



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

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

23rd August 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I have just heard in time to add this into this letter. They will probably be starting the work on the mosaics this coming week and the work should be finished by the end of October. I don't know how it will effect the use of the sanctuary, but it is good that they are getting on with it.

Now back to the letter I have written this week:

Another week of this half functioning combined with extraordinary weather. I don't know about you, but I find it more difficult than in those earlier months of complete lockdown. However I am sure that it is a time full of graces if we are open to receive them.

In our Monday on-line Bible study we are reading through 2 Samuel which is all about David and the establishment of his kingdom following the death of King Saul in battle. It is certainly very messy and we see human sin and its consequences close up, lust adultery, deception and murder; a dysfunctional family with incest, intrigue, lust for power and open rebellion and internecine war. But it is against this background that the psalms of David arise as he cries out to the Lord in great distress so often finding it difficult to see God at work in it all. Every age and especially our own, it full of all these things and we cry out to God in our distress not seeing clearly, but putting our trust in God's goodness. We are in a much better position than David. We have the graces of the sacraments and the historic fact of Jesus, his passion, death and resurrection to guide us. It is in weakness that we come closer to God, not in our own strength. It struck me very forcibly that histories are usually written by the victors and glorify the winning side. The history of Israel that we find in the Bible is just the opposite. An insignificant people whom God has chosen, not through any merits of their own, and a history of failure after failure. Yet through it all we see God's hand at work as he prepares for his supreme revelation of himself in the incarnation of his Son Jesus, through the Virgin Mary. We need never lose heart.

This weekend we hear a key passage in the Gospel, that of Jesus calling Simon the Rock on which he builds his Church and the gates of the underworld will not prevail against it. He also gives Peter the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. The keys symbolise the office Jesus is creating, an office that is handed down through history in the person of the Pope the successor of Peter. How important this is for the unity of the Church, that we may agree in all things, that we have unity of faith! The Catholic Church has the fullness of faith because it has that continuity back to its foundation by Jesus. The graces that God pours out are freely and easily available to us through the Church as long as we open our hearts to receive them. This is a continuous process so that we may grow in faith and love and die in the grace of God.

So then, my brothers and sisters never give in, but continue to fight the good fight.

God bless you all

Fr. Stephen Pimlott

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 this weekend. Saturday 11 am Eamon McGurn
Saturday 6 pm (St. Joseph's) Thomas Boyle
Sunday 10 am People of Parish

Fr. Stephen has now 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 Shirley 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.twainoneflesh.org.uk Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Isaiah 22:19-23 Rom 11:33-36 Matt 16:13-20) *The key to family life*

Today's Gospel places keys at the heart of the responsibility Jesus gives Peter. In spite of his weaknesses and failings, because of his faith, he is entrusted with the 'keys' to the kingdom of God. Our married love is entrusted with the 'keys' of our family life. We are the 'rock' upon which the future of our family will be built.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR - JOB VACANCIES – RN Nurses and Care Assistants with NVQ 2 required at St. Joseph's Home in Harborne, day and night shifts available. Please e-mail your C.V. to Kay Munns (HR) at kay.munns@lsplondon.co.uk

Stratford Almshouse Charity Looking for Residents The trustees of the St Joseph's Homestead which is part of the Municipal Charities of Stratford-upon-Avon, are looking to attract

two female residents over 55 to their property. Their trust deeds require them to proactively recruit members of the Roman Catholic faith to balance out the residents and so to adhere to the terms of the original benefactors will. They are looking to help house two single women who are facing financial hardship. Get in touch with Doug Evans on grants@municipal-charities.org.uk, 07539 459210 or via our website <https://www.municipal-charities.org.uk>

Feasts and Memorials this week

Monday	Feast of St. Bartholomew
Tuesday	St. Louis
Wednesday	Feast of St. Dominic Barberi
Thursday	St Monica
Friday	St. Augustine
Saturday	The beheading of St. John Baptist