

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

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

Sunday 30th April 2017 – 3rd Sunday of Easter (A)

'They recognised him at the breaking of the bread'

Pope's Prayer Intention: Young people - 'That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life'.

Father Frank: In the Gospel today we hear how the two disciples on the road to Emmaus recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread. At the time the Gospel was written the expression "the breaking of bread" had become synonymous with the celebration of the Eucharist. The risen Christ revealed himself to the two disciples through the scriptures and through the breaking of bread. This same Risen Christ is present to us in word and sacrament every time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist. We are able to encounter him through hearing his voice in the proclamation of the scriptures and through feeding on him, the Bread of Life, at his table. That is why in the Mass we proclaim the scriptures as the "word of the Lord" and acknowledge with an "Amen" that the Bread we receive from the altar is the "The Body of Christ."

Collection 23rd April: Loose plate £ 50.47 Envelopes £ 127.00, Standing Orders £355.00, Total £ 532.47

Saints and Feast Days of the Week: St Athanasius (2nd), Ss Philip & James (3rd), English Martyrs (4th).

Meditations before the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday evenings 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 week's meditations Van Thuan reflects on the beautiful mystery of the Church. 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 - the Sacrament which forms the Church. All welcome.

English Martyrs: On Thursday we celebrate the Feast of the English Martyrs many of whom, like our own Blessed Robert Grissold, had associations with the Midlands. Their courageous witness to the faith and their prayers are still a source of great strength for us. We give thanks to God for them on their Feast.

First Friday On the first Friday of every month we celebrate a votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We have a special devotion to this practice at Blessed Robert Grissold because the relic of St Margaret Mary, who received a vision of Christ's Sacred Heart, was placed in our altar at the consecration of our church. Great benefits are promised to those who are faithful in their devotion to the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Get-together: Wednesday, May 3rd. Meet at BRG at 10.30am and then on to visit Hatton Country Park.

Parish Supper: The annual Parish Supper will be held on Saturday 20th May 7.30pm for 8pm. This will consist of a 2 course meal with special entertainment. Price will be £10 per head. Pam and Chris will be collecting names after Mass on Sunday. All welcome.

Tea and Cakes: Churches Together are holding a tea and cakes afternoon for Save the Children's Syrian Project at 2.30-4.30pm on Friday 5th May at Barnfield Cottage, Fen End Road, CV8 1NW. All welcome.

School Bus: Solihull MBC is currently consulting on proposals to cut the school bus that connects Balsall Common to St George & Teresa, St Peter's and Arden Schools. This will have a negative long term impact on the ability of children to access the Borough's Catholic Schools (as well as increasing car journeys, congestion and pollution). We would urge parishioners to respond to the consultation either on-line at <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation> or in writing to either School Transport, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull B91 3QB or via email edtrans@solihull.gov.uk The deadline is 28th April.

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, Jim Slattery, Bernard Hamond, Terry Fairbrother.

Anniversaries: John Scott, Patrick Flynn, Sheila Buckland, Richard Townsend, Doris Newson, Tim Clifford

This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	30 th April – 9.30am	7 th May – 9.30am
Day:	Third Sunday of Easter	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	Eileen Innes (RIP)	Julie Matts (RIP)
Altar Servers:	Tom, Ethan and James	Matthew, Daniel & Jacob
Wardens:	Godfrey Chesshire Monica Green & Ann Crossley	Kevin & Sue McGovern, Madeleine Peat.
Readers:	John McLellan & James Green	David Green & Greg Hobbs
Eucharistic Ministers:	Mike Fairbrother Charles Keane & Eileen Selby	John & Louise Perry, John McLellan
Counting:	Keane Family	Veronica/Skuli Thorvardardson
Tea & Coffee:	Charles & Claire Keane	Chris Lynn & Mary Sharp
Cleaning:	Mary Sharp & Ann O'Brien	Chris Mitchell & Eileen Selby
Flowers:	Linda Chesshire	Linda Chesshire
Children's Liturgy:	Louise Perry and Claire Keane	Jane Devoy and Monica Green
Music:	Ian & Ellie Clark	Instrumental Group

This week's services

Date:	Tues. 2 nd May	Wed. 3 rd May	Thurs. 4 th May	Friday 5 th May
Time:	10 am Mass Feast of St Athanasius	7pm Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Meditations and Benediction	10 am Mass English Martyrs	10 am Mass Sacred Heart
Intention:	Joyce Thomas (RIP)	Pat Kenny (RIP)	Jean O'Reilly (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@btopenworld.com or call on 01564 775155 by 7.00pm on Wednesday.