

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

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

Sunday 19th February 2017 – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

'Love your enemies'

Pope's Prayer Intention: Comfort for the Afflicted - 'That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.'

Father Frank. In the Gospel today Jesus speaks of the nature of God's Kingdom which is breaking into this world even now. This is the 'perfect' life of the heavenly kingdom so we should not be surprised that his words sound strange for they are opening up to us a strange and new reality which is not of this world. This eternal life is that dimension of the kingdom which we pray will come on earth. The power and the glory of this eternal dimension of the kingdom which is breaking into our world transforms and renews all things so that discord, hatred and violence are overcome by the love and peace of Christ. It is this life of the kingdom which we see breaking into this world in the words and examples of Jesus and the saints - in the ones who 'love their enemies' and 'pray for those who persecute them.' And it is into this eternal dimension, that makes such strange new things possible, that God gathers us each time he summons us before him in the Mass. For in and through the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit gathers us and makes us one with Christ who sits at the right hand of the Father in the heavenly kingdom, so that, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of his glory.

Saints and Feast Days of the Week: St Peter Damian (21st), The Chair of St Peter (22nd), St Polycarp (23rd).

Collection 5th February: Loose plate £72.28, Envelopes £98, Standing Orders £355.00, Total **£525.28**

Becky Hulme (RIP): We pray for the repose of the soul of Becky Hulme, John and Margaret McLellan's granddaughter, whose funeral service is at 2pm on Wednesday 22nd February at Blessed Robert Grissold. We also keep Anne, Ian and Katy and all Becky's family and friends in our prayers.

Meditations before the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays 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 continues to reflect on the great blessing we have in the scriptures and the way the Word of God, and especially the Gospels, are "a lamp for our feet" and "a light for our way." In our prayerful stillness and reflection before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar we can be present to the Word who was made flesh - the Word is 'spirit and life'.

Reception into full Communion: The Wednesday talks in Lent are a chance for all us to go deeper into our knowledge and love of that sacrament which forms, nurtures and nourishes us. These talks will be especially useful for those who are considering being received into full Communion with the Church.

Bacon breakfast today after Mass. All proceeds to Parish Funds. All welcome.

Parish Finances: There will be a brief resume on last year's finances after mass today.

Choir: Choir practice will recommence today after mass. This is an ideal stepping on point for anyone who has wondered about joining the choir as we will be learning a new piece of music for Easter. All welcome!

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

- Wednesday 1st March - Ash Wednesday. Imposition of Ashes - the beginning of Lent.
- 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.

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, Joan Shields, Ellie Clarke, Lucy Knifton, Jean O’Reilly.

Anniversaries: Patrick Casey, Catherine Utteridge, Desmond Martin, Winifred Ruane, Mary Restal, Peter Doyle.

This Week’s Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	19 th February – 9.30am	26 th February – 9.30am
Day:	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	Sue Cowley (RIP)	John Coady (RIP)
Altar Servers:	Kathryn, Hannah & Laura	Tom, Ethan & James
Wardens:	Ciaran McSorley, Celine Burley & John McLellan	Godfrey Chesshire, Monica Green & Ann Crossley
Readers:	Chris Burleigh & Andrew Chesshire-Ramon	Nigel Parker & Ian Lester
Eucharistic Ministers:	Godfrey Chesshire, Mike Fairbrother & Eileen Selby	Maureen Carol, Monica Green & Stefan Hunka
Counting:	Chris Burleigh and Martin Sheehy	John Perry & Nuala Fulham
Tea & Coffee:	Charles and Claire Keane	Chris Lynn & Mary Sharp
Cleaning:	C Platter & N. Fulham	Louise Perry & Monica Green
Flowers:	Bridget Harrison	Bridget Harrison
Children’s Liturgy:	Half Term – none this week	Jane Devoy & Claire Keane
Music:	Linda Chesshire	Instrumental Group

This week’s services

Date:	Tuesday 21 st	Wednesday 22 nd February - 7pm	Thursday 23 rd February
Time:	February	Mass followed by Exposition of the	6pm Mass with the
Intention:	Mass 10am	Blessed Sacrament and Meditations	Sacrament of the Anointing
	Fred	until Benediction at 8.00pm	of the Sick
	Elkington RIP	Feast of the Chair of St Peter	

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

More Notices

Balsall Common Christian Youth Group meets tonight for years 7 and above at the Methodist church 6.30 -7.45pm. All Youth welcome. Please speak to Claire Keane or Kathryn Driffield for more information. Future dates are the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month alternating around the Churches.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered on the last Thursday of every month. All those who are challenged by their suffering in body, mind or spirit are welcome to receive this sacrament of Christ's healing. This is a practice which dates back to the earliest Church and is encouraged in scripture, where it is written: 'Are there any who are sick among you? Let them send for the priests of the Church, and let the priests pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick persons, and if they have committed any sins, their sins will be forgiven them.'

Women's world day of prayer is to be held at Temple Balsall Church on Fri 3rd March at 11 followed by lunch at 12.30 in the Old Hall. Please give your name to Louise Perry for catering purposes if you plan to attend.

Coffee Together: BRG will be hosting the next 'Coffee Together' on Sat. 4 March 10.30-12 noon in the Jubilee Centre. We are in urgent need of more helpers. Please see Louise or John Perry for more info.

Churches Together Lenten Breakfasts: are to be held on Saturday mornings during Lent at the Methodist church from the 4th March to 1st April. Each church hosts the breakfasts and Blessed Robert Grissold will be hosting on the 25th March. Volunteers needed. Please see notice board or speak to Louise or John Perry.

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. Help will be needed on:

Friday 31st March 6.00 - 7.00pm to set out tables

Saturday 1st April 10.00 - 1.00 to set up

Saturday 1st April 1.00 - 3.30 to man stalls

Saturday 1st April 3.30 - 4.30 to clear away

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. If anyone knows of any outside stalls please could they contact Tracey on 01676 532940.

100 Club: Subscriptions for 2017 are now due. If you have not yet renewed your subscription and would like to do so, Chris Burleigh will be available after Mass today, and for the next few Sundays. 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. Many thanks for your support.

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.

Forty Days for Life - Prayerful Witness: 1/3/17 – 9/4/17. Prep. launch event 26/2/17 2.30-4pm: "Spiritual Warfare Boot Camp." An opportunity to deepen your faith this Lent by coming to learn the spiritual essentials under the guidance of 7 local priests at the Birmingham Oratory. For further information see leaflets and poster at the back of Church, call on 07773 501 721 or email izzyvs@gmail.com

Inspiring Hope: Bishop Kenney shares his experience of Iraq and South Sudan and CAFOD's work there. Thursday 23rd February 7.30-9.00pm, St John the Evangelist, 25 South Bar Street, BANBURY, OX16 9AF. For further information call 01922 722944.

Legacy Leaflets are available at the back of the church inviting us to consider leaving a legacy to the Church in our wills.