



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

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

## 7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> February

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 am	6.00 pm	Dan Hanlon & Noel Hanlon Mary Conlon
Sunday	10.00 am 4.00 pm		People of Parish Rosary (ring Presbytery door bell)
Monday		9.30 am	Sheila Menzil
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday		9.30 am	Baby Kaisha'rae
Thursday	10.00 am		People of parish
Friday Day of abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am 2.30 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament O'Brien family Eucharistic Service <b>Funeral Mass for Joseph Jardine</b>

## 8<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> February

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Margaret O'Reilly Cath & family
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Poor

**Please Pray for the sick;** Anne Stapleton, Bridie Murphy, Frances Goulding, Sheila O'Reilly, Marion Levell, Peter McKernan, Mary Joyce, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, May Walker, Nirosha Pathiraja, William Parish, Annie Kennedy, Joyce Johnson, Teresa Francis, Michael O'Connor, Marie Parish, Michael O'Reilly.



The collection last weekend came to £282.52.

The second collection for Racial Justice last weekend came to £170.06

Next weekend we have our **February Fiver a month** collection

Maura Lawrence's Funeral will be on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon. She will be received into Church the night before at 7.00 pm. Maura was a dedicated member of the Sacred Heart, both Parish and School. She led the choir for many years and she will be greatly missed. Please keep Maura and her family in your prayers.

Next Saturday the University of Birmingham CathSoc together with other Christians and people of other faiths will be visiting Sacred Heart Church at about 11 am. It would be lovely if some people could be around then to make them welcome. They will be visiting a number of different places of worship.

**THE QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE - A Great Adventure not to be missed** - continues this week on Thursday at 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm prompt start and will finish at 8 pm. It will take place at St. Vincent's in Nechells Parkway B7 4JY. By car you must enter through Francis Street. The course runs for eight weeks.

**(missing 9<sup>th</sup> March when St. Vincent's have their Confirmation)**

Please bring your friends. This is a really good introduction for anyone interested in the Catholic religion and will give all Catholics a better understanding to enable them to read the Bible with understanding.

**First reading Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18**

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

**Psalm 102(103):1-4,8,10,12-13**

The Lord is compassion and love.

**Second reading 1 Corinthians 3:16-23**

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.  
Alleluia!**

**Gospel Matthew 5:38-48**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'



## Reflection

Jesus wants us first of all to reject the false notion that we must relate to others only as they treat us. This would go against what he taught us by words and by example. He gives us some positive teachings on three situations: "Offer the wicked man no resistance. If one hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other. If someone takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone orders you to go one mile, go two. Give to anyone who asks and if anyone wants to borrow do not turn away". These are clearly difficult passages to interpret. We must however continue looking at them over and over again until they begin to make some sense to us. We must not stop our work until this comes to be true, to happen to us also. To understand what this section means, we must therefore try and find out what is in the mind of the person who hates us.

There are two answers we can think of.

- The first is that the person does not like us. There are things in us that he prefers not to see.
- It could also be that he likes us and there are things in us that he likes and admires but he cannot say why or how.

There must be a reason for it and it is up to us to find it. The question is what does he want, what is deep in his heart, what is his general attitude?

We then turn to the second half of the passage. Jesus starts off by saying that we need to go against the old commandment that we know and love. "You have learnt how it was said". The statement said, "you must love your neighbour and hate your enemy".

He gives three positive teachings to show how we can go against this.

The first is to "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you". In this way "we will be sons and daughters of our Father in heaven". The reason is obvious. He is kind to both people: "The sun rises on bad as well as good," "His rain falls on all alike."

He then goes on to ask the question. "If you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even tax collectors do as much, do they not? What about greetings for your brothers and sisters? Even the pagans do as much, do they not?"

Jesus' own conclusion is there, clearly stated. "Be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect". God does not link his gifts to how people feel about him. So too we must do the same to one another.

## Parish News

**SACRED HEART CHURCH ROOF UPDATE** The tenders have been received and Midland Conservation has been given the job at a price of £399,030.07. The work will begin at the end of May and should finish at the beginning of November. Since the work is outside it shouldn't affect the use of the Church in any major way.

This year the Eritrean Orthodox Easter coincides with ours. Therefore we shall be holding the whole Triduum this year at Sacred Heart. Please make sure that Holy week (9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> April) and especially the Triduum is marked off in your diary and that, if necessary, you have arranged to get time off work to attend this most important part of our Christian observance.

**ASH WENESDAY (Day of Fast & Abstinence) is 1<sup>st</sup> March. Masses will be at:**

**9.30 am in Sacred Heart school**

**2.00 pm in St. Joseph's school**

**7.30 pm at Sacred Heart Church**

**DAILY EXPOSITION.** In these days of political and economic uncertainty, it is important that all Catholics are praying for our country and that it may be protected from the schemes of the evil one. Come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Any time between 10.00 am – 5.00 pm usually in the Presbytery, or between 8.00 pm – midnight usually in the Presbytery. Sometimes it may be in the undercroft. Ring the appropriate bell or if no reply try the other one.

## What's going on in the Diocese

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE BOOT CAMP** in preparation for the **40 days for Life** which starts on Ash Wednesday, will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February in the Oratory Upper Cloister Room, 141 Hagley Road 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm. Please come along and prepare for the Spiritual warfare that we are engaged in to day.

**TAIZÉ INTERNATIONAL EVENT in Birmingham called HIDDEN TREASURE.** Young adults (16-35) are encouraged to register for the event Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017. Go to the Taizé website [www.Taize.fr](http://www.Taize.fr) and search for Hidden Treasure.

The organisers are looking for people in the local area who could put up some of the young people. Their needs are modest, just floorspace would be acceptable, plus a modest breakfast in the morning. Please let Fr. Stephen or Fr. Mark know if you think you might be able to help.

### **Music practice for Taizé prayer:**

**25th February**, St Mary's Harborne 2-4pm; **1st April**, details to be confirmed.

*Musicians, singers, anyone who is slightly interested in beginning to learn some of the Taizé chants to help lead the prayers locally are invited to attend (particularly for instrumentalists it might be useful to know who we are expecting so if you can let us know in advance that would be great, but we won't be turning anyone away!)*

**The National Novena to St. Joseph** will take place from 10 -18 March at St. Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St. Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all who support their work. You are invited to send your petitions and /or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Fr. Liam Cummins MHM, St. Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT, or email [novena@millhillmissionaries.com](mailto:novena@millhillmissionaries.com)

**PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK** 24 April for 5 nights. Flight from Birmingham. Cost £649. Contact Patricia on 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com)

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** The Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, take a group of sick people to Lourdes Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May with accommodation in the Accueil Notre Dame. They invite application from sick and disabled and aged people. It is heavily subsidised, but pilgrims would normally be asked to contribute £290. If you are interested in applying, please see Fr. Stephen.

**PILGRIMAGES TO MEDJUGORJE** 11-18 May and 14-21 Sept. both flying from Birmingham. Cost £587 (single supplement £130 insurance £30) Contact Kath Gambin on 0116 2340103.

**NATIONAL 2017 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATORY 8 DAY FATIMA PILGRIMAGE 10<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup> July £725** with Fr. Gerard Kelly and Bishop Robert Byrne. For further information contact Mrs. Brigid McKenna on 0121 429 4145. Would a group from Sacred Heart & St. Joseph's like to join this? There may be some subsidy towards it.