



**Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston  
Parish of St. Joseph's, Nechells**

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

**EASTER V 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> April**

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	James Boyle Sr. Pius
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Noel Power
Monday		9.30 am	Sheila Mitchell
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school May Procession)		9.30 am 11.30 am	People of Parish Mass in St. Joseph's school Funeral Mass of Kenneth Grant
Thursday (school)	9.30 am		People of Parish Mass in Sacred Heart school
Friday Day of Abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed sacrament Holy souls Eucharistic Service

**EASTER VI 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> May**

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Betty O'Connor Violet Delahague & family
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Noel Power

**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, John Nolan.



The collection last weekend came to £297.73.  
The Clergy Training Fund last weekend came to £258.16.  
This weekend we have our April **Fiver a month** collection.

**ASCENSION DAY** is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May and is now a Holy Day of Obligation on which all Catholics are obliged by the Church to attend Mass.

**THE SHROUD OF TURIN** You can find out more about the shroud by going to [www.Magiscenter.org](http://www.Magiscenter.org)

**MARCH FOR LIFE** On this the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the implementation of the Abortion Act, the theme for the March for Life UK will be: 'Every Life Deserves Love'. Due to more and more people gathering every year to stand up for Life, the March for Life is now taking place in Central London. There will be two coaches leaving from two Birmingham locations: St Chad's Cathedral and the Birmingham Oratory, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 am, and leaving London at 5pm. The cost of a seat is £20.00 for adults and £10 for under 12s. Under 5s are free. Please sign up today using the sheet at the back of church or for more information please contact Alice Grennan on 07845 706362 or by email: [alice.grennan@googlemail.com](mailto:alice.grennan@googlemail.com)  
March for Life costs around £40,000 to host so any donations made via the website [www.marchforlife.co.uk](http://www.marchforlife.co.uk) will be greatly appreciated, no matter how small. Thank you

**Ireland: Save the 8<sup>th</sup>** On 25 May, Ireland will vote in a referendum whether to keep or repeal the 8th Amendment to the Irish Constitution. The 8th Amendment is a prolife amendment which recognises the equal right to life of the mother and the unborn child. For more information go to [www.ourfuture.ie](http://www.ourfuture.ie)

**TAIZÉ WEEKEND** This weekend Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2 pm at St. Martin's in the Bull Ring.

**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.

**WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May** A coach will be leaving the Oratory, St Catherine's and St. Chad's. For full details contact Anne Roebuck on 0121 454 0130 or 07811705716.

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

**EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS LIVERPOOL 2018 7-9 September** Adoremus will be a unique opportunity for the Church to gather and reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist and particularly to explore the place of Eucharistic Adoration. This is to help us all to love the Eucharistic Lord more profoundly and help all of us spend time in prayer before the blessed sacrament.

**Tuesday Bible Sharing Class** meets on Tuesdays in the Presbytery, 85 Prestbury Road 8 pm – 10 pm. Just ring the bell. All welcome.

**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.

**DONATIONS TO THE ROOF APPEAL ON LINE** Get your friends to donate 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.

**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).

**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.

### **Aston Nechells Foodbank.**

According to new figures released today by The Trussell Trust, between April 2017 and March 2018, [Aston Nechells Foodbank](#) supplied 3,056 people with emergency food parcels. 1,123 children and 1,933 adults - this is a rise of 12.5% over the previous year. Nationwide, Foodbank use is up by 13% on the previous year, a higher increase than the year before when Foodbank use increased by 6.64%. Please continue to support us with donations of food and cash, this time of year we always have a dip in donations and with no drop in people needing help we are more reliant than ever on your generosity. If you need further information about how you or your workplace/school/place of worship/college/Uni etc can help, please respond via this page or call 0121 359 0801. Thank you.

[#StopUKHunger](#)

**First reading Acts 9:26-31**

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

**Responsorial Psalm 21(22):26-28,30-32**

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

**Second reading 1 John 3:18-24**

My children,  
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,  
but something real and active;  
only by this can we be certain  
that we are children of the truth  
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,  
whatever accusations it may raise against us,  
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.  
My dear people,  
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,  
we need not be afraid in God's presence,  
and whatever we ask him,  
we shall receive,  
because we keep his commandments  
and live the kind of life that he wants.  
His commandments are these:  
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ  
and that we love one another  
as he told us to.  
Whoever keeps his commandments  
lives in God and God lives in him.  
We know that he lives in us  
by the Spirit that he has given us.

**Gospel Acclamation Jn15:4,5**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.**  
**Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.**  
**Alleluia!**

## **Gospel    John 15:1-8**

Jesus said:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away,

and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you.

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine,

neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him,

bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers;

these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you,

you may ask what you will and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,

and then you will be my disciples.'

## **Reflection**

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. Recall that John tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper differently from the other Evangelists. In John's Gospel, the Last Supper begins with Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions. We call this section the Last Supper discourse or Jesus' farewell discourse. In these chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus' prayer for his disciples. Today's Gospel reading is taken from the middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus' presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began. Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name. We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbour. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name.