



**Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston**

Parish Priest: Mgr. Timothy Menezes

Telephone (0121) 230 6211

Email [sacredheart.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sacredheart.bham@rcaob.org.uk) Parish Website: [www.sacredheartaston.com](http://www.sacredheartaston.com)

Welcome to the Sacred Heart & St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church. If you are visiting us for the first time we wish to welcome you and your family and hope that you enjoy your visit.

**Mass Times & Intentions**

Epiphany of the Lord (Year B)

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 12.30pm – Mick Carlton**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 10.15am – Peter McKernan**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 5.00pm Reception into Church Esther Mary Knight McSweeney**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 12.15pm Funeral Mass Esther McSweeney**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 12.30pm – Johnnie McManus

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 10.15am – Peggy Breen & Elaine McGlynn

**Offertory Collection**

**23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> December £189.62**

**Prayers for those who have died:**

Fr Sean Turley, Fr Paul Lomas, Fr Chris Greany Jenifer Cummings, Esther McSweeney, Noreen Fowler, Hugh Gunn, Ronnie Williams, Ann Walsh

**Prayers for members of our parish community who are sick or housebound:**

John McManus, Andy Walsh, Bernadette Harnett, Clem Murray, Julie Bartram, Mary Cartridge, Paul Craig, Rob Badland, Robert Mee, Linda Lawton, Margaret Armstrong, Patricia O’Gorman. John Pender

**Funeral Details for Ronnie Williams**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 12 Noon.

**Second Collection next weekend 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> January is for Pax Christi who work on behalf of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference. Please visit the website [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)**

Birmingham Irish Heritage Group meet this Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm at the Sacred Heart Club  
All welcome and tell your friends.

**Tea & Talk – The group will meet again this Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 12.00 – 2.00. Why not come and join us, bring a friend - you will be made very welcome.**

**Hymn Books** - If you would like to sponsor one of the new hymn books in memory or in honour of a loved one, please speak to Father Tim, Teresa or Marie. For each hymn book you sponsor a bookplate will be placed inside and a commemorative certificate given to the sponsor as a keepsake. You can sponsor as many hymn books as you wish. The suggested donation to sponsor a single hymnal is £10.00. THANK YOU!

Message from Father Tim .....

*Dear Parishioners and Friends,*

*As we begin this new year, and the Christmas Season draws to a close. We have a short period of Ordinary Time before the Season of Lent (which begins quite early this year!) But it is a good time to consider what place prayer and the life of faith can play in our daily routines.*

*The Church is still in the midst of the Synodal Process led by Pope Francis. The Holy Father understands that in order to move forward, the Church must be open to change.*

*We as clergy and parishioners must also recognise that the Church of today might look different from what we have known before. What is our response? Despondency and despair – or trust in the God who always walks with us?*

*Perhaps the most urgent prayer for the year ahead is Prayer for Vocations. Let us pray that our own parish may produce priests for the future. Without priests, we cannot have the Eucharist, or the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.*

*Best wishes and prayers,*

*Fr Tim*

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February is **Ash Wednesday** when we begin our Lenten journey together. During these 40 days we are remembering the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert, the temptations he experienced there and his time of prayer and fasting. Lent is a time for each of us to become more deeply aware of our faith and a time to deepen that faith by practical actions. During this penitential season, as we journey with Christ so we embrace a period of penance, prayer and works of charity, as we make our way with Christ towards Holy Week and then journey onwards towards the great joy of the Resurrection and all that Easter brings. During Lent we try to choose ways once again to help us to walk more fully in the footsteps of Christ as we seek to recommit ourselves to living as He lived and as we seek to love God and our brothers and sisters more deeply. We do this through the three ancient remedies of Fasting, Almsgiving and Penance. Ancient remedies which can be life enhancing and that can help us to live more authentically our Christian vocation.

### **2024 – A year of Prayer in preparation for 2025 – a Holy Year of Jubilee.**

Our Diocesan Office for Mission has a webpage dedicated to this year as a Year of Prayer, focussing on our own experience of prayer and on the Our Father. Take some time to read more: <https://www.vocations.org.uk/year-of-prayer-2024>. Why not create a prayer plan for the coming year; praying for a different intention each day of the week.

#### **Who to contact**

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Teresa O’Gorman. She can be contacted at: [sg.sacredheart.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.sacredheart.bham@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

#### **Safeguarding Representatives:**

Teresa O’Gorman 07585 907706  
Sheila McKernan 0121 344 3028

#### **Health & Safety Representative:**

Marie Armstrong 07818 426891

*Please take this newsletter home with you*

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216