

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am.

2nd December 2018 – First Sunday of Advent

“Your liberation is near at hand”

Pope’s Prayer Intention: That every country determine to take necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

Father Frank. *As we begin Advent our thoughts are guided, through the liturgy, to the coming of Christ - his first coming to us in humility and weakness and his second coming in majesty and power. The description of the Second Coming of Christ should not fill us with fear, rather we should look forward to it and prepare for it through prayer and right living. The “Walk with Me” booklets, available at the back of church, help us to prepare for Christmas by providing daily material for prayer and reflection.*

Saints & Feast Days this Week: St Francis Xavier (3rd), St Birinus (5th), St Nicholas (6th), St Ambrose (7th), Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8th).

Collection: 25th November: Loose plate £68.20, envelopes £54.00, standing orders £390.00, **Total £512.20.**

Next Sunday there will be a collection for the **Poor Parishes of the Diocese.**

CRMC Winter Clothing Appeal. Once in a while, it’s nice to be able to make a difference; even nicer to be in a community where so many shares that sentiment – thank you all. *Ian Lester*

Parish Quiz. Many thanks to all who took part. We raised £420.00. Well done.

Christmas Cards and Advent Calendars are on sale. All proceeds will go towards Group 83 HCPT Funds.

The Walk with Me Booklets are now available at £1 each. Please put your donation in the box in the Wall marked Piety Stall.

No Mass on Wednesday as Fr Frank has to attend a conference in Bicester for the priests of the Archdiocese.

Last Thursday in the month: There will be a Mass with the Sacrament for the Anointing for the Sick on Thursday 6th December at 6.00pm. The Sacrament of Anointing supports the sick in their struggle against illness and continues Christ’s work of healing. This Mass will be followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, silent prayer and meditations until Benediction at 7.00pm. This week we will be meditating on the readings of the Second Sunday in Advent. All welcome.

First Friday Devotions. On the First Friday of every month there is a Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. St Margaret Mary received the vision of Christ which led to the devotion to the Sacred Heart. At the Consecration of our church a relic of Saint Margaret Mary was sealed in our altar giving us a special connection with this holy devotion. During the Year of Priests, the Mass on the Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart will be offered up for the Priests of the Archdiocese.

Confession before Christmas. After the Mass and Meditations on the last Thursday of Advent (20th December) there will be an opportunity to make your Confession.

Get-together. This Wednesday December 5th. We meet at 12 noon in the parish room for soup, rolls and desert. All welcome.

Christmas Raffle: The Christmas Raffle is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we would be very grateful for the donation of Raffle Prizes. We have already been promised some excellent prizes, including meals, afternoon teas and hampers and will happily accept bottles, chocolates, toiletries and vouchers of any description. Please contact *Tracey McAtamney* traceymcatamney@btconnect.com **Tel: 01676 532940 Mobile 0791 8191560.**

The **Advent Giving Tree** is now up. There are gift tags for presents for those who have been going through difficult times. The parish gifts will be delivered by hand by children in the parish. The gifts we donate to Father Hudson's care will be picked up after the carol service. They are always gratefully received. Father Hudson's specifically need gifts of family selection boxes as they want to ensure that all families who attend their projects receive one. They value all winter gifts e.g. slippers, socks, warm nightwear and gift vouchers can be donated. They also want children's gifts but over the age of 8 only. Thank you.

CAFOD. I have put some "World Gifts" booklets at the back of the church, from which you can choose gifts for everyone who does not really need anything for Christmas! The gifts start at £4 for a queen bee, providing the family with honey! £7 buys a simple mosquito net, treated with strong repellent which will keep families safe from disease. You can buy goats, pigs, llama's or even a cow providing milk, manure, and wool for clothing. Producing piglets, calves etc that can be then given to other families to continue the cycle. There are many more gifts that can help reduce poverty. Please take a booklet or look online at cafod.org.uk/Give/world-gifts. Thanks. *Chris Lynn*

THE TIMES Report on School Achievement: You will be pleased to hear the Times places St George and St Teresa School in the top 500 in the country and No 2 in Solihull Borough; and we are the top Catholic Primary in the area. Parents and Grandparents are invited to come to the School Christmas Open Morning on Friday 14th December at 9.30 am. See our children in action; bring your little ones along. There are still a few places left for the January enrolment, so don't miss out! Please ring the School Office to say you are coming: 01564 774 906. Many thanks, *Mgr Daniel McHugh*, On behalf of the Governors.

