

# St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton

[Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216]

Fr John Sharp

[www.sfachurch.org.uk](http://www.sfachurch.org.uk)

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Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

27<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## PARISH LITURGY – MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

Saturday      **No Saturday evening Mass at present**  
Sunday      9.30 am      People of the Parish

### Monday [Feria]

9.00 am      Hannah Rogers

### Tuesday [Ss Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, archangels]

9.00 am      Welfare of Mother Anne Magdalene

### Wednesday [St Jerome, priest, doctor of the Church]

9.00 am      Private Intention

### Thursday [St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin, doctor of the Church]

9.00 am      Isobel Eustace

### Friday [Guardian Angels]

9.00 am      Teresa Curry

### Saturday [Feria (of Our Lady)]

9.00 am      Private Intention

Confessions:      Saturday, 4.30-5.00 pm

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Please pray for the sick in our parish and those who have died: **Robin Campbell; Fr Bernard Grafton (former parish priest); John McNamara; Lola Campbell; Thomas Malone** (anniversaries)

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*Please note that places of worship are exempt from the government's 'rule of six', although this may change in the future and everyone needs to make an informed personal decision as to whether Mass attendance carries an unacceptable risk of infection.*

*Although Mass attendance numbers are limited only by the ability to maintain social distancing of one metre (provided face coverings are worn), the number at funerals in the church is limited to 30 and weddings to 15. There are also restrictions on the numbers attending a baptism. Funerals, weddings and baptisms cannot be celebrated in the context of a Mass.*

*Because of local restrictions, Holy Communion cannot at present be taken to the housebound in Solihull. This restriction does not currently apply to the parts of the parish in Warwickshire.*

*The situation is fluid and ever-changing, which means that we must adapt accordingly.*

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The work in the church is still not finished completely, although it is hoped that enough will

be complete to allow us to have Mass there next Sunday, even if we have to continue to use the former Sisters' Choir for weekday Mass until everything is complete and we can move back into the church permanently. Uncertainty over finishing the stonework and the polishing of the floor (both of which are supposed to happen this week) means that we cannot organise cleaning parties this week.

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For most of his adult life Jerome had been the focus of bitter controversy, as passionately detested in some circles as loved and admired in others. By the time he died the suspicion and hostility he aroused had begun to die down, and for the next thousand years and more a crescendo of adulation was to surround him.

Apocryphal lives extolling his virtues, even his miracles, were quick to appear, and in the eighth century he was acclaimed, along with Ambrose, Augustine and Gregory the Great, as one of the four Doctors of the Church.... At the renaissance the elegance of his style, his seemingly encyclopaedic learning, and his success at putting classical culture to the service of Christianity, were to captivate humanist scholars...

There can be no gainsaying Jerome's learning; he was the best equipped Christian scholar of his day, and for centuries to come.... Nor should we underrate his contribution to the establishment of monasticism as a major expression of Christian life and culture in Europe...

... As well as a churchman he was a man of letters, and his literary achievement was one which even those least sympathetic to his interpretation of Christianity could not begrudge him... the fact stands out that, at a time when the western empire was crumbling, he emerged as one of the greatest stylists, trained in the rhetoric of the schools but adapting it to Christian purposes. As a translator, whether of the Greek theological writings with which he enriched the west or the Bible, he was a master *sans pareil*. Whatever genre he took in hand – satire, letter-writing, polemical pamphlets, romantic lives of desert heroes, even Scripture commentaries – he was a literary craftsman, deploying the Latin language with an expertise and a flexibility, and a sense of colour and cadence, which recalled, and sometimes even surpassed, the giants of the classical era.

J.N.D. Kelly *Jerome*

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