

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am.

10th March 2019 – 1st Sunday of Lent – Year C

“Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness and was tempted there.”

Pope’s Prayer Intention: That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

Father Frank: *Holy Week and Easter are the climax of the Christian liturgical year. The time of the Passion and Resurrection is preceded by Lent, a lengthy period of preparation for these saving and illuminating mysteries. Lent is a time of penitence. It is a time for us to examine our conscience and seek reconciliation with the Lord. Lent is also a time for spiritual growth and enlightenment. In Lent we are invited to listen, and respond, ever more faithfully to the voice of God. Lent also commemorates Israel’s liberation from slavery in Egypt and their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Lent relates this to our own spiritual journey, to our liberation, our pilgrimage, our feeding on divine manna and of our meeting with God. And, as we see from today’s Gospel, Lent also recalls the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert during which he contended with Satan, the tempter. Our Lent must be a period of fighting against temptation. From this, one can see that Lent is a very rich, a very deep mixture of elements which serve to purify and enlighten us. During the time of Lent, the Church leads us towards the radiant glory of the Paschal feast. The more serious our Lenten preparation has been, the deeper we shall enter into the mystery of Easter and gather its fruits.*

Collection 17th February: Loose plate £59.95, envelopes £64.00, standing orders £390.00, Total £513.95.

Devotions in Lent: Every Tuesday in Lent, after the morning Mass, there will be an opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross. On Thursday evenings of Lent, after Mass, there will be Meditations on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, together with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to join in these devotions.

Tuesday’s Mass: Please note that the Mass on Tuesday begins at 9.30am. Mass will be followed by Stations of the Cross.

Deanery Prayer for Vocations: We have been invited by the Deanery to join in a month of prayer for vocations to the priesthood. We are all asked to select a day in March and to commit to praying on that day for vocations. There are still days free needing volunteers; if you would like to join in, please put your name on the sheet at the back of the church against your selected day. Please see Bysshe for further details.

Lenten Breakfasts: The second Churches Together Lenten breakfast and talk, exploring the theme of the “Big Questions”, takes place on Saturday 16th March at 8.30am in the Methodist Church.

Pancake Eggstravaganza: Join us next Sunday 17th March after mass to enjoy delicious pancakes with various toppings along with your tea and coffee. Enjoy a tasty treat, meet other parishioners and raise funds for the parish. A donation of £2 is suggested.

Coffee Evening: A Coffee Evening will take place in our church hall on Wednesday 27th March to raise funds for the 4 young people who will be joining Group 83 (HCPT) this Easter. There will be various stalls: “Gifts for All”, cakes, preserves, books, tombola & raffle. Gifts for any of the stalls will be very much appreciated. These may be handed in to Maureen Carroll before the evening, please. Other details will follow. Please put the date in your diaries.

Birmingham and Midland Velo: Father Hudson’s Care has places available for this 100-mile sponsored cycle on 12 May. Anyone interested in riding in aid of our diocesan social care agency should call Father Hudson’s on 01675 434059 or e-mail fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk before Tuesday 12 March.

Volunteers’ Open Evening: Tabor House, Birmingham’s only permanent night shelter, is looking for volunteers to help, especially overnight and mentors. To find out more, come along to the Open Evening on Wednesday 20th March 2019, 6pm - 8pm at St Anne’s Training Room, 96 Bradford Street, Birmingham, B12 0PY. For more information, contact Sharon McCall on 07387 418319.

25th Anniversary of our Church: As part of our celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of the construction of our church, we are considering commissioning a new stained-glass window for the small window at the back of church. We have two painted glass windows on either side of the altar representing

Baptism and Confirmation; the new window would represent The Eucharist. The estimated cost is around £2,500. We will be approaching Catholic businesses in the area to ask for donations but would also like to offer members of the parish the option to pledge money, either on their own behalf or to remember a loved one. All pledges will be remembered on a plaque next to the new window. Ian and Ellie Clarke will be available after Mass if you would like to know more or wish to pledge money. Thank you to everyone who has already pledged money, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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

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, Darragh Sheehan, Barry Holmes.

Anniversaries: Joan North, Margaret Smith, Fr. Christopher Thornton, John Perry (Snr.), Jack Utteridge, Peter Doyle, Maureen Martin, Kathleen Casey.

This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	Sunday 10 th March– 9.30am	Sunday 17 th March– 9.30am
Day:	First Sunday of Lent	Second Sunday of Lent
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	Elizabeth Chattell (RIP)	Joe & Maureen Martin (RIP)
Altar Servers:	Ethan & Joe	James
Wardens:	Christine Harris, Dominic Green & Irene Gibbons	Ciaran McSorley, Celine Burley & John McLellan
Readers:	Mike Fairbrother & Ian Clarke	John Peat & Bysshe Gibbs
Eucharistic Ministers:	Charles Keane, Joe Martin & Eileen Selby	Michael Fairbrother, Monica Green & Stefan Hunka
Counting:	Lester Family	Devoy Family
Tea & Coffee:	Cheshire Family	Bysshe & Judith Gibbs
Cleaning:	M. Hughes & J. Kennedy	Chris Mitchell & Eileen Selby
Flowers:	Lent – No Flowers	Lent – No Flowers
Children's Liturgy:	Jane Devoy & Kathryn Driffield	Louise Perry & Monica Green
Music:	Instrumental Group	Ian & Ellie Clarke

Mass Times this week

Date:	Tuesday 12 th March	Wednesday 13 th March	Thursday 14 th March
Time:	9.30 am	7.00 pm	7.00 pm
Intention:	Marjorie Morson (RIP) <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross</i>	Fr. Christopher Thornton (RIP)	Val & Glenn Burgess (RIP) <i>Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, meditations and silent prayer until Benediction at 8 pm</i>

Priest: Revd. Father Frank Smith. Tel: 07512 100908 Email: parishpriest@brgparish.org.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

Archdiocese of Birmingham website: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

Contributions for the Bulletin: Please email items for the weekly bulletin to Ellie Clarke by **7.00 pm Wednesday** at iehclarke@btinternet.com.