



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

LENT 1

21st February 2021

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday Sunday vigil	11.00 am	6.00 pm	<i>Thomas & Madge Moore</i> <i>People of Parish</i>
Lent 1	10.00 am		<i>Joe Phalen</i>
Monday Chair of St. Peter		Noon	<i>Bp Brian Noble</i>
Tuesday			<i>Vivienne Boylan</i>
Wednesday	10.00 am		<i>Catherine O’Shea</i>
Thursday			<i>People of Parish</i>
Friday Day of abstinence CAFOD Fast Day	9.30 am		Funeral Mass for Kenneth Brown
Saturday Sunday Vigil	11.00 am	6.00 pm	<i>Maura Green</i> <i>F. Pat Joyce</i>
LENT 2	10.00 am		<i>Julie Gallagher</i>

Dear Parishioners,

Lent has now started and on this first Sunday of Lent we hear the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness, this year from St. Mark’s Gospel. At first sight we seem to be short-changed. It is very brief and does not mention the specific temptations we hear in Matthew and Luke’s Gospels. The Spirit drives him out into the wilderness where he is tempted by Satan for 40 days. The opening of St. Mark’s Gospel is like a triptych, that is a three panelled picture. On the left we see John Baptist preaching repentance and saying that someone is coming after him whose sandals he is not worthy to stoop down and undo. In the centre we see Jesus being baptised and coming up out of the water with the Spirit descending like a dove and the voice of the Father saying “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”. Then on the right we have Jesus being tempted by Satan in the wilderness.

There are just a few details about the temptation and they are very significant. First Jesus is driven or thrown out by the Spirit into the wilderness. It suggests to the catechumen preparing for baptism that his baptism is going to bring about something tumultuous. Far from being something blissful and easy this Christian life is going to throw him into turmoil and bring many doubts especially in its early stages. But notice it is the Spirit that causes this to happen!

Then we hear that Jesus was with the wild beasts and the angels looked after him. This recalls the Garden of Eden when man and the beasts were in perfect harmony with one another and with God. When Adam & Eve were cast out cherubs were posted to guard the way to the tree of life so that man could not enter and eat its fruit and so live for ever. Jesus will now bring us to the tree of life, which we shall gradually learn as we read the Gospel is the Cross and its fruit is the Eucharist. This is the goal of our Lenten journey and, of course, of LIFE itself.

Do don’t miss out. Keep a good Lent and come to Easter truly renewed.

Please participate in our Bible Study on Monday evenings. Register now.

God bless you all and keep you safe for eternal life and keep praying for one another.

Fr. Stephen Pimlott

Next weekend there will be the **CAFOD** Lenten Family Fast Day second collection.

Collections last Sunday

Sacred Heart First collection £141.40

Pro-Life £121.80

St. Joseph's First collection £21.00

Pro Life £46.30

OUR NEW ON-LINE BIBLE STUDY of St. Mark's Gospel starts on Monday 22nd February at 7 pm. I hope many people will join in. Please contact George on 07870 153066 or at georgeswisoba@live.co.uk to register. You have to register to get in.

WALK WITH ME booklets and calendars for Lent are still available. Please take some and give them to others asking them to "walk with you" during Lent.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE started on started on Ash Wednesday with prayer outside the Abortion Clinic in Kings Norton 8 am – 6 pm Monday - Friday. Please pray for the protection of all pregnant women and their children every day, perhaps by saying a Divine Mercy chaplet.

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 is offering another webinars on 13th March 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 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

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.

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

(Genesis 9:8-15 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15)

'Wilderness' can be a reality in our marriage relationship at times, a kind of 'desert experience': hungering for a gentle touch or return of the closeness in our relationship. Yet, we can look back on such times and recognise the Spirit was at work. God's grace was in our yearning, calling us to choose life and turn away from self-indulgence.

First Sunday of Lent

We hunger for closeness

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship)

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](#)