



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

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

**LENT 4**

**21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

**Dear Parishioners,**

I expect that you will have gathered by now that all public Masses have been suspended until further notice. This will be very difficult for all of us, but we need to rise to the occasion and listen to what the Lord is saying to us so that we can grow in our commitment as disciples of Christ with a deep thirst for the Eucharist, even though we cannot participate at present. If Jesus is abiding in your heart then that love and thirst will grow. If not, you will see this time as an excuse to stop going to Mass for good, though you will find yourself saying that you still believe, but the reality will be different.

So let us use this time, however long it goes on for, to revitalise family prayer. Fathers in particular, where possible, should take up their baptismal role of leading family prayers and giving the necessary structure for it in family life. Sundays should continue to be marked by joining in with the Mass on line or TV. My last letter gave you links and the Diocesan website also has links.

Try to keep in touch with one another by phone and social media, especially with the elderly and sick who may be very lonely and vulnerable. Please let me know of anyone in particular need. I shall be saying a private Mass everyday and interceding for you all. Remember that when the priest makes his Communion at Mass, he is receiving the Holy Eucharist on behalf of everyone.

Perhaps we can use our Facebook page to share with others how we are getting on and give each other encouragement.

Next Wednesday is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of Our Lord when we are all being asked to consecrate our lives to Our Lady. I give you below a form for doing this. Not only read it out to consecrate yourself to her, but also print it out and sign and date it as a reminder of what you have done.

The following Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March we are asked to rededicate this country of England as Our Lady's Dowry. This should be done by saying the Angelus (together if possible) at Midday.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation can still be celebrated. Please phone me to make an appointment. It has to be done behind the grill in the Confessional.

May God bless you all

Fr. Stephen

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

**CONSECRATION TO MARY** All Catholics are being asked to consecrate themselves to Mary on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on Wednesday. You can use the following words. Sign it, date it and keep it safe.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a repentant sinner, renew and ratify today in your hands, O Immaculate Mother, the vows of my Baptism. I renounce Satan and resolve to follow Jesus Christ even more closely than before. Mary, I give you my heart. Please set it on fire with love for Jesus. Make it always attentive to his burning thirst for love and for souls. Keep my heart in your most pure Heart that I may love Jesus and the members of his Body with your own perfect love. Mary, I entrust myself totally to you: my body and soul, my goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions. Please make of me, of all that I am and have, whatever most pleases you. Let me be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for bringing the greatest possible glory to God. If I fall, please lead me back to Jesus. Wash me in the blood and water that flow from his pierced side, and help me never to lose my trust in this fountain of love and mercy. With you, O Immaculate Mother — you who always do the will of God — I unite myself to the perfect consecration of Jesus as he offers himself in the Spirit to the Father for the life of the world. Amen.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **THE ANGELUS AND THE DOWRY OF MARY**

On 29 March, 2020, England will be rededicated as the 'Dowry of Mary.' This will happen in Westminster Cathedral, in Walsingham, in every Catholic Cathedral, in every parish and in as many homes as possible. Mgr John Armitage, the Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, has asked people to prepare spiritually for the rededication by praying the Angelus every day after our parish Masses. The Angelus is a most suitable prayer to prepare us spiritually for the rededication, recalling, as it does, 'some essential moments in the History of Salvation, reminding us of Mary's 'yes' to the Angel Gabriel, which undid Eve's 'no' in the Garden of Eden.' We profess our faith in 'The Word, who was made flesh, and dwelt amongst us,' and in his Death and Resurrection, the eternal destiny to which each of us is called in Christ.

The Collection last weekend came to £249.73

**CORONAVIRUS** For the Church's guidelines see the Conference of Bishops website <https://www.cbcew.org.uk> or go to [gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public)  
The peace should be given with a bow to your neighbour without physical contact and Holy Communion should be received on the hand.

**LENT** is the time to renew our wills to follow Jesus, and to grow in virtue and holiness especially through works of penance in which we unite ourselves with our Lord's passion.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE** started on Ash Wednesday and runs up to Palm Sunday (8am – 8pm every day). If you would like to help by praying outside the abortion clinic in Kings Norton, please take a leaflet and contact Isabel on 07773 50172 This continues.

**APPOINTMENT OF NEW AUXILLIARY BISHOPS** The Holy Father has appointed Canon David Evans and Canon Stephen Wright as auxiliary Bishops of the Diocese. They will be ordained on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

**BECOMING A CATHOLIC** If you wish to become a Catholic, or know someone who wishes to become a Catholic, or perhaps are a Catholic but have little perception of what that means, please contact Fr. Stephen by phone, email or in person.

**DAILY EXPOSITION** and the English Prayer Time are suspended during the Corona virus pandemic. To check on any further details phone Sr. Meena on 0795 7342742.

**DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE** is cancelled.

**MARRIAGE MATTERS** ([www.twainoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twainoneflesh.org.uk)(1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 Eph 5:8-14 John 9:1, 6-9,13-17, 34-38) **Stop and see, be aware**

God was aware of David's adultery with Bethsheba, Uriah's wife, and how he arranged Uriah's murder to cover his sin. Amid political and business 'cover ups' in today's world, it's important to 'stop and see' – the beauty of nature, the beauty and goodness of your spouse. Don't be too busy to recall the joys you have brought to each other.

**All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here.**

The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at: [gov.uk/eusetledstatus](http://gov.uk/eusetledstatus). Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Information on assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: [gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme](http://gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme). The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.