Cath & family
Sunday	10.00 am 4.00 pm		Poor Rosary (ring Presbytery door bell)
Monday	7.00 pm	9.30 am	Betty Long Reception of Body into Church
Tuesday	Noon		Funeral Mass for Maura Lawrence
ASH WEDNESDAY Day of Fast & Abstinence	9.30 am 7.30 pm	2.00 pm	OL gift In Sacred Heart School OL gift In St. Joseph's School Michael Breen
Thursday	10.00 am		Poor
Friday Day of abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Holy souls Eucharistic Service

1st SUNDAY OF LENT 4th/5th March

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Kitty McManus Paul Harding
SUNDAY	10.00 am		People of Parish

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



Next weekend we have a second collection for the Cathedral Maintenance.

Maura Lawrence's Funeral will be on Tuesday 28th February at 12 noon. She will be received into Church the night before at 7.00 pm. Maura was a dedicated member of the Sacred Heart, both Parish and School. She led the choir for many years and she will be greatly missed. Please keep Maura and her family in your prayers.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS every Sunday during lent at 5.00 pm.

THE QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE - A Great Adventure not to be missed - continues this week on Thursday at 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm prompt start and will finish at 8 pm. It will take place at St. Vincent's in Nechells Parkway B7 4JY. By car you must enter through Francis Street. The course runs for eight weeks.

(missing 9th March when St. Vincent's have their Confirmation)

Please bring your friends. This is a really good introduction for anyone interested in the Catholic religion and will give all Catholics a better understanding to enable them to read the Bible with understanding.

First reading Isaiah 49:14-15

Zion was saying, 'The Lord has abandoned me,
the Lord has forgotten me.'

Does a woman forget her baby at the breast,
or fail to cherish the son of her womb?

Yet even if these forget,
I will never forget you.

Psalm 61(62):2-3,6-9

In God alone is my soul at rest.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

People must think of us as Christ's servants, stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God. What is expected of stewards is that each one should be found worthy of his trust. Not that it makes the slightest difference to me whether you, or indeed any human tribunal, find me worthy or not. I will not even pass judgement on myself. True, my conscience does not reproach me at all, but that does not prove that I am acquitted: the Lord alone is my judge. There must be no passing of premature judgement. Leave that until the Lord comes; he will light up all that is hidden in the dark and reveal the secret intentions of men's hearts. Then will be the time for each one to have whatever praise he deserves, from God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Your word is truth, O Lord:
consecrate us in the truth.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 6:24-34

Jesus said to his disciples: 'No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.

'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

Reflection

“Today’s trouble is enough for today!” These are the concluding words of the gospel for this Sunday. We are “not to be anxious”. Rather, we are invited to be single-minded in our commitment. The challenge of this gospel is to live in the present, in right relationship and connection with the whole Earth community and to trust in the goodness and providence of God. That is not always easy, especially for certain personalities and under certain difficult circumstances. The challenge not to be anxious appears six times in various forms in this one gospel reading. Three times in this passage Jesus tells the assembled crowd, including his disciples, not to worry. They are not to be anxious about food or drink or clothing. Neither are they to worry about what tomorrow might bring. It is clear that Jesus does not discount the human need for food and drink and clothing, for he states explicitly that God knows that they need all these things. Jesus’ concern is with their “little faith” or their lack of trust in God’s capacity to provide for the needs of all living beings. He challenges his listeners to be attentive to the processes among all living things, such as the way the birds of the air are fed and the lilies of the field are clothed. He also invites attentiveness to the life-sustaining processes at work in our own bodies. The hairs of our head, for instance, grow without any effort or anxiety on our part. Jesus places all this in the context of the right ordering of our relationships with the whole Earth community, expressed in terms of seeking God’s kingdom and God’s “righteousness”. There is an echo here of Matthew 5:6 where those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are said to be blessed and told that they will “be filled”. In other words, God will care for us all in the same way as God cares for the birds of the air and the lilies of the fields.

Parish News

HOW TO KEEP LENT Lent is a very special season of fasting and prayer in preparation for Easter. We need to keep our eyes focussed on that feast which we call “the Paschal Mystery of our Salvation” It is celebrated over three days, called the Paschal Triduum, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Holy Saturday. Lent is a time to refresh our rule of life and to make sure we are giving plenty of time to the Lord in prayer and other devotions. Perhaps we can give more time to Bible study, to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, to attending weekday Masses or doing the Stations of the Cross. Fasting can include giving things up so that we can have more time for prayer, such as TV, and time spent on mobile devices and computers. It is a lovely season as we grow closer to the Lord in holiness and virtue. So have a HOLY & LOVELY Lent.

RESOURCES FOR LENT You will find various prayers, novenas on www.ewtn.co.uk

This year the Eritrean Orthodox Easter coincides with ours. Therefore we shall be holding the whole Triduum this year at Sacred Heart. Please make sure that Holy week (9th – 16th April) and especially the Triduum is marked off in your diary and that, if necessary, you have arranged to get time off work to attend this most important part of our Christian observance.

ASH WENESDAY (Day of Fast & Abstinence) is 1st March. Masses will be at:

9.30 am in Sacred Heart school

2.00 pm in St. Joseph’s school

7.30 pm at Sacred Heart Church

GIFT AID If you are a taxpayer, please see Chris Brown and he will be able to arrange for us to claim money back from the taxman for the Church with no pain to you!

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

SPIRITUAL WARFARE BOOT CAMP in preparation for the **40 days for Life** which starts on Ash Wednesday, is this Sunday 26th February in the Oratory Upper Cloister Room, 141 Hagley Road 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm. Please come along and prepare for the Spiritual warfare that we are engaged in to day.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE starts on Ash Wednesday. People are asked to pray reverently and peacefully outside the Marie Stopes Abortion Clinic in Arthur Road, Edgbaston between 8.00 am until 8 pm. each day. Go to www.40daysforlife.com or phone Isabel on 07773501721 to book in a slot, or just turn up. You will never be left praying on your own.

TAIZÉ INTERNATIONAL EVENT in Birmingham called HIDDEN TREASURE. Young adults (16-35) are encouraged to register for the event Friday 28th April – Monday 1st May 2017. Go to the Taizé 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 let Fr. Stephen or Fr. Mark know if you think you might be able to help.

The National Novena to St. Joseph will take place from 10 -18 March at St. Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St. Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all who support their work. You are invited to send your petitions and /or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Fr. Liam Cummins MHM, St. Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT, or email novena@millhillmissionaries.com

Litany of Humility

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, **Hear me.**

From the desire of being esteemed,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being loved...

From the desire of being extolled ...

From the desire of being honoured ...

From the desire of being praised ...

From the desire of being preferred to others...

From the desire of being consulted ...

From the desire of being approved ...

From the fear of being humiliated ...

From the fear of being despised...

From the fear of suffering rebukes ...

From the fear of being calumniated ...

From the fear of being forgotten ...

From the fear of being ridiculed ...

From the fear of being wronged ...

From the fear of being suspected ...

That others may be loved more than I,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be esteemed more than I ...

That, in the opinion of the world,

others may increase and I may decrease ...

That others may be chosen and I set aside ...

That others may be praised and I unnoticed ...

That others may be preferred to me in everything...

That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should...

