



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston
Parish of St. Joseph's Nechells

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Pimlott

Telephone (0121) 327 0235

sacredheartaston@hotmail.com

website www.sacredheartaston.com

Safeguarding Representatives:

Sacred Heart – Teresa O’Gorman 07585907706 & Sheila McKernan 0121 344 3028

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Home Mission Day

20th September 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It was lovely that we were able to have a little party in the Presbytery garden after Mass for Julie’s birthday. The weather was perfect and we were able to abide by all the regulations. It was just in time before these new restrictions. Please pray for Julie. She is in a lot of pain and on morphine, but always keeps a brave and cheerful face.

This little bit of late summer gives us a little cheer, but the new lockdown rules for us in Birmingham are very restrictive to normal life. However they do not effect our Masses which can continue (with the same restrictions we are becoming used to). The outlook is all very depressing with signs that things are going to get much worse and no light at the end of the tunnel.

I think it is time that I should reflect on how we should cope especially if this is going to continue for some time yet. To live and not fall into deep depression, we have to have hope. Hope is seeing into the future and knowing that all will be well. We can divide it into short, medium and long term hope. Short term hope means that we can make short term plans about what we shall be doing over the next few days. Long term hope is seeing our final goal, which is the beatific vision, to see God and share his glory in heaven. Usually we have medium term vision knowing with reasonable accuracy what will be happening to us over the next few years. Normally that is very important for us, but at the moment for many people it is obscured and possibly very frightening and we are not able to do anything about it. Many people, who don’t have faith, live their lives with just short term and medium term vision and if one of those goes they are lost. However as Catholics the long term vision is a central part of what it means to be a Catholic. Every Sunday as we gather at the altar, we look forward to the time “when Christ will come again”. So it is possible for us to still live life filled with hope and joy with just the short and long term visions. Holding onto the long term vision more clearly, we need to live carefully in the present.

Our spiritual discipline becomes even more important as we live our lives in the present. The routine of prayer and Bible and spiritual reading is essential and physically coming to Mass while we can needs to be adhered to “religiously”. We are so fortunate to have so many resources on line to help us, but the heart is an open and living relationship with our Heavenly Father who loves us with a Father’s love.

In our Monday on line Bible study (why not join us?) we read David’s last instructions to Solomon. “Be strong and show yourself a man. Observe the injunctions of the Lord your God, following his ways and keeping his laws, his commandments, his ordinances and his decrees..... so that you may be successful in everything you do and undertake, and the Lord will fulfil the promise he has made...” It may not sound very romantic, but in dark days it is it is even more important to listen to the commandments of Jesus and live by them, to love our Heavenly Father and our neighbours as ourselves.

In the Sunday Gospels over the last couple of weeks we saw what to do when someone offends us and the need to forgive. This week is about the corrosive effect of envy – thinking other people are getting a better deal than we are. The fact of super rich people in the world today often feeds

BIRMINGHAM JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY 2020: THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY: LISTENING TO THE 'CRY OF THE EARTH AND THE CRY OF THE POOR'. This year the Assembly will take place ONLINE, with one-hour sessions over three evenings at 7.30pm: Monday 28 September, Wednesday 30 September, Friday 2 October and culminating with an Evening Prayer with the participation of Archbishop Bernard on Sunday 4 October at 7pm. Sessions include: Ecological Conversion – an 'examination of conscience' on our care for our common home; Prepare the Future – building back better to address the climate emergency; and Local Government Responsibilities – planning for the West Midlands. For more information and to book go to <https://bit.ly/JPasssembly2020> or email bham.jandp@gmail.com

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, William Parish, Julie Gallagher, Anne Robinson, Maura Greene, Jimmy Armstrong, Pat Davis, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, 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

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 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Isaiah 55:6-9 Phil 1:20-24, 27 Matt 20:1-16) *'My thoughts are not your thoughts'* God can put thoughts into our minds, but how can we ensure these make a difference to our lives? St Paul says, "Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the Gospel of Christ": for example, the need to measure what we contribute within the relationship. Our Sacrament isn't a 50/50 arrangement but a 100%/100% unconditional commitment.

Feasts and Memorials this week

Monday	St. Matthew, Apostle
Tuesday	Feria
Wednesday	St. Pio of Pietrelcina
Thursday	Our Lady of Walsingham
Friday	Feria
Saturday	Ss. Cosmos & Damian