

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham Mass Time Sunday 9.30am.

18th February 2018 – First Sunday of Lent – Year B

“Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.”

Pope’s Prayer Intention: Say “No” to Corruption. “That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.”

Father Frank: *Today is the First Sunday of Lent, the season when the Church prepares for Easter, the greatest of her celebrations. During the season of Lent we are encouraged to grow in the life of Christ and to deepen and strengthen our relationship with God. The Church leads and assists us in this through encouraging our participation, in an ever more intense and fruitful way, in the liturgies of the Church and in penitential celebrations. In order to aid us in our Lenten endeavours I have arranged for instruction, devotions, times for meditation and prayerful reflection (please see details below). I will also ensure that there is a Penitential Service and opportunities for people to make their confession. I hope that all these will be helpful in the deepening of our faith through this holy season.*

Saints and Feast days this week: The Chair of St Peter (22nd), St Polycarp (23rd).

Collection 11th February: Loose plate £64.00, envelopes £68.00, standing orders £370.00, Total **£502.00.**

Confirmation: We pray for David, Joel and Toby, our Confirmation candidates today and we welcome their family and friends.

Tuesdays in Lent: Stations of the Cross will be prayed after the 10.00am Masses on Tuesdays during Lent.

Wednesdays in Lent: After Mass there will be the usual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with meditations and silent prayer for half an hour, leading up to Benediction. The meditations on Wednesday evenings during Lent will be concerned with our growing in the life of Christ. All welcome.

Thursdays in Lent: Lent talks and discussions will take place in the church hall at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday evenings in Lent, after the 7.00 p.m. Mass. We will reflect together on the Parable of the Lost Son (The Prodigal Son), which is a model for the Church’s understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). In preparation for the Easter Triduum, these talks and discussions are designed to help us to go deeper into our appreciation of the love of God. No specialist knowledge is required (just bring a Bible if you can). Why not make attendance a Lenten discipline? Come and enjoy prayerful reflection, discussion, fellowship and a cup of tea - All welcome.

Lenten Breakfasts (1): Breakfast and talks, organised by Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell; on the theme of ‘What does Christianity have to say about...?’ The second session (Freedom) is this Saturday, 24th February at 8.30am in the Methodist Hall. For further details please see the leaflets in the Narthex.

Lenten Breakfasts (2): It is our church’s turn to ‘host’ the Lenten breakfast on 3rd March at the Methodist Church. Volunteers are required – please see John and Louise Perry or Godfrey Cheshire.

Women’s World Day of Prayer: The service this year is being held at St Peter’s church at 7.30pm on Friday 2nd March. The service has been prepared by women from Suriname, on the theme “All God’s Creation is Very Good!” All are welcome.

Penitential Service: proposed for 7.00pm Thursday 22nd March.

Church Cleaning Blitz: Volunteers are required for church cleaning between 18th and 28th March to ready the church for Easter. Please see Louise Perry for details.

Lift to Mass: Lucille, who has just moved into Gorton Croft, Balsall Common, would like to attend Mass here with us on Sundays but cannot get to church without a lift. Please let Fr Frank know if you can help.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: is offered on the last Thursday of every month. All those who are challenged by their suffering in body, mind or spirit are welcome to receive this sacrament of Christ’s healing. This is a practice which dates back to the earliest Church and is encouraged in scripture, where it is written: ‘Are there any who are sick among you? Let them send for the priests of the Church, and let the priests pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick persons, and if they have committed any sins, their sins will be forgiven them.’

Preparing for Mass: I hope that you have found praying the Rosary before Mass has been useful in instilling the discipline of preparing prayerfully for the Holy Sacrament but I understand that some may prefer to prepare for the Eucharist in silence - So from the beginning of Lent, let us prepare for the Mass with silent prayer. Those

who still wish to pray the Rosary can continue to do so in silence. The important thing is for us not to lose the habit of quietly and prayerfully preparing for the Mass. Please help one another to do this, by keeping as quiet as possible when we enter church. Thank you for your cooperation in helping one another to prepare properly for the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

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, Heather O'Connell, Vincent Webb, Dave & Ian, Teresa Petropoulos, Ian Gibbs, Frances Carroll, Sarah & Martin Dunne, Cat Patton-Kennedy, Father Pat Sayles, Jonathan Ridler, Sister Teresa Moore, Mary Murray, Andy Rudd, Marjorie Lee, Anne Santos, Louis Loughran, Linda Hatton, Leonardo Byrne, Lucy Knifton, Jim Slattery, Bernard Hammond, Terry Fairbrother, Katya O'Donnell.

Anniversaries: Samuel & Ruth Carter, Patrick Casey, Catherine Utteridge, Desmond Martin, Winifred Ruane, Mary Restall.

This week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	Sunday 18th February 9.30am	Sunday 25th February 9.30am
Day:	First Sunday of Lent and Confirmation	Second Sunday of Lent
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	Confirmation candidates	Mary Redmond (RIP)
Altar Servers:	Daniel, Jacob & Laura	Tom, Ethan & Joe
Wardens:	Alan Devoy, Ian & Fran Lester	Christine Harris, Dominic Green & Irene Gibbons
Readers:	Joel Smith & David Cant	David Green & Greg Hobbs
Eucharistic Ministers:	Maureen Carroll, Nuala Fulham & Eileen Selby	Monica Green, Stefan Hunka & Charles Keane
Counting:	Devoy family	Dave & Aislinn Cant
Tea & Coffee:	Chris Lynn & Mary Sharp	Madeleine Peat & Nuala Fulham
Cleaning:	Mary Sharp & Anne O'Brien	Chris Mitchell & Eileen Selby
Flowers:	None in Lent	None in Lent
Children's Liturgy:	Half Term	Half Term
Music:	Ian & Ellie Clarke	Instrumental Group

This week's masses

Date:	Tuesday 20th February	Wednesday 21st February	Thursday 22nd February
Time:	10.00 am	7.00 pm	7.00 pm
Intention:	Kath Austin (RIP)	Francis Stewart (RIP)	Feast of the Chair of St Peter Those seeking healing
	Followed by Stations of the Cross	With Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, meditations, silent prayer and Benediction at 8.00pm	Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing, followed by Lent talks and discussion

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

Contributions for the Bulletin: Please contact Ellie Clarke by 7.00pm on Wednesday at iehclarke@btinternet.com or call 01676 533931.

Priest: Rev'd 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.

Parish website: www.brgparish.org.uk

Warwick Catholic Deanery Website www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk