

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

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

Sunday 25th December 2016 – Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

'Today a saviour has been born to you.'

Pope's Prayer Intention: 'That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.'

Father Frank A blessed and joyful Christmas to you all. At Christmas God gives us a wonderful sign of his love such as we should not have dared to hope for. How could we have expected to see a virgin with child, and to see in this child not only "God with us" but one who would descend into the depths of the earth to seek for the lost in order to ascend again to present us to his heavenly Father? Out of his great love for us he emptied himself to make himself like us in order that he might win us to himself. The Son of God was born on earth out of compassion for the human race for God is love and that love overflows outside of the Holy Trinity enabling his creatures to share in his life. In the manger at Bethlehem God offers himself to us. He discloses himself, shows us what he is like, but does not want to force us. His great power is the power of love and love wants the freedom of the beloved. In the Word made flesh God speaks and at the same time keeps silent; he knocks at the door of our hearts and awaits our response.

Saints and Feast Days of the Week. St Stephen (26th), St John, Apostle (27th), The Holy Innocents (28th), St Thomas Becket (29th), The Holy Family (30th).

Collection 18th December. Loose plate £218.54, Envelopes £73.50, Standing Orders £355.00, Total **£647.04**.

Candle of Dedication. The candle is lit this week for Ian Stewart RIP and next week for Baby Clara.

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 one of the wardens or Anne Stewart.

Christmas meditations will accompany adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 10.00am Mass on Wednesday. Meditations, silent reflection and prayer will last for half an hour after Mass finishing with Benediction at 11.00am. **The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** will be offered in the 10.00am Mass on Thursday.

Friends of the Holy Land. We raised £176 from the collection taken at the Carol service last Sunday and this will be sent to The Friends of the Holy Land to support their work. Thank you all who supported the appeal.

Parish Dinner. We have received a further donation for this event which now brings the total up to **£858.50**.

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.

Safeguarding. **Monica Green** is the new Safeguarding Representative (children and adults) for Blessed Robert Grissold, with **Louise Perry** being her deputy. A new requirement is for all children under 18 to have parental/guardian consent for their photographs to be used by the Parish, on the website, display boards in the Church or published Parish newsletters etc. Monica will be at the back of Church after Mass over the next few weeks with the relevant form. If you have any questions about this, please speak to **Monica or Louise**.

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 and Eileen Innes.

Anniversaries: Jessie Cotterill, John Farmer, Sheila Maguire, Margaret Martin, Ian Stewart, Alison Taylor, Frederick Woodhouse.

Saturday 24th December – 7.30pm Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord Intention – People of the Parish	Wardens: Altar Servers: Readers: Eucharistic Ministers:	Ciaran McSorley & Kathryn Driffield tba John & Louise Perry Nuala Fulham John McLellan & Eileen Selby
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This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	25 th December 9.30am	1 st January
Day:	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord	Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
Celebrant:	Fr Frank Smith	Fr Frank Smith
Intention:	Ian Stewart RIP	Margaret Bixby RIP
Altar Servers:	Team C	Team A
Wardens:	Godfrey Chesshire Ann Crossley & Monica Green	Kevin & Sue McGovern Madeleine Peat
Readers:	Godfrey Chesshire & Andrew Chesshire-Ramon	Maureen Carroll & Nuala Fulham
Eucharistic Ministers:	Monica Green Stefan Hunka & Joe Martin	Monica Green Sue McGovern & Madeleine Peat
Counting Rota:	Chris Burleigh & Martin Sheehy	John Perry & Nuala Fulham
Tea & Coffee:	Not today	Not today
Cleaning:	Chris & Margaret Burleigh	Christina Plater & Nuala Fulham
Flowers:	Kathy Jones	Kathy Jones
Children's Liturgy:	Holiday	Holiday
Music:	Linda Chesshire	Kathryn Green

This week's services

Date:	Tuesday 27th Dec	Wednesday 28th Dec	Thursday 29th Dec
Time:	St John, Apostle 10.00am Mass	The Holy Innocents 10.00am Mass	St Thomas Becket 10.00am Mass
Intention:	Jessie Cotterill RIP	Peter Hazelwood RIP Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with Christmas meditations until Benediction at 11.00am Followed by Advent talk and discussion	Private Intention With the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

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

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