

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

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

Sunday 26th March 2017 – Fourth Sunday in Lent – Year A

'The blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored'

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: In the early Church Lent was a time of completing the formation of candidates for the Baptisms which would take place at Easter and the readings of the Sundays in Lent reflect this time of baptismal preparation. Last week the Gospel spoke of the "living water" welling up to eternal life. This week Jesus reveals himself as the "light of the world," and next week, the raising of Lazarus from the dead will proclaim him as the "resurrection and the life." As Pope Emeritus Benedict says: "Water, light and life are symbols of Baptism, the sacrament that "immerses" believers in the mystery of the death and Resurrection of Christ, liberating them from the slavery of sin and giving them eternal life."

Collection 19th March: Loose plate £57.44, Envelopes £83, Standing Orders £355.00, Total £ 495.44.

Candle of Dedication: The candle is lit this week for Patrick Flynn (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 usually 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. In this Wednesday's meditations Van Thuan reflects on the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In our prayerful stillness and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar we can find healing and peace and be present to the Christ who is present to us and feeds us with the life of heaven in and through the Eucharist. All welcome.

Spring Fayre (Sat 1st April 1-3.30pm): Thank you to everyone who has already donated to this, we now have some lovely items for the Fayre. We are still in need of Easter Eggs, bottles etc. All donations to Tracey McAtamney at 86 Meeting House Lane (Tel: 01676 532940). Special Thanks to Nailcote Hall who has donated Sunday Lunch for 4 people in the Oak Room. Also to Haigs Hotel, The SnowDome, The Butterfly Farm, Hatton Adventure World and many others who have donated raffle prizes. For the children - Decorate Egg Competition - Bring along to the Fayre. Simply boil an egg and decorate! There will be three prizes and each child will receive a chocolate egg for entering!

Churches Together Lenten Breakfasts are being held on Saturday mornings in Lent rotating round the Churches. Please see notice board or speak to Louise or John Perry for more information.

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

- 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.

Pancake Extravaganza: Many thanks to the men of the parish for the pancake extravaganza last Sunday which was a great success and raised £90 for Church funds.

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.

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: Alison Taylor, Reginald Branson, Patrick Flynn, Paul McAuley.

This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	26 th March – 9.30am	2 nd April – 9.30am
Day:	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Fifth Sunday of Lent
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	Eileen Innes (RIP)	Anna-Marie Higgins (RIP)
Altar Servers:	Matthew, Daniel and Jacob	Kathryn, Hannah & Laura
Wardens:	John Perry, Maria Pulley and Kathy Jones	Chris Burleigh, Christine Horner & Christina Plater
Readers:	Godfrey Chesshire & Dominic O'Brien	John & Louise Perry
Eucharistic Ministers:	Mike Fairbrother, Charles Keane & John McLellan	Monica Green, Charles Keane & John McLellan
Counting:	Bob and Kathy Jones	Kevin & Sue McGovern
Tea & Coffee:	Margaret and Chris Burleigh	Chesshire Family
Cleaning:	Anne Stewart & Val Timms	Chris & Margaret Burleigh
Flowers:	None in Lent	None in Lent
Children's Liturgy:	Celine Burley & Louise Perry	Louise Perry & Claire Keane
Music:	Instrumental Group	Linda Chesshire

This week's services

Date:	Tues. 28 th March	Wed. 29 th March	Thurs. 30 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
Intention:			Sandra Smith

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

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