

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

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

Sunday 5th March 2017 – First Sunday in Lent – Year A

'Jesus fasted for forty days and the tempter came'

Pope's Prayer Intention: Support for Persecuted Christians - 'That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church'.

Father Frank: Holy Week and Easter are the climax of the Christian liturgical year. The time of the Passion and Resurrection is preceded by Lent, a lengthy period of preparation for these saving and illuminating mysteries. Lent is a time of penitence. It is a time for us to examine our conscience and seek reconciliation with the Lord. Lent is also a time for spiritual growth and enlightenment. In Lent we are invited to listen, and respond, ever more faithfully to the voice of God. Lent also commemorates Israel's liberation from slavery in Egypt and their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Lent relates this to our own spiritual journey, to our liberation, our pilgrimage, our feeding on divine manna and of our meeting with God. And, as we see from today's Gospel, Lent also recalls the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert during which he contended with Satan, the tempter. And our Lent must be a period of fighting against temptation. From this one can see that Lent is a very rich, a very deep mixture of elements which serve to purify and enlighten us. During the time of Lent the Church leads us towards the radiant glory of the Paschal feast. The more serious our Lenten preparation has been, the deeper we shall enter into the mystery of Easter and gather its fruits.

Saints and Feast Days of the Week: Ss Perpetua and Felicity (7th), St John of God (8th), St Frances of Rome (9th).

Collection 26th February: Loose plate £51.70, Envelopes £73, Standing Orders £355.00, Total £ 479.70

Cathedral Maintenance: There will be a 2nd Collection today for the Cathedral Maintenance.

'Walk with Me' Lenten Booklets are still available at the back of Church. £1 donations please in the pot.

Activities in Lent: In order to help us to prepare prayerfully for Easter there will be Stations of the Cross on Tuesday mornings in Lent. Also, there will be Lent talks and discussions on the Eucharist. We will meet after the 7.00pm Mass on Wednesday evenings, beginning, Wednesday 8th March. 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 9.00pm. Also during Lent, there will be a Mass at 7.00pm 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. This week Van Thuan reflects on the significance of Jesus being crucified "outside the walls" of Jerusalem. In our prayerful stillness and reflection before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar we can be present to the God who goes "outside the walls" in order to show his solidarity with all those who are excluded or marginalized. His love and salvation are for all. All welcome.

Millennium Breakfast: After Mass today, with usual breakfast offering, all welcome so please join us. (See below).

Columban Centenary Altar Cloth: To coincide with today's parish 'breakfast' for Fr. Ed O'Connell, the Columban missionaries invite members of the parish to add their names to an altar cloth that is being created for their centenary year in 2018. The altar cloth is being taken to places of special significance to the Columbans in Britain. This invitation will be extended at the end of Mass, when you are invited to join in saying the following prayer:

Jesus, you came among us as a pilgrim. We gather here today to honour all the pilgrims who have followed in your footsteps. We remember the Columban missionary pilgrims who answered your call and left a mark in this place, especially Fr. Ed O'Connell; We thank you, O Lord, for lighting this world through their presence and work. Amen

Becky Hulme - Becky's family would like to express their sincere thanks to Father Frank and parishioners for all their recent prayers and support.

Baptism - We pray for Henry Joseph Wilson Ramsay, who was baptised here yesterday, for his godparents, family and friends, that together they will grow into the fullness of life in Christ.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day is Friday, 10 March 2017: A message from CAFOD “Florence is a hard-working mother who is devoted to her family. A few years ago, she was only just making enough to feed her family. However, CAFOD’s partner, the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, recognised how determined Florence was to stand on her own two feet and so they gave her 500 tiny fish, tools and training to build a pond and farm fish. By selling some of the fish at market, Florence was able to give her children a future – she was able to send them to school”. Please support this Lent Fast Day, to ensure more people like Florence can turn tiny fish into something amazing.

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, Sue Wolverson, Ellie Clarke, Lucy Knifton, Jean O’Reilly.

Anniversaries: Honor Kenny, Patrick Manion, Mary Britt, Margaret Smith, Joan North, Fr. Christopher Thornton.

