



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

32nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 11th/12th November Remembrance Sunday

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Andrew Dobb Peter Foster
Sunday	10.00 am	3.00 pm	John Lawrence Blessing of Graves in St. Joseph's cemetery
Monday (school)		9.30 am	People of parish Mass in St. Joseph's school
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday			No Mass
Thursday (school)	9.30 am 7.00 pm		People of Parish Mass in Sacred Heart school Reception of Bridie Murphy into Church
Friday Day of abstinence	10.00 am	11.45 am	Funeral Mass of Bridie Murphy Eucharistic Service

33rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 18th/19th November

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Gretta Slivinski Kay Healy
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Marie Victoire Badjan

Please Pray for the sick; Anne Stapleton, Sheila O'Reilly, Marion Levell, Peter McKernan, Mary Joyce, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, May Walker, Teresa Francis, Michael O'Connor, Marie Parish, William Parish, Michael O'Reilly, Julie Gallagher, Irene Nelson, Pat Hayes, Jimmy Armstrong.



The collection last weekend came to £273.61

The second collection for the Johnson Association came to £305.70

Raise the Roof Raffle: Saturday 4th November No:13 – Susan McClurr

Sunday 5th November No: 11 – J. Doyle

This Sunday our children will be playing a special part in the Mass, with readings, leading the intercessions and acting.



MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR COMPLETION OF ROOF REPAIRS
The Archbishop will be coming to Sacred Heart for a Special Mass on
Sunday 14th January at 11.00 am.

Please mark this off in your diary. More details later.

First reading Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

Responsorial Psalm 62(63):2-8

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

Second reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the hour
when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

Reflection

In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared. When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens—friends and family members of the bride—to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home. As with many of Jesus' parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week's Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel. In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realisation that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?



What's going on in the Diocese

JOB VACANCIES - RN Nurse vacancies for permanent day and night shifts at St. Joseph's Home in Harborne. Please contact Mother Kathleen or the HR Office on 0121 427 2486 for more information.

CARE Life Fertility Care offer treatment for infertility and miscarriage. There are leaflets about it at the back of church. If you know anyone needing help, please take a leaflet or visit www.lifefertilitycare.co.uk

Tabor House, Birmingham's only permanent night shelter for homeless people, has now opened. Could you volunteer as a host or mentor? Contact Christy Acton on 01675 434064 to find out more.

St. PAUL'S CONVENT are looking for a full-time General Maintenance Assistant, 40 hours a week. Rate of pay £8 -£9 an hour. See notice in church for further details. Contact 0121 415 6100.

Sixth Form Open Evening at St. Edmund Campion Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre on Thursday 16th November at 6.30 pm.

Parish News

CIVIC MASS on Sunday 26th November at St. Chad's at 11 am. We need two people to represent our parish at this Mass. If you would like to be our representative, see Fr. Stephen about it this weekend.

REDWEDNESDAY – STAND UP FOR FAITH AND FREEDOM, 22 NOVEMBER 2017 Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) are asking parishes to join the ACN's #RedWednesday campaign this year to Stand Up for Faith and Freedom in solidarity with Christians and others who are persecuted for their faith. On Wednesday 22nd November (Feast of St Cecilia), ACN is inviting UK Christians to wear an item of red clothing/red vestments and churches/secular buildings (where possible) to light up red to shine a light on the nature and scale of persecution today. St Chad's Cathedral will be participating in this campaign. The prayers and the involvement of your parish will be a significant act of solidarity and witness – especially for Christians, who feel that the world is indifferent to their suffering. For more information and to pledge your personal support please go to www.acnuk.org/redwednesday.

BEING A CATHOLIC A course has started on the Catholic faith both for those adults who would like to become Catholics and to help those who are already Catholics to get a more adult understanding of the faith. It continues each week on Monday at 3.45 pm in Sacred Heart School in Earlsbury Gardens. The sessions will finish at 5 pm. Please come and bring your friends.

BLESSING OF GRAVES at St. Joseph's cemetery will take place this Sunday 12th November at 3.00 pm.

PLANNING A FUNERAL There are some forms available at the back of the Church to help you plan your funeral, so that your appropriate wishes may be respected by your next of kin.

Sehion UK ministry originates from Sehion Retreat Centre in Attapadi, Kerala. Under the direction of Fr. Soji Olikkal, it commenced in the UK in 2009. There are various different ministries conducted by Sehion that you can participate in such as:

Second Saturday Convention - Every 2nd Saturday of the month from 8am - 4pm at Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, B70 7JW (including a Rosary procession, Holy Mass, Confession, talks, spiritual sharing, testimonies, praise and worship and Eucharistic Adoration).

Bible Sharing Class - Every Tuesday here at 85 Prestbury Road from 8pm - 10pm. For further details, please visit the Sehion UK website at www.sehionuk.org

SOME ONLINE RESOURCES: CHURCHPOP Have a look at the website <https://churchpop.com/> . It contains all sorts of material of a Catholic nature set out in a fun way. Something for all the family to enjoy. **Wordonfire.** <https://www.wordonfire.org/> Bishop Robert Barron. **Catholic Answers** www.catholic.com. **Strangenotions.** <https://strangenotions.com/> **Rational Evangelisation** <https://www.magiscenter.com/>

KINGDOM WARRIORS Young adults are invited to join our young adults group called the Kingdom Warriors. They meet each Tuesday at 6.30 pm at St. Vincent's Church in Nechells Parkway, B7 4JY for Lectio Divina. At present they are studying St. Matthew's Gospel.

Sacred Heart School Community Lunch Club has begun again on Tuesdays. It is intended for members of the community, especially for those living alone, who would welcome the opportunity to meet with others for a tasty cooked lunch and a social activity. Lunch is served at 12.00 pm, and usually consists of a cooked main course and dessert. Members are asked to pay just £4.00 towards the costs of the food. Please call the school on 0121 356 4721 for more details or to book a place.