



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston
Parish of St. Joseph's Nechells

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Pimlott

Telephone (0121) 327 0235

sacredheartaston@hotmail.com

website www.sacredheartaston.com

Safeguarding Representatives:

Sacred Heart – Teresa O'Gorman 07585907706 & Sheila McKernan 0121 344 3028

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

12th July 2020

Dear parishioners,

Praise the Lord! We are able to have three public Masses over the weekend as follows:

Saturday at 11 am at Sacred Heart Church (Feast of St. Benedict)

Saturday at 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's Church

Sunday at 10 am at Sacred Heart Church

Please get to Church at least 10 minutes before the start time. You must have face covering (you need to come with this. Very young children don't have to, but 5-11 should, anyone older must). On arrival sanitise your hands and you will be led to your seat by a steward. Please go where the steward says. It is unlikely to be your usual seat.

The toilets will be closed. If this is likely to be a problem for you, you should not come. Those with underlying health problems are advised not to come. We are still dispensed from our Sunday Mass obligation.

After these rather officious rules which we have to obey, let us turn to the Gospel, the Good News.

This Sunday's Gospel is the well known parable of the sower with Jesus' explanation of why he speaks in parables. It is not often easy or indeed possible to confront someone with their wrong doing. It doesn't usually bring about repentance and a change of life, but just antagonism and entrenchment. You remember that when David sinned, the prophet Nathan went to him and told him about a rich man who, when a visitor came, took a lamb, not from his flocks, but the only lamb that belonged to a poor man, a lamb that was like a daughter to the poor man. David was very indignant saying the man deserved to die and must make fourfold restitution. Nathan then says "You are the man." Through this story or parable David was enabled to see his actions for what they were, adultery and murder, and he was brought to repentance.

Now the parable of the sower is like this. It enables us to see our lives and our response or lack of response to the Word of God as it really is, and to come to repentance. Are you like the seed on the stony ground or the seed among thorns? Do you say "that's me" and come to repentance and change your life accordingly? We are all challenged.

This Saturday is the feast of St. Benedict, founder of western monasticism and principle patron saint of Europe. Born in 480 he studied in Rome at a time of great turmoil and uncertainty. He was horrified by the lives he saw people living there. People reacted in two opposite ways. Some lived lives of moral laxity – eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die, others formed very tight religious sects living lives of extreme severity. Benedict left Rome and went to live at Subiaco on the ledge of a mountainous cliff and discovered a middle way. There he learnt the wisdom of God and began to gain a reputation for directing monks. Later he was to move to Monte Cassino and set up a new form of monasticism, one of communal living. He wrote his Rule as a guide for directing his monks and this was to become one of the great cornerstones for building the Christian civilisation of Europe. He is my confirmation saint! Let us ask for his prayers especially at this time when it looks as if we are going to crash out of the EU to add to our other difficulties.

May the Lord be with you.

Fr. Stephen Pimlott

The Kingdom Warriors have started a skype Bible Study Group which meets on line on Mondays at 5.30 p.m. If you would like to join it, please contact Shirleyni on 07562754382. All are welcome.

Please pray for the souls of George Counihan & Mary Morgan Russell recently departed and for their relatives and friends.

EWTN is broadcasting what it calls EWTN essentials which is a continuous devotional broadcast with the Mass every 2 hours. Get it on the free EWTN app.

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, Andy Walsh, Michael Brennan, Alex McClure.

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

USEFUL WEBSITES <https://www.mcnmedia.tv>

<https://www.wordonfire.org>

<https://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/>

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

<https://www.ewtn.com/radio/shows/called-to-communion>

<https://www.catholic.com/>

<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/>

<https://magiscenter.com/>

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.

MARRIAGE MATTERS www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk *Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time* (Isaiah 55:10-11 Rom 8:18-23 Matthew 13:1-23) Listen to the person behind the words The stony ground is when we are too engrossed in the telly, reading or working on the computer to listen to our partner. The thorny ground is where we disengage with such but not wanting real involvement, suggest a cuppa as a diversion. We are called to be fertile ground by real listening – hold hands, look in each other's eyes.