



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

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	People of Parish Dailia's special intention
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Madge & Thomas Moore
Monday		9.30 am	Pat Wall
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	Sr. Dolores Murphy Mass in St. Joseph's school
Thursday (school)	9.10 am		Francis Charnock Mass in Sacred Heart school
Friday Day of abstinence	1.45 pm	11.45 am	Eucharistic Service <b>Funeral Mass for Madeleine Burley</b>

### 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Thomas Reed Derek Smith
SUNDAY	10.00 am		People of Parish

**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, Joe Thewlis, Michael Brennan, Mary Seery, Alex McClure.

The collection last weekend came to £246.75

This weekend we have our March **Fiver a month** collection.

Next weekend we shall have an **emergency CAFOD Appeal** second collection for the Cyclone disaster in Southern Africa.

**CONFESSIONS BEFORE EASTER** In addition to the normal time, both Fr. Mark & Fr. Stephen will be available for confessions after Mass this Sunday and next.

**HOLY WEEK PASSION PLAY** Involving a diverse team of a hundred community actors, musicians and stewards alongside Saltmine Theatre Company, The Birmingham Passion Play 2019 is by the city, for the city. This unique contemporary retelling of the extraordinary Easter story will be performed live, procession from Birmingham Bullring, moving up along New Street to Victoria Square, and finishing at St Philip's Cathedral. On 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April, join us from 12:30 each day at the Bullring near Waterstones, finishing around 14:00

inside St Philip's Cathedral.

**FIRST FRIDAYS FOR FAITH** This week. We shall watch the film "The Passion of Christ" to help prepare us for celebrating Our Lord's passion in Holy Week. It will start promptly at 6.30 pm (not 7.30 pm) so that we can finish by 8.45 pm. You should be 15 or older to watch it.

#### THE PASCAL TRIDUUM

The whole Triduum will be at Sacred Heart Church

**Maundy Thursday:** 18 April  
7.30 pm Mass of the Last Supper followed by the Gethsemane watch until 10.30 pm.

**Good Friday:** 19 April  
3.00 pm The Liturgy with veneration of the Cross

**Holy Saturday:** 20 April  
8.30 pm The Paschal Vigil with baptisms, renewal of baptismal vows and first Mass of Easter

**Easter Day** 21 April  
10 am at Sacred Heart

**THE SCRUTINIES** of those preparing for baptism at Easter takes place at the Sunday Mass on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent. That means that we shall be using the readings from Year A for all the Masses those weekends (not Year C) Please keep “the elect” in your prayers.

**THE MARCH FOR LIFE** this year is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May in London. Coaches will be going from Birmingham and we need to be booking our places on them asap. Can we get a good group going from our parishes this year? It is a wonderful day on which we are able to stand shoulder to shoulder with thousands of others proclaiming the LIFE is from conception. See [marchforlife.co.uk](http://marchforlife.co.uk)

**DIOCESAN WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE** also on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Would anyone, especially servers like to go on this pilgrimage? Coaches going from Birmingham. Need to book soon. See Francis Prom or Fr. Stephen if interested.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES** are out this weekend. Please collect yours. If you are a taxpayer, please see Stephen Lawrence and you can be part of this. The Church will benefit at no cost to you.

**LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will take place following straight on from the Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart and at 5.30 pm before the Saturday Mass at St. Joseph's.

We need people who could run the **Children's Liturgy**. Please see Fr. Stephen or Sheila McKernan if you think you could help.

**PARISH CENSUS** Following the new Data Protection Act we need to renew our parish data. If you had a form last week, I hope you have remembered to bring it back. If you didn't get one, please make sure you take one. This is important. Thanks.

**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 is a group for young adults (18+) and involves the study of the Bible.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE** started again on Ash Wednesday and finishes on Palm Sunday. Please keep it in your prayers and if you can help go to <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/birmingham-2/>

**CLICK TO PRAY** is the Pope's new app. Go and download it, it may help you to pray. Also get **Catholic Mega App** It is a gateway to lots of Catholic resources on the internet. Have you signed up to **Churchpop.com** yet? Short easily accessible articles about Catholic things, some more of a fun nature, some very serious.

### First reading

### 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7, 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and

anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

## Responsorial Psalm

### Psalm 22(23)

*The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

*The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.*

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

*The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.*

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

*The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.*

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

*The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.*

## Second reading

### Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

## Gospel Acclamation

### Jn 8:12

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God

## Gospel

## John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him. Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'

