

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

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

Sunday 12th March 2017 – Second Sunday in Lent – Year A

'His face shone like the sun'

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: Today in the Gospel we hear how the apostles Peter, James and John were given a glimpse of Christ's glory on the Mount of the Transfiguration - the same glimpse of glory that we are all given when we gather for the Mass, for in and through the sacred mysteries of the Eucharist we ascend to the heavenly places where, with Angels and Archangels and all the host of heaven, we worship the Beloved Son of God who sits at the right hand of the Father. God, the Holy Spirit, gathers us into the cloud of his glory. We listen to him in the scriptures. We feed on him in the Sacrament of the altar. No wonder the disciples "kept silence." "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here."

Saints and Feast Days of the Week: Dementia Prayer week, St Patrick (17th), St Cyril of Jerusalem (18th).

Collection 5th March: Loose plate £70, Envelopes £97, Standing Orders £355.00, Total £ 522. 2nd collection for Cathedral Maintenance £ 71.80. Thank you.

Candle of Dedication: The candle is lit this week for Maureen and Joe Martin (RIP).

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 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. This week Van Thuan reflects on the abandonment and suffering of Jesus on the Cross and what it means for us in those time we suffer and feel abandoned. In our prayerful stillness and reflection before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar we can find healing and peace and be present to the God who, though he may be hidden, never abandons us. All welcome.

Dementia Prayer Week "During this week we remember especially the often forgotten pain of those suffering with dementia, and those who care for them." Bishop David McGough. Prayer cards available at the back of the church.

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

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.

Millennium Breakfast: Thank you to everyone who came to the Breakfast last week. We hope you all enjoyed the chatter with friends and meeting new parishioners. Everyone was very generous and we raised £200 which will be sent to help Fr. Ed. O'Connell in the shanty towns of Peru.

Pancake Extravaganza: Next 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!

Spring Fayre (Sat 1st April 1-3.30pm) Urgent Help Needed: We still need various items for our Spring Fayre so can we ask all parishioners to try and bring some items to sell. After Mass we will be giving out plastic bags and would be grateful if these can be filled with items for the Fayre and brought back to the Church next week or dropped directly to Tracey McAtamney at 86 Meeting House Lane (Tel: 01676 532940). Items needed include Easter Eggs, Bottles, Unwanted Gifts, Good Quality Handbags, Good Quality Bricabrac, Cakes and Preserves. Thank you for your support. There is a list at the back of the church for helpers.

Parish Council: The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 23rd March at 7:30 in the Parish Room. All welcome.

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.

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: John Perry (Snr.), Jack Utteridge, Peter Doyle, Kathleen Casey, Maureen Martin, Marjorie Fullbrook, Sean Collins, Tom Murray.

Recently died: Sue Wolverson.

This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	12th March – 9.30am	19th March – 9.30am
Day:	Second Sunday of Lent	Third Sunday of Lent
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	Peter Doyle (RIP)	Eileen Innes (RIP)
Altar Servers:	Kathryn, Hannah and Laura	Tom, Ethan and James
Wardens:	Bysshe & Judith Gibbs and Helen Woods	Joe Martin, Ann Ostler and Chris Mitchell
Readers:	Mike Fairbrother & Ian Clarke	John Peat & Bysshe Gibbs
Eucharistic Ministers:	Joe Martin, John Perry and Carol Beck	Carol Beck, Godfrey Cheshire and Madeleine Peat
Counting:	Veronica and Skuli Thorvardson	Ciaran McSorley & Bernard Hammond
Tea & Coffee:	Celine Burleigh & Bridget Harrison	Selby Family & Chris Mitchell
Cleaning:	Mary Sharp & Ann O'Brien	Chris Mitchell & Eileen Selby
Flowers:	None in Lent	None in Lent
Children's Liturgy:	Kathryn Driffield and Monica Green	Claire Keane and Kathryn Driffield
Music:	Linda Cheshire	Instrumental Group

This week's services

Date:	Tues. 14 th March	Wed. 15 th March	Thurs. 16 th March	Fri. 17 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	Mass 10 am
Intention:	Fr Christopher John Thornton (RIP)	Edith Mainwaring (RIP)	Becky Hulme (RIP)	Feast of St Patrick

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@bopenworld.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