Christmas Newsletter: Do you fancy yourself as a budding writer or photographer? Have you attended a parish event or been part of something related to the parish that you would love to share? If so, we would welcome your articles and pictures for our bumper Christmas Newsletter! It's been a busy year and there have been many events to write about including the Get Togethers, 100 Club, Choir, HCPT Pilgrimage Trust, Youth Group, Lenten breakfasts, talks and discussions, First Holy Communions, the May Concert: Choral Energy, Millennium Breakfasts, Parish Cake Sale, Race for Life and the Parish Quiz to name but a few. We need your works of literary genius or art by Sunday 9th December to give us time to edit and add them to the newsletter. If in doubt, have a go as it may be the start of something new for 2019! Please send to Ian Clarke at iehclarke@btinternet.com as soon as you can.

Christmas Goodies Sale: After mass today. Including mince pies, pickled onions, mincemeat, chutneys, small Christmas cakes and gifts. Proceeds for Parish funds.

Your prayers are asked for those who are sick and their carers: Lily Mae Carr, Joseph Lockington, Katya O'Donnell, Consuelo Ramon, Anne Santos, Andrew Burton, Gillian Botting.

Anniversaries: Teresa Arikat, John Burke, Peter Carroll, James & Daisy Cone, Baby Dixon, Bernard Freyne, Frederick Garnham, Caroline Giles, Denis Moroney, John White.

Lately dead: **Sister Maria Goretti** (Ardent supporter of Group 83).

This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

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| Date & Time: | Sunday, 2 nd December – 9.30am | Sunday, 9 th December – 9.30am |
| Day: | First Sunday of Advent | Second Sunday of Advent |
| Celebrant: | Father Frank | Father Frank |
| Intention: | Laurence Moore | Derek Aranjó (RIP) |
| Altar Servers: | Jacob & Laura | Ethan & Joe |
| Wardens: | Godfrey Chesshire & Madeleine Peat | Joe Martin Ann Ostler & Chris Mitchell |
| Readers: | John Peat & Bysshe Gibbs | Joel Smith & Dominic O'Brien |
| Eucharistic Ministers: | Godfrey Chesshire Nuala Fulham & Madeleine Pat | Carol Beck Charles Keane & Eileen Selby |
| Counting: | Charles Keane & Mike Fairbrother | John Perry & Nuala Fulham |
| Tea & Coffee: | Madeleine Peat & Nuala Fulham | Louise Perry & Ann Dodd |
| Cleaning: | Christina Plater & Nuala Fulham | Louise Perry & Monica Green |
| Flowers: | Advent – no flowers | Advent – no flowers |
| Children's Liturgy: | Monica & Claire | Celine & Monica |
| Music | Instrumental Group | Instrumental Group |

This week's services

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| Date: | Tuesday 4 th Dec | Thursday 6 th Dec | Friday 7 th Dec |
| Time: | 10.00am Mass | 7.00pm Mass (for details see page 1) | 10.00am Mass Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus |
| Intention: | Edward Woodall-Pagan | Tony Beck (RIP) | Priests of the Diocese |

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

Contributions for the Bulletin: Godfrey Chesshire is now compiling the newsletter. Please send items by 7.00pm on Wednesday to godfreychesshire@btinternet.com or call on **01676 532352**

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.

Parish website: www.brgparish.org.uk

Warwick Catholic Deanery website: www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk