



**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 4**

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

| Day                                   | Aston           | Nechells       | Intention  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| <b>Saturday</b><br>Sunday vigil       | <b>11.00 am</b> | <b>6.00 pm</b> | <i>Kitty McManus</i><br><i>Patrick Delaney</i>                       |
| <b>Lent 1</b>                         | <b>10.00 am</b> |                | <i>Marie Parish's mother</i>   |
| Monday                                |                 | <b>Noon</b>    | <i>Marion Cowden</i>   |
| Tuesday                               |                 |                | <i>Vivienne Boylan</i>   |
| Wednesday <b>Feast of St. Patrick</b> | <b>10.00 am</b> |                | <i>Rosalyn Burrows</i>   |
| Thursday Vigil for St. Joseph         |                 | <b>3.00 pm</b> | <i>Patrick Houston</i>   |
| Friday <b>Solemnity of St. Joseph</b> | <b>10.00 am</b> | <b>12 Noon</b> | People of parish<br>Patrick & Catherine O'Neill                      |
| Saturday<br>Sunday Vigil              | <b>11.00 am</b> | <b>6.00 pm</b> | <i>Rachel Jackson &amp; Derek Davis</i><br><i>Catherine Shermans</i> |
| <b>LENT 5</b>                         | <b>10.00 am</b> |                | <i>Tom Kennedy</i>   |

Dear Parishioners,

This week, in addition to St. Patrick's Day on Wednesday we have the Solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of Mary and Patron of the Universal Church on Friday. This year has been designated the Year of St. Joseph so it is extra special this year in addition to him being patron of our Church in Nechells, so do try to get to Mass or if it is not possible to attend somewhere on-line. It is a Friday this year but since it is a Solemnity, this Friday is not a Day of Abstinence. You can eat meat!

This Sunday is mid-Lent Sunday often called Laetare Sunday or Refreshment Sunday and gives us a little "let up" from our Lenten austerities before we go into the second half and Holy Week.

We need to be thinking seriously about our Easter Confession. For many people it has been a long time since their last Confession amongst other things because of the difficulties caused by Covid. We still cannot use the Confessional so I shall be available for Confessions downstairs after Mass on Saturdays and Sundays at Sacred Heart where we can be socially distanced. If that is difficult for you, phone me and make a special appointment.

We are getting the rules for keeping Holy Week. The good thing is that we can keep it publicly this year, but the ceremonies will be greatly simplified and much shorter than usual without any processions or the Maundy Thursday watch.

The Archbishop is giving us a Pastoral letter this weekend, so let me give a short reflection of the Gospel here. It is John 3:14-21. Nicodemus has come to Jesus by night. This may be because he is afraid, but at another level it may indicate something which was common for Rabbis with their disciples when they wanted to talk to them about the most holy things. One to one at night signified the most holy of all. Therefore we are being allowed to listen in on something really important. Jesus in the earlier part of the chapter starts by saying that unless one is born again by water and the Holy Spirit one cannot see the Kingdom of God. Nicodemus, a teacher of Israel, interprets this literally. How can a man enter his mother's womb and be born a second time? Jesus gradually moves him onto heavenly things, to look "up" to the Son of Man "lifted up" as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness and then he moves on to what is perhaps the best known verse in the Bible, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever

believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” It is by looking at Jesus lifted up on the Cross that that we come to know God’s judgement. As we do that we are able to come out of the darkness into the light. “Whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.” It is through our good works that we witness to truth, and are truly disciples of Christ. All our Christian life is a response to the love of God for us and for the whole world. With that confidence we can acknowledge our sins and so draw closer to him.

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](mailto: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

### **Collections last Sunday**

Sacred Heart First collection £194.09

St. Joseph’s First collection £76.14

**Cathedral Maintenance** £124.62

**Cathedral Maintenance** £54.70

**St. JOSEPH’S DAY** See above for the Masses. This is the Year of St. Joseph’s. Here is a talk on him you might like [Lust Is Boring | Episode 38: Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Virgin \(chastity.com\)](#)

**HOLY WEEK** The Easter Triduum will take place at Sacred Heart Church with abbreviations called for by Covid regulations.

Maundy Thursday 7.30 pm (no procession or watch)

Good Friday 3.00 pm (no individual veneration of the Cross)

Holy Saturday 8.00 pm (no Easter fire procession or carrying of candles)

**CONFESSIONS BEFORE EASTER** After Mass on Saturdays & Sundays downstairs at Sacred Heart or by appointment.

**LENTEN ALMS** The Archbishop is suggesting that you might like to give your Lenten alms to St. Chad’s Sanctuary which helps refugees and asylum seekers. See [St. Chad’s Sanctuary](#)

**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](mailto:georgeswisoba@live.co.uk) to register. You have to register to get in.

**The National 2021 Census** takes place on 21<sup>st</sup> 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](#)

**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](http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

(2Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23 Ephesians 2: 4-10 John 3: 14-21) *Called to be a ‘sign’*

The world often ridicules marriage saying ‘it’s just a piece of paper’, but Scripture draws attention to God’s powerful message. St. Paul says: “*We are God’s work of art; created in*

*Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning He had meant us to live it.” Let us shine out so the world sees what it’s missing.*

**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/government/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](#)