



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

31st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 4th/5th November

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Martin Goulding People of parish
Sunday	10.00 am		Charles Kelly
Monday		9.30 am	Sr. Pius' intentions
Tuesday	4.30 pm		No Mass Reception of Mary Davis into Church
Wednesday	11.30 am	9.30 am	Neil - in St. Joseph's school Funeral Mass of Mary Catherine Davis
Thursday Dedication of Lateran Basilica	9.30 am		People of Parish
Friday Day of abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Gretta Slivinski Eucharistic Service

32nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 11th/12th November Remembrance Sunday

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Andrew Dobb Peter Foster
SUNDAY	10.00 am	3.00 pm	John Lawrence Blessing of Graves in St. Joseph's cemetery

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, Teresa Francis, Michael O'Connor, Marie Parish, William Parish, Michael O'Reilly, Julie Gallagher, Irene Nelson, Pat Hayes.



There is a second collection this weekend for the **Johnson Association** which supports the retired and sick priests of our Diocese. Envelopes are available at the back of the church for taxpayers to Gift Aid their offering.

Next Sunday the school will be leading the 10.00 am Parish Mass – we hope this to be an uplifting experience for everyone.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION The Bishops of England and Wales have restored two of the Days to their proper days. Therefore the Holy Days of Obligation which may fall during the week are:

Christmas Day (25th December), Epiphany (6th January), Ascension Thursday (date depends on Easter), St. Peter & St. Paul (29th June), Assumption of our Lady (15th August) and All Saints Day (1st November). However, if, apart from Christmas Day, it should fall on a Saturday or a Monday it transfers to the Sunday.

First reading Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10

I am a great king, says the Lord of Hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of Hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. But you, you have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of Hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration. Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

Responsorial Psalm 130(131)

Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

Second reading 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you. Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 23:1-12

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Reflection

Today's Gospel continues to elaborate on the tension between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees. Our Lectionary sequence at this point, however, is not quite a continuous reading of Matthew. In between last week's reading from Matthew and this week's, we find Jesus' question to the Pharisees about the Messiah being "David's son." Having concluded a series of dialogues with the Pharisees and other religious leaders, Jesus now directs his words to the crowds, warning them not to follow the example of the scribes and Pharisees.

The scribes and Pharisees were teachers of the Mosaic Law. They were entrusted with its interpretation and, thus, were influential in determining Jewish practice. In order to appreciate the conflict that is evident in this passage, we must understand that Jesus was basing his teachings on the same laws and traditions available to the Pharisees. Both were interpreting the Law of Moses in order to better adapt it to contemporary Jewish life. The differences between their teachings, therefore, are often highlighted and amplified by Matthew.

This part of Matthew's Gospel reflects aspects of the conflict between his Christian community and Pharisaic Judaism. Matthew's Church is thought to have included many Jewish Christians who may not have believed that a break with the synagogue was necessary to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus tells the crowd that it is correct to do and observe what the scribes and Pharisees teach; it is their example that is to be avoided, namely, their love of being honoured and exalted. Hence, the Gospel reflects the tension of an active internal debate within the early Church. Jesus references two aspects of Jewish spiritual life prescribed by the Law of Moses.

Phylacteries are small boxes which contain Scripture verses that are placed on the left forearm and forehead. *Tassels* refer to the fringes worn on the corners of a person's garments; the tassels help to remind those who wear them to keep the commandments.

The warning Jesus gives against seeking places of honor in the community was directed as much toward the Christian community as the named Jewish leaders. Indeed, it is a warning that resonates with us today. Christian leadership is a call to service for the glory of God; those who would be leaders among us must, like Jesus, be servants of all.

What's going on in the Diocese

40 DAYS FOR LIFE vigil finishes this Sunday evening.

FERTILITY CARE Life Fertility Care offer treatment for infertility and miscarriage. There are leaflets about it at the back of church. If you know anyone needing help, please take a leaflet or visit www.lifefertilitycare.co.uk

Tabor House, Birmingham's only permanent night shelter for homeless people, has now opened. Could you volunteer as a host or mentor? Contact Christy Acton on 01675 434064 to find out more.

St. PAUL'S CONVENT are looking for a full-time General Maintenance Assistant, 40 hours a week. Rate of pay £8 -£9 an hour. See notice in church for further details. Contact 0121 415 6100.

Sixth Form Open Evening at St. Edmund Campion Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre on Thursday 16th November at 6.30 pm.

Blessing of Graves – **Oscott** Saturday 4th November 3.00 pm
Abbey Sunday 5th November 1.00 pm
Newhall Sunday 12th November 3.00 pm
Rectory Road Sunday 19th November 3.00 pm
Witton Sunday 26th November 2.00 pm

Parish News

SACRED HEART CHURCH WEBSITE Please mark this website and view it regularly.

BEING A CATHOLIC A course has started on the Catholic faith both for those adults who would like to become Catholics and to help those who are already Catholics to get a more adult understanding of the faith. It continues each week on Monday at 3.45 pm in Sacred Heart School in Earlsbury Gardens. The sessions will finish at 5 pm. Please come and bring your friends.

BLESSING OF GRAVES at St. Joseph's cemetery will take place next Sunday 12th November at 3.00 pm.

PLANNING A FUNERAL There are some forms available at the back of the Church to help you plan your funeral, so that your appropriate wishes may be respected by your next of kin.

Sehion UK ministry originates from Sehion Retreat Centre in Attapadi, Kerala. Under the direction of Fr. Soji Olikkal, it commenced in the UK in 2009. There are various different ministries conducted by Sehion that you can participate in such as:

Second Saturday Convention - Every 2nd Saturday of the month from 8am - 4pm at Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, B70 7JW (including a Rosary procession, Holy Mass, Confession, talks, spiritual sharing, testimonies, praise and worship and Eucharistic Adoration).

Bible Sharing Class - Every Tuesday here at 85 Prestbury Road from 8pm - 10pm. For further details, please visit the Sehion UK website at www.sehionuk.org

SOME ONLINE RESOURCES: CHURCHPOP Have a look at the website <https://churchpop.com/> . It contains all sorts of material of a Catholic nature set out in a fun way. Something for all the family to enjoy. **Wordonfire.** <https://www.wordonfire.org/> Bishop Robert Barron. **Catholic Answers** www.catholic.com. **Strangenotions.** <https://strangenotions.com/> **Rational Evangelisation** <https://www.magiscenter.com/>

KINGDOM WARRIORS Young adults are invited to join our young adults group called the Kingdom Warriors. They meet each Tuesday at 6.30 pm at St. Vincent's Church in Nechells Parkway, B7 4JY for Lectio Divina. At present they are studying St. Matthew's Gospel.

Sacred Heart School Community Lunch Club has begun again on Tuesdays. It is intended for members of the community, especially for those living alone, who would welcome the opportunity to meet with others for a tasty cooked lunch and a social activity. Lunch is served at 12.00 pm, and usually consists of a cooked main course and dessert. Members are asked to pay just £4.00 towards the costs of the food. Please call the school on 0121 356 4721 for more details or to book a place.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR COMPLETION OF ROOF REPAIRS
The Archbishop will be coming to Sacred Heart for a Special Mass on
Sunday 14th January at 11.00 am.
Please mark this off in your diary. More details later.