



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

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
Monday		9.30 am	Jenny Verhopstad & family
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	People of Parish Mass in St. Joseph's school
Thursday	10.00 am		Bridie Murphy
Friday Day of Abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	2.15 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mary Doyle's ints. Prayer Group with Exposition in School

LENT 4 10th/11th March 2018

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	11.30 am 12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Kitty McManus Patricia Stokes
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Irene Nelson

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, Peter Marron.

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

The collection 11th Feb came to £257.12

The collection for 18th Feb came to £231.95

The collection for 25th Feb came to £259.88

The **CAFOD** Family Fast Day collection came to £357.25

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

Next weekend we shall the **White Flower retiring collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)**. SPUC is currently campaigning to stop the decriminalisation of abortion, which means taking abortion outside the law. This is the most dangerous threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades. Please be as generous as you can to help us defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and their mothers, and to stop abortion getting even worse in this country by decriminalisation.

THE SCRUTINIES On the 3rd 4th & 5th Sundays of Lent those preparing for their baptism at Easter undergo the scrutinies. This means that we shall be using the readings for Year A these weekends.

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? Could you ring the bell? Please see Fr. Stephen if you are interested in any of these.

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.

This Novena leads up to **24 HOURS FOR THE LORD on 9th & 10th March**. At St. Joseph's we shall have Exposition in the school at 2.15 pm. and at Sacred Heart we shall have Exposition at 11.30 am on Saturday leading up to the 12.30 pm Mass. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during these times. A good opportunity to make your confession before Easter.

COCAINE ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of, by and for addicts seeking recovery. It is run on similar lines to AA. For more information see <http://www.centralukca.co.uk> or email ca.pi.midlands@gmail.com or phone 07380 291080.

First reading Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

Second reading Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Lord, you are really the saviour of the world:

give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

MIDLAND'S CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY will be visiting St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart on Wednesday 7th March at 2.00 pm beginning at St. Joseph's. You are welcome to join them.

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.

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

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.

THE St. JOSEPH NOVENA takes place from 10th -18th March leading up to his feast on 19th March.

DEMENTIA PRAYER WEEK runs from 12th March – 19th March. Please say a decade a day for those suffering from dementia and their carers.

THE CONFIRMATION at St. Joseph's takes place on Monday 12th March at 7.00 pm. Please pray for the candidates.

EUCCHARIST & THE FAMILY There are special events going on around the diocese in preparation for the World Meeting of Families (21 -26 Aug) and the Eucharistic Pilgrimage & Congress (7-9 Sept) Our local one is at **The Maryvale Institute on Saturday 24th March 10 am – 3.30 pm**. Those of you who are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion or are readers or exercise any other special ministry are particularly encouraged to attend. Bring a packed lunch.

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@kyt.org.uk to book your place. For more information go to www.synod18.org

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).

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 understanding of the faith** <https://www.magiscenter.com/> **Create for me a pure heart** A pastoral response to the problem of pornography by the US Bishops. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/pornography/index.cfm>

JOB VACANCIES - RECEPTIONIST Part time 2 evenings plus alternative weekends, **RN NURSE** 3 nights including weekends, **CARE ASSISTANT WITH NVQ 2** PM shifts 20 hours per week approx. Please contact Kay Munns at the HR Office on 0121 427 2486 for more information.