

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Mass Time Sunday 9.30am.

Sunday 1st January 2017 – Solemnity of Mary. The Mother of God

'They found Mary and Joseph and the baby. When the eighth day came, they gave him the name Jesus.'

Pope's Prayer Intention. Christian Unity. 'That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.'

Father Frank. God wants us to experience the tender love of Mary, our mother, just as we know the love of our Heavenly Father. Jesus gave countless gifts to humankind but the final gift he gave us, when he was dying on the cross, was Mary, his own mother. The love that this good mother bears us is so great that as soon as she perceives our want, she comes to our assistance. We need only show Mary the wounds of our souls and she immediately helps us by her prayers and consoles us. That is why Pope Leo XIII wrote: "Such is Mary's greatness, so powerful is her favour with God, that not to have recourse to her in times of need is like trying to fly without wings."

Saints and Feast Days of the Week. St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen (2nd), St Raymond of Penyafort (7th).

"Thank you for your generous offerings, gifts and cards. Once again, I have very much appreciated the prayerful preparation for, and celebration of, Christmas at Blessed Robert Grissold. I am especially grateful to all those who attended the Advent meditations, talks and discussions. I hope, that like me, you experienced the mutual support and prayers of your brothers and sisters in Christ helpful in getting ready to receive the God who comes to us in Christ. Thank you, to all of you, for the many different ways in which you contribute, throughout the year, to the life of the community at Blessed Robert Grissold. With all good wishes for 2017." Fr Frank

Father Frank is on his post-Christmas break from Monday. There will be a Eucharistic Service this Tuesday.

We welcome Fr Christopher Greaney to Blessed Robert Grissold next Sunday when he will celebrate the Mass of the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. From Wednesday, 11th January Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Meditations and silent prayer will follow the 7.00pm Mass, finishing at 8.00pm with Benediction.

Collection 18th December. Loose plate £218.54, Envelopes £73.50, Standing Orders £355.00, Total **£647.04.**

Candle of Dedication. The candle is lit this week for Baby Clara.

Candle of Dedication for 2017. The diary for 2017 is now available at the back of the church. Our candle of Dedication next to the statue of the Sacred Heart, is lit anew each Sunday and burns for a week (Sunday to Saturday) in remembrance of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for a special occasion. The Dedication is included each week in our bulletin. Donation offers of £5 are suggested. You can request a Dedication by completing the details on the special envelopes at the back of the church and also filling in the name on the dates in the diary. These can be handed to one of the wardens or Anne Stewart.

Get-together. This Wednesday, 3rd January. Meet at 12 noon in the parish room for a buffet lunch. All welcome.

Youth Group. Coming up in 2017 a new churches together youth group will start. It will be on alternate Sunday nights for year 7 and older and starts on 15th January. It is being run jointly between the churches and will involve a mix of games, discussion and cake. *Kathryn Driffield* and *Claire Keane* are involved from our parish so please have a chat with them if you want to get involved.

Your prayers are asked for those who are sick and their carers: Monica Pillow, Lily Mae Carr, Mary Keane, Consuelo Ramon, Denise Hamilton, Sister Maria Goretti, Joseph Lockington, Brian Kenny, Canon Peter Taylor, Kevin Lambert, John Aitken, Helen Hopkins, Heather O'Connell, Vincent Webb, Dave & Ian, Teresa Petropoulos, Ian Gibbs, Becky Hulme, Frances Carroll, Sarah & Martin Dunne, Cat Patton-Kennedy, Beryl Mound, Father Pat Sayles, Jonathan Ridler, Sister Teresa Moore, Kevin O'Donnell, Mary Murray, Adele Rudd, Anthony O'Reilly, Marjorie Lee, Anne Santos, Louis Loughran, Linda Hatton, Leonardo Byrne, Eileen Innes and Sue Wolverson (*friend of Ann Dodd*).

Anniversaries: Annama, Leo Fullbrook, Austin Griffith, Athlene O'Connell, Michael Simpson, Bernard Ward, Frederick Woodhouse.

This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	1 st January	8 th January
Day:	Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Celebrant:	Fr Frank Smith	Fr Christopher Greaney
Intention:	Margaret Bixby RIP	Adrienne Fletcher RIP
Altar Servers:	Team A	Team B
Wardens:	Kevin & Sue McGovern Madeleine Peat	Bysshe & Judith Gibbs Helen Woods
Readers:	Maureen Carroll & Nuala Fulham	Mary Sharp & Rachel McDermot
Eucharistic Ministers:	Monica Green Sue McGovern & Madeleine Peat	tba
Counting:	John Perry & Nuala Fulham	Charles Keane
Tea & Coffee:	Not today	Selby Family & Chris Mitchell
Cleaning:	Christina Plater & Nuala Fulham	Louis Perry & Monica Green
Flowers:	Kathy Jones	Maureen Carroll
Children's Liturgy:	Holiday	tba
Music:	Kathryn Green	Instrumental Group

Tuesday, 3rd January 10.00am Eucharistic Service

Parish Room: *MUST be booked with Louise Perry* – Tel 01676 533357.

Contributions for the Bulletin: *Godfrey Chesshire* is currently compiling the newsletter. Please send items to godfreychesshire@btinternet.com or call on 01676 532352 by 7.00pm on Wednesday.

Priest: *Revd Father Frank Smith* Tel: 07512 100908 Email: frankj.smith55@yahoo.co.uk

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity No. 234216 www.brgparish.org.uk