



**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 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
Monday		9.30 am	John O'Halloran
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday	10.00 am		Aleykkutty
Thursday ASCENSION OF THE LORD Holy Day of Obligation	9.30 am 7.30 pm	2.00 pm	Poor sinners Mass in Sacred Heart school Mary Baines & Family Mass in St. Joseph's school Breada Hourigan
Friday Day of Abstinence	9.00 am 9.30 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed sacrament James Wiseman Eucharistic Service

**EASTER VII**

**12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> May**

**World Communications Day**

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Frances McClure People of Parish
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Jimmy Butler

**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, Anne Robinson, Peter Marron, Mary Crotty.



The collection last weekend came to £231.83.

The April Fiver a month last weekend came to £248.17.

Next weekend there is a second collection for Catholic Communications

**ASCENSION DAY** is on Thursday this week and is now a Holy Day of Obligation on which all Catholics are obliged by the Church to attend Mass. You are very welcome to come to the school Masses.

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

**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)

**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.

**THE ANNUAL SOLEMN NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP** takes place at St. Francis of Assisi, Hunters Road, Handsworth from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Weekday Services will take place at 9.15 am, 12 noon, 6.30 pm, & 8 pm. During this novena.

**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.

**Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Humanae Vitae PUBLIC LECTURE** Humanae Vitae - 50 years on: Towards a Deeper Understanding Insights from the work of the commission to study the history of the drafting of the encyclical. Rev. Prof. Gilfredo Marengo on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.30 pm

**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.

**ENGLISH PRAYER TIME** You are specially invited to come to the prayer time in the Presbytery on a Monday night 8 -10 pm.

**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** – There will be no lunch club on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May – it will be back as normal on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May

### **Aston Nechells Foodbank.**

According to new figures released today by The Trussell Trust, between April 2017 and March 2018, [Aston Nechells Foodbank](http://www.sacredheartaston.com) 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](https://twitter.com/StopUKHunger)



**First reading Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48**

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

**Responsorial Psalm 97(98):1-4**

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

**Second reading 1 John 4:7-10**

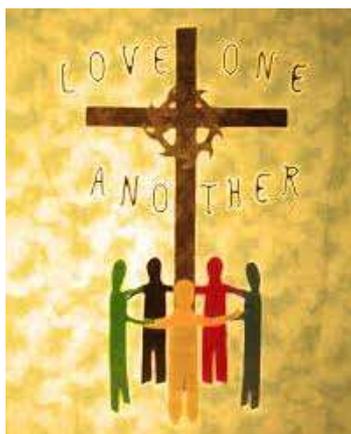
My dear people,  
let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.  
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,  
because God is love.  
God's love for us was revealed  
when God sent into the world his only Son  
so that we could have life through him;  
this is the love I mean:  
not our love for God,  
but God's love for us when he sent his Son  
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

**Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.'**

**Alleluia!**



## Gospel John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master’s business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.’

## Reflection

Today’s Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today’s reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

In John’s Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love. In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week’s, is part of Jesus’ Last Supper discourse. In the context of John’s Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus’ Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.