



## Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

### HOLY FAMILY

29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> December

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday St. Thomas Becket	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Annie Rooney & Tess Kehoe Fr. Petroc Howell
SUNDAY	10.00 am		People of Parish
Monday			No Mass
SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD	11.00 am		All mothers
Wednesday		9.30 am	Anne Collins
Thursday	10.00 am		Edward Farrell
Friday Day of Abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament O'Neill family Eucharistic Service

### EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Marron & Hurley Families People of the Parish
SUNDAY	10.00 am		William Greene

**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, Andy Walsh.

**FIRST FRIDAYS OF FAITH** The next meeting will be on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 pm with tea & coffee ready for prompt start at 7.30 pm. We shall listen to a talk by Bishop Barron on the Eucharist and have discussion and a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

**THE GUILD OF St. STEPHEN MASS** is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February at Noon at St. Chad's with the Archbishop. I hope most of our servers and their families will be able to attend. Please see Francis Prom.

**THE SACRED HEART WOMEN'S GROUP** invite all children, their families and others to Christmas food and fun and drinks after the Mass on **The Feast of the Holy Family** (next Sunday) in the Undercroft.

**CONFIRMATION** this year will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February with Bishop Pargeter at 7 pm. Please make a note of it and come and support our candidates.

**MARRIAGE MASS** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 11 am at St. Chad's. Those celebrating particular milestone anniversaries this year (10,15,20 25, 30, 40,50,60 yrs) and those preparing to get married in 2019 are invited to this Mass

**WORLD YOUTH DAY** Our pilgrims will be leaving for Panama on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January. 10 young people from St. Vincent's, Sacred Heart & St. Joseph's are going. Please pray for them.

**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.

**ENGLISH PRAYER TIME** You are specially invited to come to the prayer time in Sacred Heart Presbytery on Monday nights 8 -10 pm. (not Christmas Eve though) 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](http://www.catholicsingles.org.uk) or tel. 0161 941 3498.

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

**THE NEW CATHOLIC DIRECTORIES** for 2019 are available £3.

Please will you send one of the SPUC cards which will be presented to the Prime Minister to ask her not to give parliamentary time to decriminalising abortion.

**Fr. HUDSON'S 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Fund Raising Ball** 26<sup>th</sup> January. Tickets £40. See notice for further details or go to [www.fatherhudsons.org.uk](http://www.fatherhudsons.org.uk)

**A Day for Practising Catholics Aspiring for Leadership Positions in Catholic Schools** across the Archdiocese of Birmingham 8.30am – 3.30pm on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 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/2ltp>

**ASTON & NECHELLS FOOD BANK** looking for volunteers. See notice on board in Church or go to [www.astonnechells.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.astonnechells.foodbank.org.uk)

**First reading      Samuel 1:20-22,24-28**

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel since she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
Lord, God of hosts.  
My soul is longing and yearning,  
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my soul ring out their joy  
to God, the living God.

They are happy, who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.  
They are happy, whose strength is in you,  
in whose hearts are the roads to Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer,  
give ear, O God of Jacob.  
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,  
look on the face of your anointed.

**Second reading      1 John 3:1-2,21-24**

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. 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

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Open our heart, O Lord,**  
**to accept the words of your Son.**  
**Alleluia!**

### Gospel Luke 2:41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

### Reflection

On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honour the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honouring them, we also honour all families, big or small. And in honouring all families, we honour the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth. What was it like to live day in and day out in the household of St. Joseph? What was it like to have Jesus for a son, Mary as a wife and mother, and Joseph as a father and husband? Their home would have certainly been a sacred place and a dwelling of true peace and unity. But it would have also been so much more. The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life. Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and St. Joseph was a truly "just man." Therefore, the overriding characteristic of their home would have been love. But with that said, their family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have encountered the death of loved ones, St. Joseph most likely passed away prior to Jesus' public ministry. They would have encountered misunderstanding and gossip from others. Our Blessed Mother, for example, was found with child out of wedlock. This would have been a topic of discussion among many acquaintances for sure. They would have had to fulfill all daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, attend gatherings of family and friends and the like. They would have lived normal family life in every way. This is significant because it reveals God's love for family life. The Father allowed His Divine Son to live this life and, as a result, elevated family life to a place within the Trinity. The holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God's divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue. Reflect, today, upon your own family life. Some families are strong in virtue, some struggle with basic communication. Some are faithful day in and day out, some are broken and deeply wounded. No matter the case, know that God wants to enter more deeply into your family life just as it is right now. He desires to give you strength and virtue to live as the Holy Family. Surrender yourself and your family, this day, and invite the Triune God to make your family a holy family. *Lord, I do offer myself to You this day and in doing so I offer You my family. I offer every relationship, be it good or difficult, and I offer every challenge we face. Please come and sanctify my family, making it holy in imitation of your family in Nazareth. Jesus, I trust in You.*