



**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

**THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY INTO HEAVEN**

**16<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**20<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time**

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend, at all the Masses, we celebrate the greatest festival of August, the Assumption of Our Lady, body & soul, into heaven. The feasts of saints are normally, if possible, celebrated on the day of their death which is their birthday, as it were, into heaven. So Our Lady’s greatest feast is that of her being assumed body and soul into heaven.

The prayer that we say most often is the Hail Mary. It is made up of the angelic salutation and Elizabeth’s greeting at the Visitation. The second half addresses Mary under her primary title “Mother of God” and requests her prayers “now” and at the “hour of our death”. We need her prayers at the present moment but also in particular as we come to our last hour. Satan hates God and he hates man, made in God’s own image and likeness. He is always trying to divert us away from God and especially so, as we come to that last combat. If we don’t die in the grace of God, then Satan has won our soul and we go to eternal damnation. We only need to repent and believe and we set ourselves on the way through forgiveness to heaven. The devil tries to stop us repenting. He uses three tactics very successfully in our age. First he tries to stop us believing in God. We can’t repent and say we are sorry if there is no one to say sorry to. Second, if he can’t succeed there, he tries to tempt us to despair. He whispers to us “there may be a God, but your sins are so terrible, he would never forgive you. You might as well continue doing what you are doing.” If that fails too, then he can try his third tactic, to attempt us into becoming moral relativists. There is no such thing as absolute truth. Men make up their own rules. “Don’t be a fool! You determine what is right and wrong.”

Our Lady who is closest to her son, Jesus, is our help and exemplar, to keep us always alert to Satan’s wiles and to draw us into what is good and true and beautiful so that we come to share in eternal blessing and happiness. “Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

God bless you all

Mary pray for us.

Fr. Stephen

**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. Otherwise you can make a special appointment.

**MASS INTENTIONS** Fr. Stephen has run out of Mass intentions. If you would like Mass 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.

**Bible Study Group** now meets on Skype on Mondays **at 7.00 p.m.** If you would like to join it, please contact Shirleyni on 07562754382. It is a good time to join because we are just starting 2 Samuel. All are welcome.

**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, Phil Robinson.

**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.twoinoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

The Assumption

(Apocalypse 11:19, 12:1-6, 10 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 Luke 1:39-56) *We are exalted*

Today we celebrate that Jesus exalted his mother in special way. As married couples we too can take heart from Mary. Although everything will be changed by the death of one of us, it is not the end! Nothing of our love for each other will be lost, but, as the Lord promised, will be made glorious in heaven.