



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

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10th January 2021

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday Sunday vigil	11.00 am	6.00 pm	<i>People of Parish</i> <i>Anne McCleary</i>
Sunday Baptism of the Lord	10.00 am		<i>Julie Gallagher</i>
Monday			<i>Justina Ogodifo</i>
Tuesday			<i>Derek Smith</i>
Wednesday			<i>Violet Buckley</i>
Thursday			<i>People of the parish</i>
Friday Day of abstinence	10.30 am		Funeral Mass for Mary Quinn
Saturday Sunday Vigil	11.00 am	6.00 pm	<i>Harnett & Bell families</i> <i>Marion Cowden</i>
2nd Sunday of ordinary time	10.00 am		<i>Peggy Breen & Elaine McGlynn</i>

Dear Parishioners,

Nothing seems to get better on the worldly front – Covid, Brexit, American politics. However our hope is not in the things of this world. Our eyes are fixed on the final goal – the beatific vision. We see this in this world with the eyes of faith. We are given three glimpses in the liturgy of this time. The Epiphany of the Lord which we celebrated last Wednesday when pagan magi find their way to the infant Jesus and offering gifts, adore him. The word is a very strong one and refers to that total openness, the adoration you only give to God.

Then this Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Here even more clearly we see the divinity of Jesus as he comes up out of the water and the Spirit descends on him like a dove and the Father’s voice is heard “This is my Son, the beloved.” Mark’s Gospel starts with the Baptism of Jesus, just as our Christian life starts with baptism and he puts a Trinitarian stamp on his Gospel rather like we do when we make the sign of the Cross recalling our baptism “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”.

In Year C (this is Year B) the next Sunday we would hear the Wedding in Cana of Galilee. This is the first of Jesus’ “signs”. “He revealed his glory”. It is a sign that points forward to the wedding feast of the Lamb, Jesus, the divine bridegroom marrying his Virgin Bride.

With our eyes set on the final goal, we need to be aware of a pitfall which some people are tending to fall into, especially certain protestant groups. That is that this world doesn’t matter; we are saved, the world is damned. This not what Christ teaches and the Catholic Church hands down to us. We are called to “baptise all nations, ... teaching them everything I have commanded you”. We are called to work to create a better society with institutions and structures that help people to come faith and to grow in virtue and holiness. Our eyes may be set on heaven, but our feet are firmly in this world working for the good.

Finally a word about the vaccines. The Oxford/Astra Zeneca vaccine has been developed using aborted human foetal cell lines. The Church does not accept this as a morally acceptable way of developing vaccines, so it would be better for us to be vaccinated with a different vaccine. However our involvement in the immoral act is so remote that if there is no alternative we may

accept this vaccine with a good conscience. If feasible we should register our disapproval of its means of development.

God bless you all and keep you safe for eternal life.

Fr. Stephen Pimlott

There is no second collection this weekend.

Next weekend there will be a second collection for **Pax Christi**.

Collections last Sunday

Sacred Heart First collection £134.52

St. Joseph's First collection £30.60

Noreen Smith has written to inform us that her mother Nora O'Connor has died. Recently she has been living at St. Joseph's Elderly Care Home. May she rest in peace.

[Pope Francis Declares Year of St. Joseph: 8 Ways to Gain a Plenary Indulgence Over the Next Year](#) Follow this link to find out more about it.

[Awaken the Sleeping Giant: The Powerful St. Joseph Devotion Catholics Need for Modern Times | \(churchpop.com\)](#)

Bible Study Group continues to meet on Skype on Mondays **at 7.00 p.m.** If you would like to join it, please contact Shirley on 07562754382. All are welcome.

2021 DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES are now available. £2.75. Ask Fr. Stephen.

A Revolutionary View of Gender An interesting article in the Catholic Herald **[A Revolutionary View of Gender - Catholic Herald](#)**

Please Pray for the sick; Mary Levell, William Parish, Anne Robinson, Maura Greene, Jimmy Armstrong, Pat Davis, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, Michael Brennan, Alex McClure, Phil Robinson, Mona Recci, Mary Cartridge.

RECENTLY DEPARTED Please pray for Mary Quinn, Maureen Wall & Nora O'Connor whose funerals will be coming up over the next few weeks.

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.

MARRIAGE MATTERS **www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk**

The Baptism of the Lord

(Isaiah 42:1-4, 4:7 Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38 Mark 1:7-11)

You are my Beloved

How we each adapt to and accept the many differences in each other is a remarkable insight into the Spirit of God deeply seeded within us. It is this which calls us to say to one another: you are my chosen one in whom my heart delights! Let us celebrate with joy God's love for us and for all marriages.

MARY'S MEALS We have incredible news! Up until 31 January 2021, public donations made to our **[Double The Love](#)** appeal will be doubled by the UK government, up to £2 million.

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.

ON-LINE RETREATS FROM BELMONT ABBEY There are some interesting options here. God to **<https://www.belmontabbey.org.uk/online-retreats/register>** for more information and to register.

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/>