



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Pimlott

Telephone (0121) 327 0235

sacredheartaston@hotmail.com

website www.sacredheartaston.com

Safeguarding Representatives:

Teresa O'Gorman 07585907706 & Sheila McKernan 0121 344 3028

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

LENT 2

24th/25th February 2018

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Betty O'Connor People of Parish
Sunday	10.00 am		Maura Lawrence
Monday		9.30 am	Jenny Verhopstadi & family
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	Pat Wall Mass in St. Joseph's school
Thursday (school) St. David's Day	9.30 am		Tess McLaughlin Mass in Sacred Heart school
Friday Day of Abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Hannah & Alfred Hayhurst Eucharistic Service

LENT 3

3rd/4th March 2018

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Frances Goulding Pat Wall
SUNDAY	10.00 am		People of Parish

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



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will take place following the Sunday morning Mass during Lent

THE CAFOD LENT FAST DAY was last Friday 23rd February, the second collection for CAFOD is this Sunday. The Government has agreed to double what is given this year, so please be generous.

Next Weekend we have our displaced February **Fiver a month** collection.

NOVENA PRAYER FOR THE CANONISATION OF BLESSED DOMINIC BARBERI 1-9

MARCH This year sees the 55th anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Dominic Barberi by Blessed Pope Paul VI. Archbishop Bernard invites you to join him in offering the following Novena Prayer from 1-9 March:

O God, who so lovingly raised Blessed Dominic to the heights of holiness, learning and apostolic zeal and made him a powerful minister of your mercy, listen to our humble request. We pray that you will, in your goodness, grant a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Dominic, so that the Church may further honour him on earth and that many more people will come to know and invoke the help of this faithful servant of the Church. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen. Mary, Mother of Holy Hope: Pray for us. Blessed Dominic Barberi: Pray for us.

First reading Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm 115(116):10,15-19

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Second reading Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!



Gospel Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Reflection

The wilderness was the geographical and key symbolic focus of last week's gospel story. This week, the focus is a mountain. Wilderness and mountain remind us that God's Earth itself is the locus of mystery and grace, the place of Earth-divine encounter. The mountain, like the wilderness, links Mark's story of Jesus with the story of the Israelites. Moses' encounter with God on the mountain of Sinai was a defining moment in the life of the people: the Israelites entered into covenant with God at this mountain and received the Law that was to guide their lives as a people. Some centuries later, at a time of crisis in Israel's life, the prophet Elijah returned to this mountain and experienced the presence of God in the gentle breeze.

In the gospel passage for today, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain and is "transfigured" before them and "his clothes become dazzling white". In the Book of Revelation, white clothes come to symbolise the clothing of martyrs, of those who die for their faith. Elijah and Moses, the key prophetic figures of Israel, appear and enter into dialogue with Jesus, God's definitive prophet. The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he accepts his likely fate. If he continues to challenge oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with that realisation in the "wilderness" and comes to terms with what it involves on this unidentified mountain.

The voice of God reaffirms the identity of Jesus that was announced in the opening words of the gospel and proclaimed at his baptism in the Jordan. It calls for a response from the disciples who have ascended the mountain in his company: "Listen to him". In the two preceding scenes, Jesus has spoken of the suffering that he and his followers will have to face. These words are crucial to an understanding, not only of Jesus, but of what it means to follow him. They seem to fall on deaf ears.

Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" and settle down. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We also need the courage and the good sense to return from the mountain and follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we sometimes experience. If we are to maintain the struggle for a sustainable, safe, and peace-filled world, we have to "listen" to the invitation of Jesus and come to terms with the personal and communal costs involved in a gospel way of life.

HELP NEEDED Could you help with the counting of the money after Mass on Sundays? Would you like to be a reader at Mass on either Saturday or Sunday? Please see Fr. Stephen if you are interested in either of these.

DONATIONS TO THE ROOF APPEAL ON LINE You can now make a donation to our roof appeal on line by going to our website 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 each week on Mondays at 4.00 pm in Sacred Heart School in Earlsbury Gardens, but not in school holidays 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".

40 DAYS FOR LIFE started again on Ash Wednesday and continues through Lent. A prayer vigil is being kept by the Marie Stopes Abortion centre in Arthur Road, Edgbaston from 8.00 am until 8 pm every day for the 40 days of Lent. Can you help with this? Go to <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/birmingham-2/> for more details. If going there is too difficult, then consider doing a Holy Hour each week in the Presbytery where exposition takes place most of the time.

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 24th March 10 am – 4 pm for those aged 16-29. Email synod@kvt.org.uk to book your place. For more information go to www.synod18.org

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

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).

RAINBOW COMMUNITY CHOIR invites you to come and participate in community/gospel singing every Thursday at 2.00 pm starting 25th 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. **Strangenotions.** <https://strangenotions.com/> **Rational Evangelisation** <https://www.magiscenter.com/>

Sacred Heart School Community Lunch Club meets on Tuesdays in school term. 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.