This Week’s Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	5 th March – 9.30am	12 th March – 9.30am
Day:	First Sunday of Lent	Second Sunday of Lent
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	Joyce Bartram (RIP)	Peter Doyle (RIP)
Altar Servers:	Mathew, Daniel and Jacob	Kathryn, Hannah and Laura
Wardens:	Kevin and Sue McGovern and Madeleine Peat	Bysshe & Judith Gibbs and Helen Woods
Readers:	Dominic Green & Ciaran McSorley	Mike Fairbrother & Ian Clarke
Eucharistic Ministers:	Monica Green, Teresa Green and Eileen Selby	Joe Martin, John and Louise Perry
Counting:	Charles Keane & Gerry Biggs	Veronica and Skuli Thorvardson
Tea & Coffee:	Madeleine Peat & Nuala Fulham	Louise Perry & Ann Dodd
Cleaning:	G&L Chesshire & Claire Keane	Mary Sharp & Ann O’Brien
Flowers:	None in Lent	None in Lent
Children’s Liturgy:	Monica Green & Celine Burley	Kathryn Driffield and Monica Green
Music:	Linda Chesshire	Linda Chesshire

This week’s services

Date:	Tues. 7 th March	Wed. 8 th March	Thurs. 9 th March
Time:	Mass 10am Followed by Stations of the Cross.	Mass 7pm followed by Lent talks.	Mass 7pm followed by Exposition, Meditations and Benediction
Intention:		Becky Hulme (RIP)	Carol Beck (Intention).

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

More Notices

Lenten dates for your diary: why not take one or more of these up for your preparation for Easter ?

- Tuesdays in Lent - 10 am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross.
- Wednesdays in Lent - 7pm Mass followed by talks/discussion on the Eucharist.
- Thursdays in Lent - 7pm Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Meditations, silent prayer and Benediction at 8pm – echoing the pattern of worship on Holy Thursday.
- First Fridays in Lent - 10 am Mass of the Sacred Heart.
- Lent Fast Day for CAFOD - Friday 10th March.

Balsall Common Christian Youth Group meets tonight for years 7 and above at St. Peters 6.30-7.45pm. Please speak to Claire Keane/Kathryn Driffield for more info. The Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Pancake Extravaganza: On Sunday 19th March, after 9:30 mass, the men of the parish will provide a pancake breakfast (as a change to the usual bacon butties). A variety of toppings will tantalize your taste buds, so put the date in your diary and come along to support the event!

Confirmations: could parents of children from Year 5 up interested in making their Confirmation contact Fr. Frank to register interest. Instruction would start from September with the ceremony itself in the early part of 2018.

100 Club: Subscriptions for 2017 are now due. Chris Burleigh will be available after Mass. The cost is £15 for the year, with the chance to win £75, £45, or £30 each quarter. Last year the 100 Club contributed £645 towards church funds.

Warwick Deanery Evangelisation Team: Next meeting for the Deanery is tomorrow, Monday 6th March 7.30pm in the upper Davenport Room, St Peter's Centre, Dormer Place, Leamington. It is hoped that each parish will be represented to help with the planning for the year including the Fatima Centenary celebration at St Peter's on 13th May.

Churches Together Lenten Breakfasts are being held on Saturday mornings in Lent rotating round the Churches. Our Parish is hosting on 25th March. Volunteers needed. Please see notice board or speak to Louise or John Perry for more information.

Spring Fayre: This will be held on Sat 1st April 1- 3.30pm. There is a list at the back of the church for helpers. We also require donations of Easter Eggs, Bottles, Unwanted Gifts, Good Quality Handbags, Good Quality Bricabrac, Cakes and Preserves. These can be left in the box at the back of the church or dropped directly to Tracey McAtamney at 86 Meeting House Lane (Tel: 01676 532940).

Group 83 HCPT The Pilgrimage Trust Amazon Wish list: This year there is a new way you can support Group 83 as they prepare for the annual Easter visit to Lourdes. They have opened up an 'Amazon wish list'! These are items identified for this year's trip which supporters can buy for the Group. If you would like to buy something off the list go to <http://amzn.eu/hgeB513>, choose an item and either have it sent to the group leader direct or to you for passing on through Maureen or Louise. Thanks for your support.