



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

EASTER 31st March/1st April

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Holy Saturday	8.30 pm		Those being baptised
Easter Sunday	10.00 am	12 Noon	People of Parish Patricia Stokes
Easter Monday		9.30 am	Pat Wall
Easter Tuesday			No Mass
Easter Wednesday			No Mass
Easter Thursday	10.00 am	5.00 pm	Poor sinners Reception of Breda Hourigan into church
Easter Friday		10.00 am	Funeral Mass for Breda Hourigan

EASTER II 7th/8th April

Divine Mercy Sunday

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Easter Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Des Teague People of Parish
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	10.00 am		Peter Jayacody

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



The collection last weekend came to £317.97

The March **Fiver a month** came to £210.72

It is traditional that the Easter collections are a personal gift for the Parish Priest.

LENTEN ALMS Lent is especially the time for works of penance and one of the works of penance almsgiving. It is up to you to which charities you give your alms, but two specially recommended are – Fr. Hudson's Care and Aid to the Church in Need. You will be able to find out more details about them on their websites and also where to send the money.

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.

First reading Acts 10:34,37-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm 117(118):1-2,16-17,22-23

This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.

Second reading Colossians 3:1-4

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended:
combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain,
yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary:
say what thou didst see
upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen:
he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen
from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed:
let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."'

Reflection

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection. Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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.

THE FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT Family Groups are parish friendship groups drawn from the Catholic community open to any parishioner irrespective of age or personal circumstances. They are made up of young, mature, single, widowed, married, separated and divorced parishioners who commit to spending time together once a month for low cost activities. Go to <https://familygroupmovementenglandwales.blogspot.co.uk/> or email Fr. Stephen who will email more information. This sounds a really good and practical initiative.

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).

