



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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ADVENT II

8th/9th December

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	People of Parish Pat Wall
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Alice Seaton
Monday		9.30 am	Basil Hughes
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	Special Int. (Sohar) Mass in St. Joseph's school
Thursday	12 noon		Liam Crerand
Friday Day of Abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Alice Seaton Eucharistic Service

ADVENT III

15th/16th December

Day	Aston	Nechells	
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Annie Rooney & Tess Kehoe Fr. Petroc Howell
SUNDAY	10.00 am		People of Parish

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 £235.81

Last weekend the **November Fiver a month** collection came to £207.58

This weekend there will be a second collection for the Poor Parishes

SERVICES OF RECONCILIATION

Parish	Date	Time
Kingstanding, Maryvale and Perry Common at St Margaret Mary's church	Thursday 19 th December	7pm
Perry Barr	No service	
St Nicholas Boldmere	Thursday 20 th December	7pm
Holy Cross Walmley	No service	
Holy Trinity Sutton Coldfield	Monday, 17 th December	7pm
Erdington Abbey	Tuesday December 18 th	7.30 pm
Bishop Walsh School "Any time that any priest can offer between 0915 and 1pm, will be very much appreciated, not least because Fr Neil - usually so generous with his time - will likely be incapacitated following his forthcoming operation."	Friday 14 th December Fr Allen	9.15am to 1pm

Fr. Stephen will also be available for Confessions after Mass on Sundays and Fridays leading up to Christmas in addition to the normal Saturday time at 11.45 am.
St. Chad's, St. Michael's and the Oratory have a lot of Confessions times leading up to Christmas. See their websites for details.

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

CAROL SERVICE AT SACRED HEART This year we shall be having a special Service of Lessons and Carols next Sunday 16th December at 4.30 pm. Please spread the news.

MISSIO BOXES All boxes need to be returned by this Sunday.

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

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sacred Heart: 7.30 pm Vigil Mass, 10am Mass of the Day
St. Joseph's: 7.00 pm Vigil Mass

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.

The RCIA group meets on Thursdays at 6.30 pm in the Presbytery at Sacred Heart. We are just starting the part on Life in Christ and so it would be a good time for those who are already Catholics to join the group.

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.

ORDER OF MALTA PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES Friday 3rd May – Thursday 9th May 2019. The Order subsidises sick, disabled and older pilgrims. Please see notice in Church for details.

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 today's moral issues* by Leila Miller with Trent Horn.

Christian courtship in an oversexed world by Tom Morrow

A Day for Practising Catholics Aspiring for Leadership Positions in Catholic Schools across the Archdiocese of Birmingham 8.30am – 3.30pm on Saturday 19th January 2019 (no cost for this course) Don Bosco House, Coventry Road, Coleshill, B46 3EA. Please use this link to book a place on this course: <http://w.pfrms.co/2lttp>

ASTON & NECHELLS FOOD BANK looking for volunteers. See notice on board in Church or go to www.astonnechells.foodbank.org.uk

First reading Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

Second reading Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Reflection

This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptises for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation. The three Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke—attest to the importance of the baptism of John in preparing for Jesus. Only the Gospel of Luke, however, extends the connection between these two men to their birth. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel contain the Infancy Narrative, which tells about the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These stories set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in chapter 3. The evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a continuation of the story of Jesus and the Church. In these two works, Luke's sense of time and history emerges. He identifies three epochs of salvation history: the time before Christ, the time of Christ, and the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel reading, as elsewhere, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry. In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.