



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

Parish Priest: Mgr. Timothy Menezes

Telephone (0121) 230 6211

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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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Saturday 13th January 12.30pm – Johnnie McManus

Sunday 14th January 10.15am – Peggy Breen & Elaine McGlynn

School Mass Wednesday 17th January 9.10am – All are welcome

Funeral Details for Ronnie Williams Thursday 18th January 12 Noon.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Sunday of the Word of God

Saturday 20th January 12.30pm – Bridie O'Donnell (Eire)

Sunday 21st January 10.15am – Pauline Hatton

Offertory Collection

30th/31st December £257.01

6th/7th January £248.94

Prayers for those who have died:

Fr Sean Turley, Fr Paul Lomas, Fr Chris Greaney, Fr Sandy Brown, Esther McSweeney, Noreen Fowler, Hugh Gunn, Ronnie Williams, Ann Walsh, Michael Gallagher

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

Second Collection this weekend for Pax Christi who work on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference. Please visit the website www.paxchristi.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS - We appreciate your desire to have Masses said for your loved ones at Sacred Heart. Due to the number of requests we receive, sometimes we are unable to offer them as soon as some would like. If you would like to have a Mass Intention for your loved one sooner than we are able, we can pass on the intention to Father Mark van Beeumen in Belgium to be offered. If you have any queries or concerns please speak to Father Tim, Teresa or Marie.

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.

Message from Father Tim

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

This weekend, a letter is being read out in all of the parishes of our Deanery, which stretches from central Birmingham right out to Redditch and Bromsgrove. This letter comes as the fruit of a serious reflection by the Clergy of the Deanery on the issues facing us as a Deanery within the wider picture of the Archdiocese of Birmingham in the years ahead. But before anybody thinks 'we don't need to worry about it now', the fact that it affects the years ahead means that we must think about it now and begin to talk about it and reflect on it.

The situation in terms of numbers of priests is more critical than ever, and our engaging with this is about how much we value the Mass and the Sacraments and the Priesthood. It will come as no surprise to most people that vocations to the priesthood have been quite thin in recent years. That should not be a cause for despair, but it should make this prayer for vocations central to our prayer every day, and not randomly or somewhere else: we need to pray for priests from our own families, our own school, our own parish and from families who would see this as a blessing. The coming weeks will give us all time to consider how the Bishops' Letter and its message will affect us. Please pray also for your priests.

Best wishes and prayers,

Fr Tim

Wednesday 14th February is **Ash Wednesday** when we begin our Lenten journey together. (This falls during School Half Term this year). 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.

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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ 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

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