

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am

23rd February 2020 – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

“My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors.”

Pope’s Prayer Intention for February: *“Listen to the Migrants’ Cries - We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.”*

Fr. Frank: In the Gospel today, Jesus speaks of the nature of God’s Kingdom which is breaking into this world even now. This is the ‘perfect’ life of the heavenly kingdom so we should not be surprised that his words sound strange for they are opening up to us a strange and new reality which is not of this world. This eternal life is that dimension of the kingdom which we pray will come on earth. The power and the glory of this eternal dimension of the kingdom which is breaking into our world transforms and renews all things so that discord, hatred and violence are overcome by the love and peace of Christ. It is this life of the kingdom which we see breaking into this world in the words and examples of Jesus and the saints - in the ones who ‘love their enemies’ and ‘pray for those who persecute them.’ And it is into this eternal dimension, that makes such strange new things possible, that God gathers us each time he summons us before him in the Mass. For in and through the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit gathers us and makes us one with Christ who sits at the right hand of the Father in the heavenly kingdom, so that, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of his glory.

Ash Wednesday: Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday with the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes. The Church orders the season of Lent to our preparation for the celebration of Easter. The forty days of Lent run from Ash Wednesday up to, but excluding, the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday. We are encouraged to participate fully in the Lenten preparation for Easter, approaching the Sacrament of Penance and making our confession during this season. The season of Lent also presents us with an opportunity to reflect on our prayer life and to give ourselves over to meditation upon the scriptures or some other spiritual reading.

Collection: 16th February: Loose plate £79.20, Envelopes £69.50, standing orders £430.00; **Total £575.70**

Saint’s Days this week: Commemoration of St Oswald, Bishop (28th).

March 'Prayer Calendar' for Vocations: We have been invited by the Deanery again, this year, to contribute a month of prayer for vocations to the priesthood. We are each asked to choose one day in March and to commit to saying on that day, a prayer - short or long - for increasing numbers of vocations. If you would like to support this, please sign your selected day on the sheet at the back of church. We hope to have one or more people praying this every day of the month. For further details, see Bysse Gibbs.

First Holy Communions: Please contact Fr Frank with details of those children wishing to prepare for First Holy Communion this year.

Second Collection: There will be a second collection on Sunday 1st March for Cathedral Maintenance.

Walk with Me: Walk with Me Booklets for Lent £1 each will be available this weekend. Please put your donation in the wall box. Thank you.

Thank you: The sale of Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars and Candles in 2018 and 2019 amounted to £139.70. Proceeds went to HCPT Group 83. Thank you for your support, it was much appreciated.

Evangelisation Team: Our next meeting for the Warwick Deanery parishes is on Monday 2nd March at 7.30pm in the upper Davenport Room, St Peter’s Parish Centre, Dormer Place, Leamington Spa CV32 5AE. It is hoped that each parish could be represented to help us plan how to share the Good News. Contact: Peter Dimambro 01926 428399 mdimambro@hotmail.co.uk

Job Vacancies: (Maternity cover) for Administration Assistant and Finance Assistant: The Columban Missionaries invites applications for the part-time, temporary (maternity cover) roles of Administration Assistant and Finance Assistant. Based in the Columban Mission Office at St. Columban's in Solihull, the roles will support the work of Columban mission in Britain and internationally. For more information and to apply tel: 01564 772 096 or email: hr@columbans.co.uk. Deadline: Sunday 8th March.

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, Maureen Carroll, Rob Branson, Val Tims and Father Frank.

Lately dead: Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Columban Father Joe Flanagan, who died recently in Ireland. Fr Joe celebrated Mass for us here on many occasions before we had our own Parish Priest. And also, for Peggy Anderton, a neighbour, friend & supporter of Group 83

Anniversaries: Frank McArdle, Peter Doyle, John Crawley, Margaret Mulrennan, Glen Burgess, Martin Moylan, Cyril Smith, Thomas Lawless, Joyce Needham, Vera Price, Carmel O'Conner, Keith Denison

Items for Weekly Bulletin: Please note that **Maggie Lloyd** is now editing the bulletin. Please send items to her at maggie.m.lloyd@gmail.com or call on 07957 623192 by 7.00pm on Wednesday.

This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	Sunday 23 rd February 9.30am	Sunday 1 st March 9.30am
Day:	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	First Sunday of Lent
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	Sister Rita (Intentions)	Sister Brigid (RIP)
Altar Servers:	Ethen & Laura	Joe & James
Wardens:	Joe Martin, Ann Ostler & Chris Mitchell	John Perry, Maria Pulley & Kathy Jones
Readers:	John Perry & Louise Perry	David Cant & Joel Smith
Eucharistic Ministers:	Ellen Selby, Joe Martin & Godfrey Chesshire	tbc
Counting:	David & Aislin Cant	Charles Keane & Mike Fairbrother
Tea & Coffee:	Chesshire Family	Bysse & Judith Gibbs
Cleaning:	G & L Chesshire and S Noonan	K Driffield & H Woods
Flowers:	Louise Perry	Lent – No Flowers
Children's Liturgy:	Half Term	Monica & Jane
Music:	Instrumental Group	Cathy Grimley
Day:	Wednesday 26 th February	
Time:	7pm	tbc
Intention:	Ash Wednesday and John Cawley (RIP)	

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