

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

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

Sunday 8th January 2017 – Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

'We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.'

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. Today, with the holy Church of God throughout the world, we celebrate the great Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany means "manifestation" and it was made manifest to the Magi, who were led from afar by a bright star, that Jesus came, not just for the people of Israel but for everyone. This feast draws us away from the temptation to confine the mystery of the Christmas celebration to our own private world and interests. For the Church, Epiphany is a call and a challenge to never become narrow and inward-looking but to remember that, as the baptised, our vocation is to be a light for all people.

Saints and Feast Days of the Week. Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (9th), St Aelred of Rievaulx (12th), St Hilary (13th).

We welcome Father Christopher Greaney to Blessed Robert Grissold today to celebrate Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. On Wednesday evenings, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Meditations and silent prayer will follow the 7.00pm Mass, finishing at 8.00pm with Benediction. Why not be still and silent in the presence of Christ in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar? We so need silence in our busy, noisy lives, especially if we are to listen to the Holy Spirit within - then the Holy Spirit inspires us and fills us with his love. This is what it meant when it says in Holy Scripture that the Holy Spirit prays within us in sighs too deep for words. All welcome.

Parish Pastoral Council. Our first parish council meeting for 2017 is being held on Thursday, 19th January at 7:30 pm in the Parish Room when we will be planning our programme for the year. We would be delighted to have some new members please come and join us and give us your views and support.

Collection 1st January. Loose plate £55.05, Envelopes £76.00, Standing Orders £355.00, Total **£486.05**.

Christmas Giving Tree. Many thanks for those who gave gifts. Altogether there were 57, of which 29 for Children. These were sent to Father Hudson's Care at Coleshill. The others were distributed among the local housebound, the sick & elderly of our Parish by our young people and in some cases their parents. A big and sincere thank you to all who did this. It was greatly appreciated.

Candle of Dedication. The candle is lit this week for the People of the Parish.

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 **Bridget Harrison or Ann Ostler**, if not, one of the wardens.

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.

Anniversaries: Joan Applin, John O'Reagan, Edward Sheehan.

Lately dead: Tudor Davies (village resident).

This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	8 th January	15 th January
Day:	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Celebrant:	Father Christopher Greaney	Father Frank
Intention:	Adrienne Fletcher	Frank Clements RIP
Altar Servers:	Team B	Team C
Wardens:	Bysshe & Judith Gibbs Helen Woods	Joe Martin Ann Ostler & Chris Mitchell
Readers:	Mary Sharp & Rachel McDermot	Bob Jones & Stefan Hunka
Eucharistic Ministers:	Carol Beck Joe Martin & Eileen Selby	Mike Fairbrother Charles Keane & John McLellan
Counting:	Charles Keane	Veronica & Skuli Thorvardardson
Tea & Coffee:	Selby Family & Chris Mitchell	Margaret & Chris Burleigh
Cleaning:	Louise Perry & Monica Green	Godfrey & Linda Chesshire Claire Keane
Flowers:	Maureen Carroll	Maureen Carroll
Children's Liturgy:	Kathryn Driffield	tba
Music:	Instrumental Group	Linda Chesshire

This week's services

Date:	Tuesday 10th January	Wednesday 11th January	Thursday 12th January
Time:	10.00am Mass	7.00pm Mass	10.00am Mass
Intention:	Marion Fraser RIP	Sister Rita Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Meditations until Benediction at 8.00pm	Thomas Gallagher

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 godfreycheshire@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