

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

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

Sunday 26th February 2017 – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

'Do not worry about tomorrow'

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. Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. The Church orders the season of Lent to our preparation for the celebration of Easter. The forty days of Lent run from Ash Wednesday up to, but excluding, the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday. We are encouraged to participate fully in the Lenten preparation for Easter, approaching the Sacrament of Penance and making our confession during this season. Devotional and spiritual exercises, such as those listed below, can help us to 'Repent and believe in the Gospel' and assist us in our prayerful and penitential preparation for the celebration of Christ's Paschal Mystery.

Saints and Feast Days of the Week: Feast of St Chad, Patron of the Diocese (2nd March).

Collection 19th February: Loose plate £71.30, Envelopes £88, Standing Orders £355.00, Total £ 514.30

Ash Wednesday: This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is the day that we receive the imposition of ashes - a sign that we are wholeheartedly entering into the penitential season of Lent when we look to turn away from sin and return to the Gospel. It is a day of abstinence and fasting. Mass is at 7pm.

'Walk with Me' Lenten Booklets are now available at the back of Church. £1 Donations please in the pot.

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 reflects on The Bond of Perfection: the Art of Loving and reminds us that without love we do not possess God and cannot give him to others. In our prayerful stillness and reflection before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar we can be present to the God who is love. All welcome.

Confirmations: could any children from Year 5 upwards who may be interested in making their Confirmation in 2018 contact Father Frank to register their interest. It would be starting in the new academic year from September with the ceremony itself in the early part of 2018.

Parish Finances: At last week's presentation Bob emphasised the importance of keeping the offertories increasing. Many people have not increased their giving for at least three years. An extra £1/week would make a significant contribution to Parish finances. For those who can, Gift Aiding donations gives the Parish an extra 23% at no cost to the donor. Any new or existing parishioners who do not gift aid can do so by completing a simple form. Members of the Finance team will be available after mass today with forms.

Get-together: Next meeting is this Wednesday March 1st. Meet in the Parish room at 10.30am for tea, coffee, cakes and a chat. Newcomers very welcome.

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: Sat. 4 March 10.30-12 noon in the Jubilee Centre. Please see Louise or John Perry for more info.

Churches Together Lenten Breakfasts: are being held on Saturday mornings during Lent starting 4th March at the Methodist Church Hall. Blessed Robert Grissold will be hosting on 25th March. Volunteers needed. Please see notice board or speak to Louise or John Perry.

Spring Fayre: Sat 1st April 1- 3.30pm. There is a list at the back of the church for helpers. We also require donations of various items which can be left in the box at the back of the church or dropped directly to Tracey McAtamney at 86 Meeting House Lane. For further information please call Tracey on 01676 532940.

100 Club: Subscriptions for 2017 are now due. Chris Burleigh will be available after Mass this week and next week. 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.

Lenten dates for your diary: why not take one or more of these up for 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.
- Lent Fast Day for CAFOD - Friday 10th March.

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: John Cawley, Margaret Mulrennan, Glen Burgess, Martin Moylan, Cyril Smith, Thomas Lawless, Vera Price, Joyce Needham, Keith Denison, Winnie White, Betty Burleigh, Tom Carolan, Arthur Innes, Mary Webb, Patrick Kinsella, Kay Jay, Bunty Coxon, Judith Whitmarsh and Charlotte Lowey.

This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	26 th February – 9.30am	5 th March – 9.30am
Day:	Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time	First Sunday of Lent
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	John Coady (RIP)	Joyce Bartram (RIP)
Altar Servers:	Tom, Ethan & James	Mathew, Daniel and Jacob
Wardens:	Godfrey Cheshire, Monica Green & Ann Crossley	Kevin and Sue McGovern and Madeleine Peat
Readers:	Nigel Parker & Ian Lester	Dominic Green & Ciaran McSorley
Eucharistic Ministers:	Maureen Carol, Monica Green & Stefan Hunka	Monica Green, Teresa Green and Stefan Hunka
Counting:	John Perry & Nuala Fulham	Charles Keane & Gerry Biggs
Tea & Coffee:	Chris Lynn & Mary Sharp	Madeleine Peat & Nuala Fulham
Cleaning:	Louise Perry & Monica Green	G&L Cheshire & Claire Keane
Flowers:	Bridget Harrison	None in Lent
Children's Liturgy:	Jane Devoy & Claire Keane	Monica Green & Celine Burley
Music:	Instrumental Group	Linda Cheshire

This week's services

Date:	Tuesday 28 th	Wednesday 1 st March	Thursday 2 nd March	Friday 3 rd March
Time:	February	- 7pm Mass Ash	7pm Mass followed by	10.am
Intention:	Mass 10am	Wednesday	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Meditations until Benediction at 8.00pm	Mass of the Sacred Heart
	Martin Moylan (RIP)		Becky Hulme (RIP)	

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