



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 3

7th March 2021

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday Sunday vigil	11.00 am	6.00 pm	<i>Nora O'Connor</i> <i>Joe Wall</i>
Lent 1	10.00 am		<i>Vivienne Boylan</i>
Monday			<i>Bernie Christy</i>
Tuesday St. Frances of Rome	10.00 am		<i>Martin (for miracles)</i>
Wednesday			<i>John McLoughlin</i>
Thursday			<i>Nora O'Connor</i>
Friday Day of abstinence		12 Noon	Fr. Pat Joyce
Saturday Sunday Vigil	11.00 am	6.00 pm	<i>Kitty McManus</i> <i>Patrick Delaney</i>
LENT 4	10.00 am		<i>People of the parish</i>

Dear Parishioners,

These three Sundays, the 3rd, 4th, & 5th of Lent are the most powerful of the year. In cycle A we hear the Samaritan woman at well, the man born blind and the resurrection of Lazarus. These readings are used not only in Year A, but also whenever there are catechumens for baptism at Easter and there is the option to use them in any year. We have heard them most years since I have been here, but this year since there are no catechumens we shall use the Year B readings. They likewise come from St. John's Gospel and are the cleansing of the Temple (John 2:13-25) Nicodemus coming to Jesus by night (John 3:14-21), and the Greeks saying they would like to see Jesus (John 12:20-33).

In John's Gospel the cleansing of the Temple comes right at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in his first year. Jesus makes a whip out of some cord and drives the people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons out of the Temple and upsets the money-changers tables saying "stop turning my Father's house into a market". The Jews then say "What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?" Jesus answers "Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up". The evangelist then tells us that he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body.

By driving out the people selling the sacrificial animals and overturning the money changers tables, Jesus' action symbolised the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple (which took place in 70 AD) and the end of the Mosaic sacrificial cult which had now served its purpose. The Mosaic covenant was about to be fulfilled by the New Covenant sealed with the blood of Jesus, and the New sacrificial rite of the Mass (this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many) in the Church which is his Body. What Jesus is doing is fulfilling the scriptures. Through baptism we enter into this new covenantal people and participate in the Body of Christ and the mission of the Church.

Lent is the time in which we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at the Easter Liturgy on Holy Saturday night. Through our Lenten discipline, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we learn to turn away from worldly things, the things of the market place, and dying to self to live in Christ. With Covid, never has this been so clear to us.

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.

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 **Cathedral maintenance**

Collections last Sunday

Sacred Heart First collection £152.25

CAFOD £179.45

St. Joseph's First collection £65.21

CAFOD £66.81

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 this Saturday 6th March at 10.00 am. Go to www.stchadscathedral.co.uk for access.

Please pray for the Holy Father on his visit to Iraq this weekend (5th-8th March)

The National 2021 Census takes place on 21st March. It is important that everyone completes it. You are required by law to do so and the information the government gets from it helps them in its planning for the future. If you are having any difficulties about this please consult with Fr. Stephen. There are quite a lot of resources to help especially if English is not your first language.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE started on started on Ash Wednesday. 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 webinar 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.

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, Bill 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
(Exodus 20:1-17 1Corinthians 1:22-25 John 2:13-25)

Third Sunday of Lent

God's love is our strength

Let us remind each other constantly that our marriage is as unique and as special to God today as it was when we first married. We are blessed with a love that transforms ordinary everyday events into something quite different and special. Our faults and weaknesses become our strengths if we strive to love one another as God loves us.

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](#)