



## Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> January

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	People of parish Anne Marie Mooney
Sunday	11.00 am		Raymond Moore
Monday		10.30 am	Funeral Mass for Gloria Dennis
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	Sandra Roberts & Family Mass in St. Joseph's school
Thursday (school)	9.30 am		Mass for Christmas Mass in Sacred Heart school
Friday Day of Abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Chris O'Connor Eucharistic Service

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> January Racial Justice Sunday

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Johnnie McManus People of Parish
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Maureen Flynn

**Please Pray for the sick;** Anne Stapleton, Sheila O'Reilly, Marion Levell, Peter McKernan, Mary Joyce, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, Teresa Francis, Michael O'Connor, Marie Parish, William Parish, Michael O'Reilly, Julie Gallagher, Pat Hayes, Jimmy Armstrong, Jim McGuire.



**May Walker's funeral** will be on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 11.30 am. The Candlemas Mass will be at 6.30 pm

The collection last weekend came to £866.24.

Next weekend we shall have our January **Fiver a month** collection.

**Last Sunday** we had a wonderful celebration in thanksgiving for our new roof. We are especially grateful to His Grace, The Archbishop for coming to celebrate the Mass and to all the friends and former parishioners who gathered for the celebration. A big thank you to the Roof Committee who organised the fundraising and this celebration, also to the Gambian choir, the Kerelan musicians and all who have contributed in so many different ways. A big thank you to Jim Sullivan who provided all the refreshments in the school afterwards. Sing praise the Lord!

### **First reading Jonah 3:1-5,10**

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

### **Responsorial Psalm 24(25):4-6,7b-9**

Lord, make me know your ways.

### **Second reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

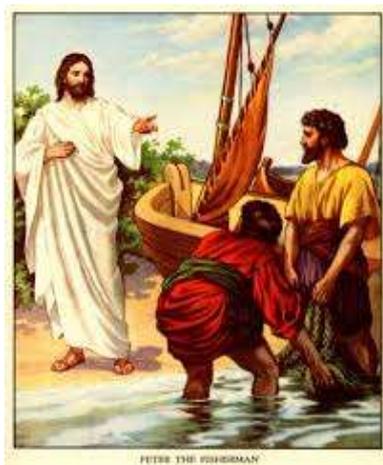
**The kingdom of God is close at hand:  
repent, and believe the Good News.  
Alleluia!**

### **Gospel Mark 1:14-20**

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.



## Reflection

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a narrative about Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus' baptism and his temptation in the desert. Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' own ministry.

As we learn at the beginning of today's Gospel reading, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist, Jesus' pronouncement of the kingdom is a call to repentance. Yet Jesus' preaching is greater than John's. Jesus begins the time of fulfillment; the Kingdom of God is already here. This will be demonstrated again and again, both in Jesus' words and in the actions that follow. Jesus' healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching.

In contrast to last week's Gospel, in Mark's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative in calling his first disciples. As mentioned last week, it was more typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites his disciples to learn from him. Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. Jesus promises that he will make them "fishers of men." James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus' words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee, was left behind in the boat.

Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today's Gospel. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfillment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

**DONATIONS TO THE ROOF APPEAL ON LINE** You can now make a donations to our roof appeal on line by going to our website [www.sacredheartaston.com](http://www.sacredheartaston.com) and going to the Giving page. We are using "Mydonate" and they don't take any commission so we get 100% of what you give and you can Gift Aid it too if you are a taxpayer.

**BEING A CATHOLIC** The course continues on each week on Mondays at 4.00 pm in Sacred Heart School in Earlsbury Gardens. The sessions will finish at 5 pm.

**Bible Sharing Class** - Every Tuesday here at 85 Prestbury Road from 8pm - 10pm. All welcome. Just ring the bell.

**THE KINGDOM WARRIORS** meet on Tuesdays at 6.30 pm at St. Vincent's Church, Nechells Parkway. This a group for young adults (18+) and involves the study of the Bible. At present they are doing the "Great Adventure".

**SYNOD ON YOUTH** The Church is preparing for the Synod in October when the main focus will be on Youth. To prepare for this there are a series of events in our Diocese. There will be something called **ENGAGE "voices coming together"** at Oscott College on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 10 am – 4 pm for those aged 16-29. Email [synod@kyt.org.uk](mailto:synod@kyt.org.uk) to book your place. For more information go to [www.synod18.org](http://www.synod18.org)

**THE OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** finishes on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

**AMORIS LAETITIA - WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018** takes place in August this year in Ireland and the Pope will be present. We all know that families are in crisis in our Western world. Please start praying for this meeting. Look at the website [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE** Aston Churches Together are organising an ecumenical Service this Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January at the Holte Suite at 10.30 am – 12.30 pm. You are invited to attend.

**SILENT MOVIE NIGHT** at St. Barnabas Erdington on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm with accompaniment by Vincent Byrne on the piano. Tickets at the door £7 and £3.50 concessions.

**ROOF APPEAL Motown and Soul Fundraiser Night** With DJ Paul Kelly Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2018 8pm 'till 12am At THE CROWN 1069 Tyburn Road, Erdington B24 0TH Tickets: £5 For more info: Mark Van Beeumen on 07974904793 Kate Crehan on 07514 438066.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE** starts again on Ash Wednesday and continues through Lent. Throughout the world there are 750,000 volunteers in 741 cities in 47 nations with 5,251 local campaigns. We know of 13,998 babies saved through these campaigns, 170 abortion workers quitting and 94 Abortion Centres closed. Well done and keep praying.

**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).

**REMINDER TO THE ROOF COMMITTEE** Meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 8 pm in the Presbytery.

**RAINBOW COMMUNITY CHOIR** invites you to come and participate in community/gospel singing every Thursday at 2.00 pm starting 25<sup>th</sup> January at the West Indian Chaplaincy, Bayswater Road, Birmingham B20 3AE.

**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](http://www.catholic.com). **Strangenotions.** <https://strangenotions.com/> **Rational Evangelisation** <https://www.magiscenter.com/>

**JOB VACANCIES** - RN Nurse Weekend Nights, RN Nurse days, Care Assistant Nights Bank Shifts, Care Assistant Weekends at St. Joseph's Home in Harborne. Please contact Kay Munns at the HR Office on 0121 427 2486 for more information.

