

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

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

Sunday 2nd April 2017 – Fifth Sunday in Lent – Year A

'I am the resurrection and the life'

Pope's Prayer Intention: Young people - 'That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life'.

Father Frank: Next week marks the beginning of Holy Week - the most important week in the Church's calendar. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. During Holy Week we celebrate the Easter Triduum, comprising the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday evening). These sacred liturgies shine forth as the high point of the Church's year. The Paschal Triduum is at the heart of all that it means to be the Church and we owe it to ourselves as Christians to be present at these key moments in the life of the worshipping community, for the sacred mysteries, which we celebrate on these three days, are the axle on which the rest of the liturgical year turns.

Collection 26th March: Loose plate £92, Envelopes £83, Standing Orders £355.00, Total £ 530.00

Activities in Lent: In order to help us to prepare prayerfully for Easter there will be Stations of the Cross on Tuesday mornings after Mass at 10am. Also, there will be Lent talks on the Eucharist after 7pm Mass on Wednesdays. The course is open and accessible to all, wherever you are on your Christian journey. (Please bring a Bible if you can). We begin with coffee at 7.30pm and finish before 9pm. Also there will usually be a Mass at 7pm on Thursdays followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and meditations on the spiritual life, finishing at 8.00pm with Benediction.

Meditations before the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays in Lent continue to reflect on the writings of Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan who in 2000 Pope John Paul II chose to preach a course of Spiritual Exercises for himself and the Curia. Archbishop Van Thuan majors on "hope" in his addresses - a hope that he discovered during his 13 years imprisonment for his faith, nine of which were spent in solitary confinement. In this Wednesday's meditations Van Thuan reflects on how the Church must continue the mission of Christ to a suffering and lost world. In our prayerful stillness and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar we can be empowered to go in peace to glorify the Lord by our life. All welcome.

Easter Cards are now on sale at the back of church. All proceeds to HCPT.

Balsall Common Christian Youth Group meets tonight for years 7 and above, 6.30-7.45pm. This week it is Blessed Robert Grissold's turn to host and the activities will include making bath bombs, games and cake! Please speak to Claire Keane/Kathryn Driffield for more information. The Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Churches Together Lenten Breakfasts are being held on Saturday mornings in Lent rotating round the Churches. Please see notice board or speak to Louise or John Perry for more information.

School Bus Service: Solihull MBC is currently consulting on proposals to cut the school bus service that connects Balsall Common to St George & Teresa, St Peter's and Arden Schools. This will have a negative long term impact on the ability of children from Balsall Common to access the Borough's Catholic Schools (as well as increasing car journeys, congestion and pollution). We would urge parishioners to respond to the Council's consultation either on-line at <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation> or in writing to either School Transport, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull B91 3QB or via email edtrans@solihull.gov.uk. The deadline for comments is 28th April.

Cakes for the Columbans: Cake will be available after Mass every Sunday in Lent - a joyful and enjoyable way of giving the seasonal alms. All donations will go to support the Columban's missionary work. Thanks for the cakes already offered. If you would like to contribute cakes, please see Sara Stevens.

Get-together: Next meeting is this Wednesday April 5th at 11am. We will meet at Maureen Carroll's house, 14 Arden Close, Balsall Common for tea, coffee and cakes.

Mother & Toddler Group: The parish is trying to set up a Mother & Toddler Group, probably on a Friday morning. If anyone is interested please speak to Maria Pulley (Tel: 07799 431573).

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, 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, Marjorie Lee, Anne Santos, Louis Loughran, Linda Hatton, Leonardo Byrne, Ellie Clarke, Lucy Knifton, Jean O'Reilly, Jim Slattery.

Anniversaries: Margaret Ruddy, Rose Carolan, Hanna Sheehan, William Greenwood, Patrick Commins, Carol Kelly.

This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	2nd April – 9.30am	9th April – 9.30am
Day:	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	Anna-Marie Higgins (RIP)	Delia Murray (RIP)
Altar Servers:	Kathryn, Hannah & Laura	Tom, Ethan & James
Wardens:	Chris Burleigh, Christine Horner & Christina Plater	Ian & Fran Lester and Alan Devoy
Readers:	John & Louise Perry	Maureen Carroll & Nuala Fulham
Eucharistic Ministers:	Maureen Carroll, Nuala Fulham & Eileen Selby	TBC
Counting:	Kevin & Sue McGovern	Maureen Carroll and Jean Henser
Tea & Coffee:	Cheshire Family	Byshe and Judith Gibbs
Cleaning:	Chris & Margaret Burleigh	Christina Plater & Nuala Fulham
Flowers:	None in Lent	None in Lent
Children's Liturgy:	Louise Perry & Claire Keane	Monica Green & Jane Devoy
Music:	Linda Cheshire	Instrumental Group

This week's services

Date:	Tues. 4th April	Wed. 5th April	Thurs. 6th April	Friday 7th April
Time:	Mass 10am Followed by Stations of the Cross.	Mass 7pm followed by Lent talks.	Mass 7pm followed by Exposition, Meditations and Benediction	Mass 10am Mass of the sacred Heart
Intention:		Vocations	Maureen Carroll	

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

Contributions for the Bulletin: David Green is currently compiling the newsletter. Please send items to david.monica@btopenworld.com or call on 01564 775155 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