



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

3rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

24th January 2021

| Day | Aston | Nechells | Intention |
|---|-----------------|----------------|---|
| Saturday Sunday vigil | 11.00 am | 6.00 pm | <i>Newton & Buckley families</i> <i>Delaney family</i> |
| 2nd Sunday of ordinary time | 10.00 am | | <i>Johnnie McManus</i> |
| Monday Conversion of St. Paul | | | <i>Christian unity</i> |
| Tuesday | | | <i>People of parishdkn</i> |
| Wednesday | | | <i>Sean & Fiona Murphy</i> |
| Thursday | | | <i>Kathleen Moloney</i> |
| Friday Day of abstinence | | Noon | <i>Julie Gallagher</i> |
| Saturday Sunday Vigil | 11.00 am | 6.00 pm | <i>Tommy Read</i> <i>People of parish</i> |
| 4th Sunday of ordinary time | 10.00 am | | <i>Sr. Clare DDL</i> |

Dear Parishioners,

This current week is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which comes to a climatic end on Monday with the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. I thought I should say something about Christian unity which was one of the major themes of the second Vatican Council. It is clear from the scriptures that Jesus founded only one Church which was to teach “everything I have commanded you” and prayed that his disciples should be one. He also gave Peter a special role calling him “Rock” and giving him the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Keys are a symbol of an office which is to be passed on to his successors. In the early Church we see that people would come to Rome to check out that what they were doing was in conformity with the Church in Rome under its Bishop, the successor of Peter.

In this Sunday’s Gospel we hear Jesus starting his ministry and saying “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the Gospel”. It was important for the Church to define more clearly what belief in this Good News entailed and so we get the development of the Catholic Creeds, one of which we recite every Sunday. More recently we have the spelling out in great detail of the content of the creed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The history of Christianity is full of splits, the most important of which is the East/West split forming what are often called the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. This split was more to do with misunderstandings and political disputes. The Orthodox Church, breaking away from Petrine authority had to develop a new way of understanding authority and did so by basing it on the authority of ecumenical councils. However there were disputes as to which councils you accepted. Broken from Petrine authority they tended to become very nationalistic and under the thumb of the secular authority.

We tend to be more familiar with the Protestant “churches”, a new phenomenon which did not arise until the 16th century. These rejected the whole concept of the Church founded by Christ and instead saw the Bible as their sole authority. This was new a new and self-contradictory teaching. Without the Church there is no Bible because the Church defined what books were to make up the Bible. Also the Bible contradicted their teaching (sola scriptura) because it was nowhere to be found in the Bible. With everyone reading the Bible and making of it what they will, Protestantism

split up and split up into the multiplicity of “churches” some forming denominations, others especially today, forming independent evangelical churches.

The second Vatican Council recognised that many people had been brought up in these Protestant “churches” and had not rejected the Catholic Church as their founders had done, and often had a great love for the scriptures and for the person of Jesus. The Council affirms this saying that there are “elements of sanctification and truth outside the Catholic Church” but also that these elements “impel towards Catholic unity”. In fact, these elements are not restricted to Christians, they can be found amongst Jews, Muslims and other religions as well as amongst all people of good will.

We know that Jesus prayed that his Church should be one and that these divisions cause scandal. This week we pray for that unity and recommit ourselves to work for greater understanding and that we open our eyes to all the goodness in people around us.

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

Fr. Stephen Pimlott

Next weekend there will be a second collection for **Racial Justice Collections last Sunday**

Sacred Heart First collection £117.92

Pax Christi £89.56

St. Joseph’s First collection £85.10

Pax Christi £40.50

CATHOLIC BIBLICAL FEDERATION on line Conference Friday 22nd January at 5 pm. See [Catholic Biblical Federation | Catholic Biblical Network \(c-b-f.org\)](#)

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC BIBLE SUMMIT There are a large number of speakers who will have recorded their talks and you can access any of them at any time free from 11-13 February. For more information and to register go to [The Word 2021, International Catholic Bible Summit \(cardinalstudios.org\)](#)

YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL organised by the Kenelm Youth Trust. See [Young Adult Social - KENELM YOUTH TRUST](#)

Parishioners who are care givers or work in the mental health sector

Mini retreat for care givers in the midst of the COVID pandemic. Prepared by Ben Bano at Welcome Me As I Am, a scripture based reflection every day for a week (see attached). For more info visit <https://www.welcomemeasiam.org/resources/resources-for-carers>

The Christian Heritage Centre are offering a couple of webinars (13th Feb & 13th Mar) to support Catholics (and indeed Christians) who work in the mental health sector.

Link to the event page is <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/spirit-mind-body/>, as well an attached flyer.

Marriage Enrichment Worldwide Marriage Encounter - Online Marriage Enrichment Experience with Bishop David Evans, January 30th-31st 2021. An opportunity for couples to enrich their relationship, regardless of the length of time they have been together. Couples can explore their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage. To find out more visit <https://wwme.org.uk/> or call 0845 2602016

Marriage support for those experiencing difficulties Is lockdown and living in a time of so much uncertainty affecting your relationship? Are you more stressed, silent or arguing a lot? Have you reached a point that you are considering separating or divorce? Help and support is available. Retrouvaille (<https://www.retrouvaille.org.uk>) offer a virtual weekend programme (25th-28th Feb 2021) that may help. For more information or to speak to someone in confidence call or text 07887 296983 / 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

[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 has finished for the time being and will start up again in Lent moving to the New Testament. I hope many more people will join in then.

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

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 Nora O'Connor recently departed.

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

Third Sunday of Ordinary time

(Jonah 3: 1-5 1Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark1: 14-20

Change of lifestyle

Jonah the prophet and Jesus call us to repent, to a change of lifestyle. When we married there was a radical change in our lifestyles. He became husband, she became wife and together we became a flesh and blood 'sacrament of marriage'. This is our continued call to each other - live a new life of love in the Lord.

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 [COVID-19: guidance for the safe use of places of worship - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship) (www.gov.uk)

USEFUL WEBSITES

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv> For access to many streamlined Masses in UK & Ireland

<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/>

[Lust is Boring on Apple Podcasts](#)