

St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton

[Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216]

Fr John Sharp

www.sfachurch.co.uk

01564 782498

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

19th February 2017

PARISH LITURGY – MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

Saturday	6.00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.30 am	Welfare of Morwena Bowen

Monday [Feria]

9.00 am Private Intention

Tuesday [Feria]

9.00 am Mary Greaves

Wednesday [Chair of St Peter, apostle]

9.00 am Private Intention

Thursday [St Polycarp, bishop and martyr]

9.00 am Michael Coakley

Friday [Feria]

9.00 am Private Intention

Saturday [Feria (of Our Lady)]

9.00 am Private Intention

Confessions: Saturday, 4.30-5.00 pm

Please pray for the sick in our parish and for those who have died: **Jane Jones; Mariangela Byrne; Nora McStraw; Sr Magdalen; Esme Mills** (anniversaries).

Last Week's Collection: £315.71. Thank you.

It would be a kindness if all Christmas wreaths could be removed from graves (and preferably disposed of off-site) by the end of February; thereafter, they will be removed without further notice.

Please note that Lent begins on Wednesday, 1st March.

40 Days for Life, the annual campaign to help save babies from being aborted, runs in Birmingham from 1st March until 9th April, and involves a peaceful vigil outside the Marie Stopes Abortion Centre, 4 Arthur Road, Birmingham, B15 2UL, where over 5,000 babies are aborted each year. See the leaflets at the back of church for more information. This

year is the 50th anniversary of the Abortion Act; 8.7 million babies have been aborted in the UK since then.

There will be a launch event next Sunday (26th February) at the Oratory in Birmingham, where you can learn about the spiritual essentials for the pro-life battle. See poster in church porch for more details.

The Governor went on pressing Polycarp. ‘Take the oath, and I will let you go’, he told him. ‘Revile your Christ.’ Polycarp’s reply was, ‘Eighty and six years have I served Him and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King and my Saviour?’

In a moment the crowd had collected faggots and kindling from the workshops and baths... When the pile was ready Polycarp took off his outer garments, undid his girdle, and even tried to unfasten his shoes, though he had never been accustomed to do this before, since the faithful used to vie with one another in their eagerness to touch his bare skin – such universal veneration had the saintliness of his life earned for him, even before his martyrdom ...

The men at the fire set their lights to it, and a great sheet of flame blazed out. And then we who were privileged to witness it saw a wondrous sight; and we have been spared to tell the rest of you. The fire took on the shape of a hollow chamber, like a ship’s sail when the wind fills it, and formed a wall about the martyr’s figure; and there he was in the centre of it, not like a human being in flames but like a loaf baking in the oven, or like a gold or silver ingot being refined in the furnace. And we became aware of a delicious fragrance, like the odour of incense or other precious gums....

Polycarp was...bishop of the Catholic Church at Smyrna, and a teacher in our own day who combined both apostle and prophet in his own person.

From the Martyrdom of Polycarp, 155 A.D.