



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

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33rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 17th/18th November World Day of the Poor

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Anointing of Youth Ministry People of Parish
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Peter Cleaver & Kathleen Hogg
Monday		9.30 am	Deceased of O'Neill family
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am 11.30 am	Devey, McClery, O'Keefe families M. Phillip Mass in St. Joseph's school Funeral Mass of Geraldine Dickinson
Thursday (school)	9.30 am 11.00 am		Ivy Bent Funeral Mass of Kathleen McGuinness
Friday Day of Abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Hanlon Family Eucharistic Service

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 24th/25th November Youth Day

Day	Aston	Nechells	
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Michael Goss People of Parish
SUNDAY	10.00 am		John Laurence

Please Pray for the sick; Mary Levell, Peter McKernan, William Parish, Michael O'Reilly, Julie Gallagher, Anne Robinson, Maura Greene, John Mullen, Jimmy Armstrong, Pat Davis, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, Michael O'Connor.

The collection last weekend came to £199.85

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Catholic Youth Service.

FIRST FRIDAYS

We are planning to make every first Friday something special for all our parishioners. It will start on Friday 7th December at 7.30 pm in the Undercroft with a DVD about the Fatima Apparitions.

As that Friday is the eve of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception this meeting will be preceded by a Mass at 6.30 pm. Tell all your friends about it.

UNQUENCHABLE DESIRE – Pray like the saints.

Kelly Deutsch, an international speaker, author and spiritual coach is coming to St. Vincent's, Nechells Parkway on Tuesday 20th November 7-8 pm. She will share with us what the mystics can teach us about prayer.

For more information contact Sr. Catherine on 0779 1231 458

MISSIO BOXES Please will you return your Missio Boxes (full!) as soon as possible now as the deadline for paying the money over is approaching.

THE RENEWAL TEAM will meet after Sunday Mass every Sunday. Do come along, if you would like to join the team.

SICK LIST If you or someone you know wishes to be on the sick list which is on the newsletter and hence on the website, then get a form from Sheila McKernan or Fr. Stephen and when signed return it to them.

BLESSING OF GRAVES New Hall Sun 18th Nov 2.30pm Witton Sun 25th Nov 2.30pm

GEN VERDE in concert staged by the international performing arts group Gen Verde alongside young people from Birmingham schools. This concert will captivate, challenge and inspire all. Organised by the Focolare Movement. Friday 23rd November in the Elgar Hall, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT at 7.15 pm. Tickets £7.

The RCIA group meets on Thursdays at 6.30 pm in the Presbytery at Sacred Heart. You are welcome to join in even if you are already a Catholic. It is good for all of us to do so every few years.

ENGLISH PRAYER TIME You are specially invited to come to the prayer time in Sacred Heart Presbytery on Monday nights 8 -10 pm. when everything will be in English. You can check that it is happening by phoning Sr. Meena on 07957342742.

DAILY EXPOSITION There is normally exposition in the Presbytery every day 10 am – 5 pm and 8 pm – midnight. To check phone Sr. Meena on 07957342742.

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.

SILENT MOVIE NIGHT at the Maryvale Institute, Old Oscott Hill, B44 9AG in aid of Keralan & Philippine floods on Saturday 17th November at 7 pm. Tickets £6.

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information visit www.catholicsingles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498.

Sixth Form Open Evening at St Edmund Campion School We would like to welcome all Year 11 students and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 22nd November at 6:30pm-8:30pm. It is a wonderful opportunity to speak with our specialist Sixth Form teachers, meet the Sixth Form Team, view our modern facilities and discuss your next steps with a wide range of universities and providers who will also be joining us. Ofsted rated our Sixth Form as 'Outstanding' in January 2018. For further information call 0121 675 7628 or find us at twitter @StEdCampSixth.

ASTON/NECHELLS FOODBANK The foodbank is currently short of toiletries and would be grateful for donations.

First reading Daniel 12:1-3

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

Responsorial Psalm 15(16):5,8-11

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

Second reading Hebrews 10:11-14,18

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. He, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place forever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the hour
when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mark 13:24-32**

Jesus said, 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

Reflection

This Sunday is the second to last Sunday of our liturgical year. As we approach the end of the Church year, our Gospel invites us to consider Jesus' predictions and teaching about the end of the world. In the context of Mark's Gospel, Jesus' words about this are spoken to his disciples as he prepares them for his passion and death.

Before we consider Jesus' words, it is important to note the political backdrop against which many think Mark's Gospel was written. Most scholars concur that Mark wrote his Gospel for Christians living in or near Rome about 30 to 40 years after the death of Jesus. This was a time of political turmoil in Rome. Some Christians experienced persecution by the Romans during the reign of the emperor Nero (about 64 A.D.). Jewish revolutionaries rebelled against the Romans, which led the Romans to destroy the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. In this time of political turmoil and persecution, many in Mark's community might have wondered if the end times predicted by Jesus were in fact quite near.

Last Sunday we heard Jesus' observation about the contributions being made to the temple treasury and the example of sacrificial giving that he saw in the poor widow's offering. If we had been reading Mark's Gospel continuously, we would have heard Jesus predict the destruction of the Temple, his teaching about the costs of discipleship, and the woes that will accompany the end times. Finally, we would have heard Jesus instruct his disciples about the need for watchfulness so that they will not be caught unprepared for this final day of judgment.

In today's Gospel, Jesus continues this teaching by offering his disciples signs to look for that will indicate that the coming of the Son of Man is near. His words and images draw upon Old Testament imagery, especially images found in the Book of Daniel. Next, Jesus offers the lesson of the fig tree, a parable that teaches that if one knows how to read the signs, one can be prepared for the end times. Jesus also teaches, however, that no one knows when the end time will come, except the Father. In the verses that follow this reading in Mark's Gospel, Jesus continues to warn his disciples to be on watch for this end time. Jesus' words are not spoken to frighten his disciples, nor should they frighten us. Rather, they are offered to prepare us for the changes we will experience during our lifetimes and at the end times. Our consolation and hope is found in the lasting nature of Jesus' words and God's never-ending love for us.