



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Michael Goss People of Parish
SUNDAY	10.00 am		John Laurence
Monday		9.30 am	Geraldine Dickenson
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	Peter Duffill Mass in St. Joseph's school
Thursday	10.00 am		Aaron Truelove
Friday St. Andrew Day of Abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mary Joyce Eucharistic Service

ADVENT SUNDAY

1st/2nd December

Day	Aston	Nechells	
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	People of Parish Gertie O'Neill
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Anna Lievens

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 £298.13

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

Next weekend we shall have our **November Fiver a month** collection (a bit late)

ADVENT starts the new Christian year and the Sunday readings leave St. Mark's Gospel and move to St. Luke's Gospel

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 Witton Sun 25th Nov
2.30pm

THE FIRST FRIDAYS OF FAITH

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.

RED WENESDAY This Wednesday 28th November we are all asked to wear red to make a stand for faith and freedom. This is organised by Aid for the Church in Need (acnuk.org) Go to Mass that day and pray for all persecuted Christians around the world.

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.

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.

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

BOOKS Here are two books which make essential reading to enable you to pass on the faith in the present climate:

Made this Way – *How to prepare kids to face todays moral issues* by Leila Miller with Trent Horn.

Christian courtship in an oversexed world by Tom Morrow

Fr. Petroc Howell's funeral will take place at 12 noon at St. Chad's Cathedral on Friday 30th November.

First reading Daniel 7:13-14

I gazed into the visions of the night.
And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,
one like a son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.
On him was conferred sovereignty,
glory and kingship,
and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants.
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty
which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;
the Lord has robed himself with might,
he has girded himself with power.

The world you made firm, not to be moved;
your throne has stood firm from of old.
From all eternity, O Lord, you are.

Truly your decrees are to be trusted.
Holiness is fitting to your house,
O Lord, until the end of time.

Second reading **Apocalypse 1:5-8**

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the First-Born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

Gospel **John 18:33-37**

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

Reflection

Next Sunday we begin the Season of Advent; our time of preparation for Christmas. Therefore, this Sunday marks the end of our current liturgical year. Before we begin the Season of Advent, we are asked to reflect upon Christ our King. When Jesus was asked by Pilate if he was a king, Jesus said that he was a king. So, what sort of king was Jesus? He was born in a small, poor and unimportant village. His parents were not famous, powerful or wealthy. His first visitors were the poorest of people; shepherds. He never wrote a great novel. He didn't eat or associate with rich or powerful people. He never led an army into battle. He did ask people to take up their cross and follow him. He didn't surround himself with politicians, soldiers or bankers. He did sit and eat with people who were usually despised, ignored and rejected. He reached out to embrace those others saw as worthless and as sinners. He didn't live in a castle surrounded by maids or servants. He did spend his time with the poor, the sick, the broken and all those who were in need of love, healing and compassion. He didn't own anything. He didn't have any riches or wealth that the world thought much of; but he did share his greatness possession with us; God's love. The shepherd that is described in the first reading is the king we are asked to follow. This shepherd is one who is caring and compassionate towards us. This shepherd looks for the lost, bandages the wounded and makes the weak strong. This is the shepherd and king we are asked not only to follow, but whose life and example we are asked to live by. Just as he looks after and cares for each of us, so we in turn are to care for each other. Where are we to look for and find Jesus our king today? Jesus is to be found in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the homeless, the poor, the rejected and those in prison. We are to turn our attention to each other if we are to find Jesus. This gospel and great feast asks us to draw on the presence of Christ who dwells within each of us so we can reach out to Christ in others, especially those who are poor and those who are in any kind of need. This gospel is not about some unknown time in the future. This gospel is about each of us and how we follow Jesus here and now. The amazing thing is that on this Feast of Christ our King, both the first reading and the gospel speak about others who need our help and support. Whatever we do to and for each other, we do to and for Jesus. So if we open our hearts as well as our eyes we will see Christ the King in everyone we meet. Jesus is a King and we are his brothers and sisters. Therefore, we belong to a royal household. May we treat each other with the dignity and respect they deserve; as princes and princesses of a royal family. As one of the early popes said, Christian, be aware of your dignity and nobility, it is God's own life that you share.

