

St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton

[Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216]

Fr John Sharp

www.sfachurch.org.uk

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Solemnity of St Francis of Assisi, deacon

4th October 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 Kathleen Eustace

Tuesday [Feria]

9.00 am Private Intention

Wednesday [Our Lady of the Rosary]

9.00 am Private Intention

Thursday [Feria]

9.00 am Isobel Eustace

Friday [St John Henry Newman, priest]

9.00 am Marjorie Parsons

Saturday [St Paulinus of York, bishop]

9.00 am Private Intention

Confessions: Saturday, 4.30-5.00 pm

Please pray for the sick in our parish and those who have died: **Sr M. Angela; Kathleen Mulroy; Catherine Lees; Mary Ann Halligan; Marjorie Parsons** (anniversaries)

Today is not only the Solemnity of our patron, St Francis, but it is 150 years to the day that this church building was opened and the first Mass offered by Bishop William Bernard Ullathorne.

Because of present restrictions, our celebration today will be somewhat muted, but we should have no less a sense of thanksgiving for all that this church has stood for and witnessed to over the years, and still does. We remember all who have worshipped here over the past 150 years, including the members of the Poor Clares Community, whose munificence led to the construction of the present church to replace what was here before, and we pray for all past and present parishioners, especially those who are sick or distressed at this time.

A letter from St Francis of Assisi to all the faithful

It was through his archangel, Saint Gabriel, that the Father above made known to the holy and glorious Virgin Mary that the worthy, holy and glorious Word of the Father would come

from heaven and take from her womb the real flesh of our human frailty. Though he was wealthy beyond reckoning, he still willingly chose to be poor with his blessed mother. And shortly before his passion, he celebrated the Passover with his disciples. Then he prayed to his Father, saying: 'Father, if it be possible, let this cup be taken from me.'

Nevertheless, he reposed his will in the will of his Father. The Father willed that his blessed and glorious Son, whom he gave to us and who was born for us, should through his own blood offer himself as a sacrificial victim on the altar of the cross. This was to be done not for himself, through whom all things were made, but for our sins. It was intended to leave us an example of how to follow in his footsteps. And he desires all of us to be saved through him, and to receive him with pure heart and chaste body.

O how happy and blessed are those who love the Lord and do as the Lord himself said in the gospel: 'You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart and your whole soul; and your neighbour as yourself.' Therefore, let us love God and adore him with pure heart and mind. This is his particular desire when he says: 'True worshippers adore the Father in spirit and truth.' For all who adore him must do so in the spirit of truth. Let us also direct to him our praises and prayers saying: 'Our Father, who art in heaven', since 'we must always pray and never grow slack.'

Furthermore, let us produce worthy fruits of penance. Let us also love our neighbours as ourselves. Let us have charity and humility. Let us give alms because these cleanse our souls from the stains of sins. Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense they deserve. We must not be wise and prudent according to the flesh. Rather we must be simple, humble, and pure. We should never desire to be over others. Instead, we ought to be servants who are submissive to every human being for God's sake. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on all who love in this way and persevere in it to the end. He will permanently dwell in them. They will be the Father's children who do his work. They are the spouses, brothers and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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