

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

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

Sunday 15th January 2017 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A 'Peace Day'

'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.'

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. In today's Gospel we see how John defends the true faith against the error of the Baptist sect who mistakenly believed that the Baptist was the Messiah. John insists that he is but a witness to Jesus, the true light of the world - he is not that light. He is the first of many witnesses to the truth of Christ and later in the Gospel Jesus tells his disciples that when they receive the Spirit of truth, "you too will be my witnesses." And that is the charge we have received through our Baptism - we too are called to witness to the truth of Christ. Through our baptism in the Holy Spirit, we are challenged to lead others to the person of Christ.

Saints and Feast Days of the Week. St Antony (17th), St Wulstan (19th), St Agnes (21st).

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. At the beginning of this new year the meditations will focus on "hope." The French poet, Charles Peguy says: "The faith that I like the most is hope." Why not be still and silent in the presence of Christ in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar and the glorious hope that he brings? All welcome.

Parish Pastoral Council. Our first parish council meeting for 2017 is being held on this 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.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Churches Together Service will take place next Sunday, 22nd January at 4.00pm in St Peter's Church.

Collection 8th January. Loose plate £85.85, Envelopes £54.50, Standing Orders £355.00, Total **£495.35**.

Wednesday Meditations. I thought it would be good to start the new year on a hopeful note so the meditations before the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays will be taken from the writings of Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan. In 2000 Pope John Paul II chose this Vietnamese Archbishop to preach a course of Spiritual Exercises for himself and the Vatican staff. Archbishop Van Thuan majors on "hope" in his addresses - a hope that he discovered during his 13 years' imprisonment, nine of which were spent in solitary confinement. The hope he discovered in Communist prisons, where he was incarcerated for his faith, is also hope for the Church and the world. Faced with any darkness, we have a reason for confidence and that reason is Christ our Lord, the Hope of the world.

Candle of Dedication. The candle is lit this week for John Hughes.

Churches Together Youth Fellowship Group. The first session will be held at the Methodist Church hall this evening from 6.45 until 7.45. All secondary school students of any faith will be very welcome. The session on 2nd April is going to be hosted by Blessed Robert Grissold and we are hoping that some of the BRG adults will come along to help out on the evening. Please ask **Claire Keane or Kathryn Driffield** for details.

Christmas Raffle. Thank you to all those that supported the parish Christmas Raffle this year and congratulations to those lucky enough to win one of the prizes. We raised an impressive total of £1,130 for parish funds.

Open Day at Crackley School and Nursery, Kenilworth. Tuesday 17th January. For further information, phone **01926 514444**.

Deanery Readers Day. Sat 28th January 2017, 10.30-16.30 at St Gregory's Stratford-Upon-Avon, exploring the ministry and spirituality of being a Reader. If you are interested, please phone **01926 314077**.

Friends of the Holy Land. We have been thanked for the gift of £176.84 raised at our Carol Service.

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, Joan Shields (aunt of Keith Dodd).

Anniversaries: Angela Belford, Jack Brookes, Audrey Morris, Diane Harper.

This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	15 th January	22 nd January
Day:	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	Frank Clements RIP	Joe & Maureen Martin RIP
Altar Servers:	Team C	Team A
Wardens:	Joe Martin Ann Ostler & Chris Mitchell	John Perry Maria Pulley & Kathy Jones
Readers:	Bob Jones & Stefan Hunka	John McLellan & James Green
Eucharistic Ministers:	Mike Fairbrother Charles Keane & John McLellan	Godfrey Cheshire Teresa Green & Stefan Hunka
Counting:	Veronica & Skuli Thorvardardson	Ciaran McSorley & Bernard Hammond
Tea & Coffee:	Margaret & Chris Burleigh	Cheshire Family
Cleaning:	Godfrey & Linda Cheshire Claire Keane	Mary Sharp & Anne O'Brien
Flowers:	Maureen Carroll	Christine Harris
Children's Liturgy:	Jane & Louise	Kathryn & Celine
Music:	Linda Cheshire	Instrumental Group

This week's services

Date:	Tuesday 17th January	Wednesday 18th January	Thursday 19th January
Time:	10.00am Mass	7.00pm Mass	7.00pm Mass
Intention:	Sister Terese	Sister Maria Goretti Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Meditations until Benediction at 8.00pm	Marion Fraser RIP

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

Contributions for the Bulletin: *Godfrey Cheshire* 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