



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

LENT 2

28th February 2021

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday Sunday vigil	11.00 am	6.00 pm	<i>Maura Green</i> <i>F. Pat Joyce</i>
Lent 1	10.00 am		<i>Julie Gallagher</i>
Monday St. David		Noon	<i>Patrick Collopy</i>
Tuesday			<i>Stephen, Jenny & Iris Marsh</i>
Wednesday	10.00 am		<i>Frances Goulding</i>
Thursday			<i>People of Parish</i>
Friday Day of abstinence	11.30 am		Funeral Mass for Inez Bennett
Saturday Sunday Vigil	11.00 am	6.00 pm	<i>Nora O’Connor</i> <i>Joe Wall</i>
LENT 3	10.00 am		<i>Vivienne Boylan</i>

Dear Parishioners,

On this second Sunday of Lent with Lent still stretching out ahead of us for some time, we hear about the Transfiguration of Jesus, this year from St. Mark’s Gospel. Peter has just made his great profession of faith and then Jesus starts to explain what it is for him to be the “Christ” and how he is going to suffer grievously, be rejected, put to death and rise on the third day. Peter cannot take this and starts arguing with him “not so, Lord”. Then Jesus says those chilling words to him “Get behind me Satan! Because the way you think is not God’s way, but man’s”. Satan was getting a wedge in between Peter’s will and God’s will, something he is to try to do unsuccessfully with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus goes on to teach his disciples that if anyone wants to be his follower he must renounce himself, take up his cross and follow him. This is not easy stuff. Although we are familiar with these words, we balk at rejection, suffering and death as some thing we must do. Now Jesus wants to give his disciples some encouragement to keep them going. He allows Peter, James and John to see him with Elijah & Moses and to hear the voice of the Father saying of Jesus “listen to him”.

God gives us encouragement when we really need it. I wonder why it was only those three disciples who were vouchsafed this extraordinary experience. Perhaps it was because he doesn’t want us to be pursuing extraordinary spiritual experiences. We can so easily substitute such experiences in the place of God. Jesus wants us each to have a profound relationship with God. The other disciples received their encouragement indirectly through Peter, James & John. We normally receive the encouragement we need to follow Jesus from those around us, from other disciples. It is good to remember that. Spectacular religious experiences are not needed to be a faithful follower of Christ, but obedience to the Word of God.

In all three of the synoptic Gospels the account of the Transfiguration is very similar. One small difference in St. Mark’s Gospel is its emphasis on the whiteness of Jesus’ clothes rather than some supernatural brightness emanating from Jesus. Bear that in mind and look out for someone wearing white clothes as we continue the Gospel.

Do join us on Monday evenings at our on-line Bible Study of St. Mark’s Gospel on Monday evenings. Register by contacting George on georgeswisoba@live.co.uk .

I also attach some Stations of the Cross which you might like to use at home either individually or better as a family. We traditionally do these devotions in Lent.

The Parish accounts for 2020 are now published. If you would like a copy, let me know saying which parish you want.

God bless you all and keep you safe for eternal life and keep praying for one another.

Fr. Stephen Pimlott

Second Collection this weekend for **CAFOD**

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the **Cathedral maintenance**

Collections last Sunday

Sacred Heart First collection £152.56

St. Joseph's First collection £41.65

OUR NEW ON-LINE BIBLE STUDY of St. Mark's Gospel started last Monday. I hope many people will join in. Please contact George on 07870 153066 or at georgeswisoba@live.co.uk to register. You have to register to get in.

SERVERS You are invited to the Guild of St. Stephen's annual Mass of thanksgiving livestreamed from St. Chad's with Bishop William Kenney next Saturday 6th March at 10.00 am. Go to www.stchadscathedral.co.uk for access.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE started on started on Ash Wednesday with prayer outside the Abortion Clinic in Kings Norton 8 am – 6 pm Monday - Friday. Please pray for the protection of all pregnant women and their children every day, perhaps by saying a Divine Mercy chaplet.

YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL organised by the Kenelm Youth Trust. See [Young Adult Social - KENELM YOUTH TRUST](#)

Parishioners who are care givers or work in the mental health sector

Mini retreat for care givers in the midst of the COVID pandemic. Prepared by Ben Bano at Welcome Me As I Am, a scripture based reflection every day for a week (see attached). For more info visit <https://www.welcomemeasiam.org/resources/resources-for-carers>

The Christian Heritage Centre is offering another webinars on 13th March to support Catholics (and indeed Christians) who work in the mental health sector. Link to the event page is <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/spirit-mind-body/>, as well an attached flyer.

Marriage support for those experiencing difficulties Is lockdown and living in a time of so much uncertainty affecting your relationship? Are you more stressed, silent or arguing a lot? Have you reached a point that you are considering separating or divorce? Help and support is available. Retrouvaille (<https://www.retrouvaille.org.uk>) offer a virtual weekend programme (25th-28th Feb 2021) that may help. For more information or to speak to someone in confidence call or text 07887 296983 / 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

2021 DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES are now available. £2.75. Ask Fr. Stephen.

Please Pray for the sick; Mary Levell, William Parish, Anne Robinson, Maura Greene, Jimmy Armstrong, Pat Davis, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, Michael Brennan, Alex McClure, Phil Robinson, Mona Recci, Mary Cartridge, William Marron.

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.

MARRIAGE MATTERS www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk

(Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 Romans 8:31-34 Mark 9:2-10)

Sometimes we can be overwhelmed by each other's generous sensitivity, thoughtfulness and kindness which have helped us grow in confidence to share our deepest feelings, fears and joys. Let us try this week to find ways of growing in that confidence and trust so that in our relationship we radiate God's joy through the way we love each other.

Second Sunday of Lent

Free to be ourselves

ON-LINE RETREATS FROM BELMONT ABBEY There are some interesting options here. God to <https://www.belmontabbey.org.uk/online-retreats/register> for more information and to register.

CORONAVIRUS For the Church's guidelines see the Conference of Bishops website <https://www.cbcew.org.uk> or go to [COVID-19: guidance for the safe use of places of worship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship)

USEFUL WEBSITES

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv> For access to many streamlined Masses in UK & Ireland

<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/>

[Lust is Boring on Apple Podcasts](#)