



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

3rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

26th/27th January

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Johnnie McManus People of the Parish
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Thanksgiving
Monday		9.30 am	John Mari Colbert
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	Margaret Wakefield. Mass in St. Joseph's school
Thursday (school)	9.10 am		Michael O'Reilly Mass in Sacred Heart school
Friday	9.30 am		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Day of abstinence	10.00 am	11.45 am	Anne Stapleton Eucharistic Service
Candlemas celebration	6.30 pm		People of Parish

4th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

2nd/3rd February 2019

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday Presentation of Christ in the Temple	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Patrick (Chris) O'Connor Sue McClure
SUNDAY	10.00 am		John White

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

The collection last weekend came to £182.85

The second collection for Pax Christi came to £197.15.

Next weekend there will be a second collection for LIFE.

WORLD YOUTH DAY comes to its climax this Sunday. Please pray for all young people seeking to follow Jesus.

FIRST FRIDAYS OF FAITH The next meeting will be on Friday 1st February at 7.30 pm. It will be preceded by a Vigil celebration of Candlemas at 6.30 pm (The Presentation of Christ in the Temple) which falls the next day.

TRANSFORM CONFERENCE A one day Catholic Convention and Healing Service on Saturday 2nd February 9 am – 4 pm at the Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich B70 7JW. (Plenty of free parking and near Sandwell & Dudley Train Station)

MARRIAGE MASS Sunday 3rd 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

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

THE GUILD OF St. STEPHEN MASS is on Saturday 9th 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.

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.

The Birmingham Passion Play 2019: The Archbishop asks the Catholic community to support / participate in this ecumenical event which will run on 16th, 17th and 18th April 2019 in the City Centre. The leading actors/actresses will be supplied by professional players from the Saltmine Trust (www.saltminetrust.org.uk), a Christian company who are keen to recruit volunteers for the community cast, choir, musicians and stewards, etc. There will be a meeting for all those who are interested at Floor 8, One Colmore Row, from **2.30-5.00 pm on Sunday 3rd February**. (This is one of the new multi-storey glass buildings just up from the Cathedral in Snow hill) All welcome!

Modern slavery is all around us and the Archdiocese is about to launch 'Look Up' a campaign with Catholic anti-slavery charity "The Medaille Trust". All are invited to come and join the Archbishop, representatives from the Medaille Trust and others to mark the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of trafficking victims, on 8th February 2019 at 6pm at St Chad's Cathedral, followed by refreshments in the Grimshaw Room. All welcome. RSVP Email: comms@medaille-trust.org.uk

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR CANONISATION OF POPE PAUL VI at 7pm on the 11th February in the chapel of St Mary's College, Oscott, followed by refreshments. Bishop Robert Byrne will preside at the Mass

This February, through **Baby Loss Matters**, we shall be commemorating the all-too-brief lives of babies who did not live to birth or beyond infancy. The main purpose is to remember the lives lost and to reach out to anyone affected with support and compassion. We shall be setting aside a memorial space in the Church.

Flame is the largest National Catholic Youth event of 2019, we encourage all young people aged 14-30 in our parishes to take part. An opportunity to join 10,000 young people from across the country, to receive faith-filled inspiration from world class speakers, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Robert Madu and MOBO award winner Guvna B plus worship led by International Christian Recording Artist, Tim Hughes. Flame19 is Dance! Drama! Encounter! Laughter! Presence! and Prayer! We are asking each parish to invite a minimum of 2 young people to join a Diocesan delegate heading to Wembley for this National Catholic event. Please email kristi.doughty@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk with your thoughts. Tickets are £39 pp includes ticket entrance, transport with a pick up local to your parish, insurance and a Diocesan T-Shirt.

The Catholic Parliamentary and Public Affairs Internship Scheme is recruiting at least six recently graduated Catholics to learn from an intensive experience of political and social action in a spiritual context. The scheme will run from September 2019 until July 2020. Internship positions are given with Christian MPs and Peers in Parliament, the Catholic Education Service, CAFOD and the Caritas Social Action Network. All interns also gain from retreats and spiritual guidance, as well as living in a vibrant, young Catholic community in the centre of London. During the year, as part of their overall formation, interns will study for a Postgraduate Certificate in Catholic Social Teaching from St Mary's University, Twickenham. Further information can be found at www.faithinpolitics.org.uk.

Applications are open, and the closing date is 28 February 2019. Applications should be made through the website. Please direct any questions to stephanie.macgillivray@cbcew.org.uk.

As you will be aware, **Brexit** is causing uncertainty and concern to many EU citizens living in the UK. Both clergy and laity alike share this uncertainty and concern. Apart from those who are uncertain about their future, others are inevitably in a state of ignorance and unaware that Brexit will affect their immigration status. In March 2019, the Government is due to launch a Settlement Scheme. All EU citizens living in the UK will be required to make an application if they wish to remain here after Brexit. However, Irish citizens will not be required to apply as their rights are separately protected. Many parishioners, priests and religious in our Dioceses will be affected.

CLICK TO PRAY is the Pope's new app. Go and download it, it may help you to pray.

First reading

Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

Responsorial Psalm 118(119):8-10,15

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

Second reading**1 Corinthians 12:12-30**

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it was not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you see anything? If it was just one ear, how would you hear anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you', nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives. Alleluia!

Gospel**Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21**

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'