

Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

1st SUNDAY OF LENT 4th/5th March

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 am	6.00 pm	Kitty McManus Paul Harding
Sunday	10.00 am 5.00 pm		People of Parish Stations of the Cross
Monday		9.30 am	Get well
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	Peter Duffill in St. Joseph's school
Thursday	10.00 am		Bill Lawton
Friday Day of abstinence CAFOD Fast day	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Maura Lawrence Eucharistic Service

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT 11th/12th March

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Derek Davis People of Parish
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Maura Lawrence

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



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

Next weekend following the CAFOD Fast Day on Friday, we have the CAFOD Fast Day second collection.

We have received a grant from the Guybay Foundation of £70,000 towards the cost of our roof. Thanks be to God!

Raise the Roof Raffle 19th February – No. 2 Susan McClur

26th February – No. 44 Fr. Mark

THE QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE No meeting this Thursday because of the Confirmation at St. Vincent's.

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.

Easter Triduum all at Sacred Heart.

Maundy Thursday

7.30 pm Mass of the Last Supper

followed by the Gethsemane Watch

Good Friday

3.00 pm Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday

8.30 pm The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

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

First reading Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death." Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Psalm 50(51):3-6,12-14,17

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second reading Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

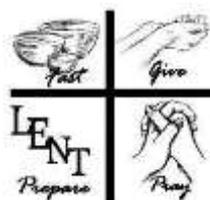
Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Reflection

Lent calls us to reject the path of domination or greed or status so that, like Jesus, we may be truly "of God". Lent comes around each year and presents us with its usual challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts, and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. It is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into the "wilderness" and grappling with the mysteries of life, as well as a time of preparation for Easter. Today's liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus' forty-day experience in the wilderness. Jesus is "filled with the Holy Spirit" and, like so many humans before and since, is "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness of life to be "tested" there. ["Tested" is a more accurate translation of the Greek than is "tempted"]. Forty is a significant number in Israel's story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to the mountain of God. Explanations of its significance vary: a round number for long time; a time of testing or trial; totality or fullness. The wilderness is ever so real and at the same time symbolic. In Israel's story, it is the place of testing for God's people: "Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart". In Matthew's account, the "devil" is the "tester" or "tempter", the instrument of God's testing. In each instance, the test is expressed in terms of Jesus' relationship to God: "If you are the son of God..." The Matthean Jesus passes the tests that the people of Israel have failed in the wilderness of Sinai. He refuses the way of special favour from God, the way of status or self-aggrandisement. He is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. In other words, he chooses the way of God's empire or the empire "of the heavens" rather than the brutality of the Roman Empire. Jesus demonstrates that he is indeed "of God". Most people of faith would agree that being "of God" right now has more than a little to do with the way we relate to all of Earth's human and other-than-human inhabitants, the value we ascribe to Earth's precious resources, and the respect we show for life through our responsible use of those resources. Lent calls us to reject the path of domination or greed or status so that, like Jesus, we may be truly "of God".



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.

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

What's going on in the Diocese

CAFOD Lent Fast Day is Friday, 10 March 2017

Florence is a hard-working mother who is devoted to her family. A few years ago, she was only just making enough to feed her family. However, CAFOD's partner, the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, recognised how determined Florence was to stand on her own two feet and so they gave her 500 tiny fish, tools and training to build a pond and farm fish. By selling some of the fish at market, Florence was able to give her children a future – she was able to send them to school. Please support this Lent Fast Day, to ensure more people like Florence can turn tiny fish into something amazing.

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/Birmingham and search for Hidden Treasure. The organisers are looking for people in the Aston who could put up some of the young people. Their needs are modest, just floorspace (2m x 1m/person) would be acceptable, plus a modest breakfast in the morning. The contact person in Aston is Fr Mark Van Beeumen. You can contact him on 07974904793 or via email mark@msceurope.co.uk.

LENTEN ALMS Lent is especially the time for works of penance and one of the works of penance almsgiving. It is up to you to which charities you give your alms, but two are being specially recommended to us – Fr. Hudson's Care and Aid to the Church in Need. You will be able to find out more details about them on their websites and also where to send the money.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE started 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.

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