

Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

EASTER V 13th/14th May

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	James Boyle People of Parish
Sunday	10.00 am		Jimmy Butler
Monday		9.30 am 7.00 pm	Ann Carwardine Reception of Michael Forbes into Church
Tuesday		11.30 am	Funeral Mass of Michael Forbes
Wednesday (SJ school)		9.30 am	Tim & Bridget Curtin
Thursday (SH school)	9.30 am		Josie Campbell
Friday Day of abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed sacrament Julie Gallagher Eucharistic Service

EASTER VI 20th/21st May

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Rachel Jackson Noel Davis
SUNDAY	10.00 am		People of Parish

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



The collection last weekend came to £273.37

Last Sunday the second collection for The Clergy Training Fund came to £265.83.

Next weekend we have our May Fiver a Month collection.

There are copies of the 2016 Annual Accounts available at the back. Fr. Stephen will be pleased to answer any queries you may have.

We would like to express our thanks to the Sutton Coldfield Catenians who have presented us with a cheque for £1,000 towards our Roof Appeal. Our special thanks to Mike Gaffney who made it one of the president's charities when he was the president last year.

SACRED HEART ROOF The work on the roof is now scheduled to start on Monday 3rd July. It has been a little delayed by a hold up in the making of the tiles.

ASCENSION DAY is transferred to the following Sunday 28th May.



First reading Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 32(33):1-2,4-5,18-19

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Second reading 1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.'

Alleluia!

Gospel John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

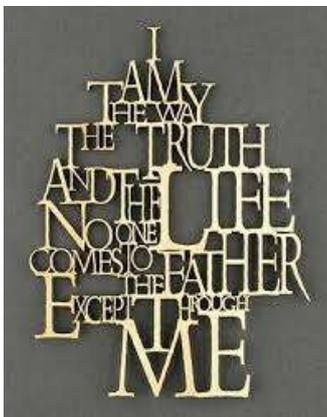
If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

Reflection

There is a difference between having worries and a troubled heart. It lies in how we deal with the problems and challenges that come our way. Like Jesus, we know in our being that a troubled heart is an ever present possibility: we deal with one problem and along comes another. When we don't have any serious worries in the present, we are often anxious about the future. The difference lies in how we deal with the inevitable problems and challenges that come our way. Freedom from anxiety is the constant message of the gospels. "Do not let your hearts be troubled" is Jesus' word to his friends in John's gospel. The verb, here in passive mood ("be troubled"), is used of Jesus' spirit when he finds his friend Mary and her companions weeping over the death of Lazarus. It means literally to shake or to stir up. Jesus is really shaken by grief in that situation. As he faces his own death, he does not want his friends to be troubled of heart or spirit. He speaks here from his own experience. Jesus points out the path to an untroubled heart: "Believe in God, believe also in me." The faith of the disciples is to be grounded in his care for them both in the present and into the future: "I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also". In this context, Jesus makes three claims: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." The prologue to the gospel, which functions as an overture to the whole work, has introduced the notion of the glorified Jesus as "full of grace and truth" and the bringer of "grace and truth". He is the life that is the light of all. As the gospel unfolds, we learn that he is the bread of life, even the resurrection and the life. His claim to be "the way" is foreshadowed in the parable of the door or the gate: "I am the gate of the sheepfold." If the disciples know Jesus, then they also know the way to God whom Jesus images in tender parental terms as "Father". He speaks of their mutual indwelling. If Philip, his persistent questioner, does not believe this, then maybe he can believe on account of the "works" of Jesus, works that are also the works of God. Those who believe have the power to do these and even greater works. This seems extraordinary, but is really just a matter of believing with untroubled hearts that the power comes from God.



Parish News

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 yourself.

AN EASTER MUSICAL. St. JOSEPH'S MUSIC GROUP will be singing an Easter Musical, "My Saviour's Love" following the Mass on Saturday 27th May at St. Joseph's Church. The Mass is at 6.00 pm. The concert 7.00 pm. Followed by a BBQ at 8.00 pm. All welcome. Entrance free.

SPECIAL PENTECOST VIGIL MASS on Saturday 3rd June at St. Joseph's. Come at 5 pm and we shall have a time of preparation and practice, and praise and worship. Then the Vigil Liturgy will start at 6.00 pm. Like the Easter Vigil, there is a series of OT readings with psalms and collects.

What's going on in the Diocese

THE MARCH FOR LIFE is on Saturday 20th May. There will be a special Mass at St. Chad's at 10.00 am with several Bishops. At 11.45 am Victoria Square will be open with various stalls, live music and the Mercy Bus. At 1.00 pm there will be series of short talks leading up to the keynote speaker Lila Rose at 1.30 pm. The March will start at 2.00 pm. At 3.20 pm the second keynote speaker, Catherine Adair, will give her speech and the whole event will finish at 4.30 pm.

See www.marchforlife.co.uk for further details. Please be there, at least for some of it. It will be a wonderful day of witness for the sanctity and dignity of the human person.

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 in Birmingham on 9th-11th June, 2017, the email info@retrouvaille.org.uk ; call or text 0788 729 6983 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

8th NATIONAL DIVINE MERCY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM. On Saturday 3rd June. See poster for details.

CELEBRATE This year there will be a CELEBRATE BIRMINGHAM, a Catholic Charismatic weekend Conference. It will be on the weekend 1st /2nd July at Oscott College. The speakers will be Charles Whitehead, Fr. Paul Keane and Maria Rodrigues. Go to www.celebrateconference.org for further details and booking details or take a leaflet from the back of church.

THE ASTON NECHELLS FOOD BANK are holding their AGM on Thursday 18th May at 12 noon at The Salvation Army, Godstone Street. You are welcome to attend.

