



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 5

21st March 2021

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday Sunday vigil	11.00 am	6.00 pm	<i>Rachel Jackson & Derek Davis</i> <i>Catherine Shermans</i>
Sunday Monday	10.00 am 10.30 am		<i>Tom Kennedy</i> Funeral Mass for Glenna Miller
Tuesday National Day of Reflection	6-7 pm	10.00 am	Funeral Mass for June Dowling Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday			<i>Dennis Seery</i>
Thursday Solemnity of the Annunciation	10.00 am	12 Noon	<i>Bridie Giffney</i> <i>Madge O’Grady</i>
Friday Day of abstinence		12 Noon	<i>Anne Ashmore</i>
Saturday Sunday Vigil (Clocks change tonight)	11.00 am	6.00 pm	<i>Vincent Overy & family</i> <i>Pat Wall</i>
PALM SUNDAY	10.00 am		<i>People of parish</i>

Dear Parishioners,

Can I draw your attention to the on-line Youth Alpha (see below). It is for people 14+ and starts this Thursday 18th March. Bit short notice, but if you miss the start I expect you can still join in. Please bring it to the attention of any young people you know.

On Tuesday this week we “celebrate” the anniversary of the first lock-down. Boris Johnson has declared it to be a National Day of Reflection with a minute’s silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8 pm. The Bishops of England and Wales have filled this out by asking us to make it a Day of Prayer and to have our churches open for exposition. I am therefore going to have Sacred Heart Church open from 6 pm - 7 pm that evening. I attach the Bishops’ statement and I am sure you will also be able to pick it up of the Diocesan website.

Last week I told you about the Easter Triduum and published the times. We can keep it publicly but somewhat reduced, so the ceremonies will be quite short. For those of you who are not able to attend in person, the Bishops are asking you to attend on line with your own Diocesan Bishop, in our case at St. Chad’s with Archbishop Bernard. Go to St. Chad’s website or the Diocesan website for details. You can also “attend” the Chrism Mass on-line. This year most of the priests are having to do this.

On Thursday this week we have the Solemnity of the Annunciation of our Lord, one of the greatest feasts of the year and the beginning of our salvation. It is, of course, exactly 9 months before Christmas. It is a day to get to Mass if you possibly can.

It is now time to make your confession before Easter. It is one of the precepts of the Church that we should make our confession before/at Easter. I shall be available after the Saturday & Sunday Masses in the undercroft at Sacred Heart for this. Alternatively you can phone me and make an appointment. We can’t use the confined space of the confessional.

Next Sunday 28th March is Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week. It is also the weekend that the clocks change. They go forward an hour so it seems like getting to Church an hour early.

The Gospel this Sunday is about the Greeks who wanted to “see Jesus”. Jesus says the his “hour” has come and likens it to a seed dying in the ground so as to germinate and grow to bear a harvest. This hour is going to be the time when Jesus is glorified, not in the way the world would think of glorifying someone, but by his being lifted up on the cross. He will then “draw all men to myself”. He now draws us into Holy Week for us to participate in the paschal mystery of our salvation to be set free to live life to the full in the Kingdom of God even now in the nastiness of the present age. Thanks be to God.

Do join us on Monday evenings at our on-line Bible Study of St. Mark’s Gospel at 7 pm. Register by contacting George on georgeswisoba@live.co.uk . These are continuing through Holy Week and Easter.

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

Fr. Stephen Pimlott

Collections last Sunday

Sacred Heart First collection £217.97

St. Joseph’s First collection £46.12

HOLY WEEK The Easter Triduum will take place at Sacred Heart Church with abbreviations called for by Covid regulations.

Maundy Thursday 7.30 pm (no procession or watch)

Good Friday 3.00 pm (no individual veneration of the Cross)

Holy Saturday 8.00 pm (no Easter fire, procession or carrying of candles)

CONFESSIONS BEFORE EASTER After Mass on Saturdays & Sundays downstairs at Sacred Heart or by appointment.

LENTEN ALMS The Archbishop is suggesting that you might like to give your Lenten alms to St. Chad’s Sanctuary which helps refugees and asylum seekers. See [St. Chad's Sanctuary](#)

Youth Alpha Series on line Youth Alpha is a 12-week series that makes it easy to create a space where young people are excited to engage in conversations about faith. We ask ourselves so many different questions every day and sometimes we need to explore the bigger questions. Join the Alton Castle Alpha Team for a fun, lively and engaging way to explore faith and meet new friends. Starting this Thursday, March 18th 7.30pm - 8.30pm. Why not invite young people at home, school or your parish age 14+ to [register now](#) or [click here to watch the trailer!](#)

OUR NEW ON-LINE BIBLE STUDY of St. Mark’s Gospel started last Monday. 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.

The National 2021 Census takes place this Sunday 21st March. It is important that everyone completes it. You are required by law to do so and the information the government gets from it helps them in its planning for the future. If you are having any difficulties about this please consult with Fr. Stephen. There are quite a lot of resources to help especially if English is not your first language.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE started on started on Ash Wednesday. 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](#)

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, Bill Marron.

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

(Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:7-9 John 12:20-33)

Love is called to be unconditional, not 'counting the cost', not 50/50, but both giving 100%. Today's Gospel reminds us a rich harvest is only possible when a single wheat grain falls on the ground and dies. Our loving efforts, trials and difficulties in marriage are ways of 'dying' to a lifestyle contrary to what God is calling us to.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Unconditional love

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/government/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](#)