



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

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9th August 2020

Dear Parishioners,

This Saturday it is exactly a year since Jim Maguire died. Not only was he a loyal member of Sacred Heart Church, but he was also a great witness to the faith in the local area and in his days as a bus driver. We remember him faithfully ringing the bell before Mass and at the elevations. We shall pray for him this Saturday at the 11 am Mass which will be a Requiem for the Repose of his soul. It would be good if we could have the bell rung regularly before the Masses! Any volunteers?

This Sunday’s Gospel follows on from the miracle of the loaves. Jesus made his disciples get into the boat to go ahead to the other side while he goes up into the hills to pray. The disciples have a hard time because there is a headwind and Jesus comes to them walking on the water. The disciples are terrified, but Jesus says “Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.” These events signify what the life of a disciple is like. Having fed on the bread of life, we are sent out at the end of Mass, members of the Church united with our Lord. However life is not easy. We soon encounter difficulties. Jesus seems to have deserted us. We are struggling. Then at the critical moment Jesus appears. We see him in his divine reality walking on the water. “I am! Do not be afraid.” In St. Matthew’s Gospel we see Peter saying “If it is you, Lord, tell me to come to you across the water.” “Come” says Jesus. Peter gets out and starts walking on the water, but then sees the force of the wind and becomes afraid and when he does that he begins to sink. He cries out “Lord! save me!” Jesus stretches out his hand and holds him. “Man of little faith, why did you doubt?” The wind drops and they get into the boat. All the disciples in the boat bow down before Jesus and say “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

Peter’s faith at first seems extraordinary. “Tell me to come to you across the water”. That may be a reference to baptism. But as soon as Peter takes his eyes off Jesus and starts to look at the things of this world he begins to sink. None the less he does cry out to Jesus. This is how the Christian pilgrimage is. The great faith as we first embrace it and are baptised, but then we begin to doubt and to put our trust in the things of this world. We cry out to Jesus as we find ourselves sinking and through the Sacrament of Reconciliation are restored. “Truly you are the Son of God”. We find that the Christian life has this pattern as we grow in holiness and the likeness of Christ. Peter was right that, united to Christ in baptism, we share his divine life and can do the things that only God can do. We need to constantly renew that faith. That is why Jesus has given us the Sacraments.

Next weekend 15th/16th August is the Solemnity of the Assumption of our Lady. Because it falls on a Saturday it transfers to the Sunday. We shall keep it at all the weekend Masses.

I attach a call to **Fast & Pray** on Friday this week for the end of abortion and euthanasia. There are different ways you can do this and the attached poster explains it all.

Finally can I encourage you and especially families to start coming back to Mass. The blessings of the sacrament are so great and we have room in church to accommodate quite a few more while still socially distancing and taking all precautions.

May God bless you all

Fr. Stephen Pimlott

Masses now on Saturdays

11 am at Sacred Heart

6.00 pm at St. Joseph's

On Sundays

10.00 am at Sacred Heart

I am able to hear some confessions before the Mass on Saturdays in the Sacristy maintaining social distancing.

MASS INTENTIONS Fr. Stephen has run out of Mass intentions. If you would like said for a particular intention, please let Fr. Stephen know either by email or phone. You can give him the stipend later. Mass cards are available for purchase at church. See Fr. Stephen for these.

ORDER THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE OR THE CATHOLIC TIMES NEWSPAPER:- you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to

www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you.

SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :-£18.00 or 12 Months:- £72.00

Bible Study Group now meets on Skype on Mondays at **7.00 p.m.** If you would like to join it, please contact Shirley on 07562754382. It is a good time to join because we are just starting 2 Samuel. All are welcome.

EWTN is broadcasting what it calls EWTN essentials which is a continuous devotional broadcast with the Mass every 2 hours. Get it on the free EWTN app.

Please Pray for the sick; Mary Levell, Peter McKernan, William Parish, Julie Gallagher, Anne Robinson, Maura Greene, Jimmy Armstrong, Pat Davis, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, Andy Walsh, Michael Brennan, Alex McClure, Phil Robinson.

CORONAVIRUS For the Church's guidelines see the Conference of Bishops website

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk> or go to [gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public)

USEFUL WEBSITES <https://www.mcnmedia.tv>

<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/>

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.

DAILY EXPOSITION and the English Prayer Time are suspended during the Corona virus pandemic. To check on any further details phone Sr. Meena on 0795 7342742.

MARRIAGE MATTERS www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(1 Kings 9:9, 11-13 Rom 9:1-5 Matt 14:22-33) *Walking on water....falling through fear*

Peter got out of the boat but, with fear of sinking, he took his eyes off Jesus. Life today is like travelling in a small boat on the rough sea of secularism that mocks religion and seeks to end traditional marriage. Life's storms can change into a gentler breeze when we get out of our boat and walk with Jesus.