



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

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

26th July 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Many things are beginning to happen now as the lockdown starts to lift. It is certainly not life back to normal yet. However the Mass is being celebrated publicly at the weekends in both churches and it is a great privilege for people to be able to attend Mass again and receive the sacrament. Unless you are in the very high risk category, I encourage you to attend one of the Masses.

Masses now on Saturdays

11 am at Sacred Heart

6.00 pm at St. Joseph's

On Sundays

10.00 am at Sacred Heart

I am able to hear some confessions before the Mass on Saturdays in the Sacristy maintaining social distancing.

The experience of lockdown will have been different for everybody, but perhaps you may have received some spiritual insights during this time. If you have you might like to share it with others. If so email it to me and I may be able include it in these newsletters.

Let me share one I have had. I call it the Lesson of the Carrot! I often get angry with myself when I am doing jobs especially when things fall on the floor. So often I shout, at least inwardly, “I didn’t give you permission to fall on the floor.” The other day as I was chopping carrots in the kitchen a piece flew onto the floor. As it fell I thought “that piece of carrot is obeying God’s law, the law of gravity, may I be like that carrot and be fully obedient to God’s law.”

This Saturday is the feast of St. James, the Apostle one of the “sons of thunder” and the Saturday Mass at Sacred Heart will be of the feast.

The Sunday Gospel is three parables finishing with Jesus saying “Have you understood all this?” The disciples reply “yes”. This is rather surprising. Usually the disciples don’t understand or want things explained privately afterwards. However the parables Jesus has just told are quite straight forward. Two parables with the same meaning, the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price. These clearly say to us that we must put the kingdom of heaven before everything else. It can’t be an optional extra. It is more valuable than anything else. The parable of the dragnet indicates what will happen to us if we don’t set our hearts on the kingdom and put it before everything else. We shall be thrown away or thrown into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Let us renew our total commitment to Christ and the Kingdom.

I think some people who are on this email list may not realise it because it is going into their junk folder. Others may not be on this list and know about it but would like to receive these emails. Can you inform your friends through your what’s app group or other means of communication at you have. The Newsletters do go up on our website and it is good to look at that and the Diocesan website regularly.

May God bless you all

Fr. Stephen Pimlott

MASS INTENTIONS Fr. Stephen has run out of Mass intentions. If you would like said for a particular intention, please let Fr. Stephen know either by email or phone. You can give him the stipend later. Mass cards are available for purchase at church. See Fr. Stephen for these.

ORDER THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE OR THE CATHOLIC TIMES NEWSPAPER:- you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you. SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :-£18.00 or 12 Months:- £72.00

Bible Study Group has been meeting on line on Mondays at 5.30 p.m. However now that many people are back at work this time does not seem so suitable and may be changed. If you would like to join it, please contact Shirleyni on 07562754382 letting her know your time preferences. It is a good time to join because we are just starting 2 Samuel. All are welcome.

Please pray for the souls of 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](https://www.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.twainoneflesh.org.uk Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 Rom 8:28-30 Matt 13:44-52) *Discover what loving really means* Instead of praying for 'treasure', King Solomon prayed for wisdom 'to discern good from evil'. When discerning what 'loving' really means, you find 'hidden treasure' in these weekly reflections on Scripture. They will also help you to discover the 'hidden treasure' in each other. Sharing this, you sow 'seeds' of love in the minds and hearts of others.