

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am

29th November 2020 – 1st Sunday of Advent

“Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.”

Pope’s Prayer Intention for November: Artificial Intelligence – *“We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind”*

Fr. Frank: *The Gospel today encourages to “stay awake” - not to allow ourselves to become complacent in our Christian lives. Advent is a penitential season when the Church invites us to prepare for the many ways in which Our Lord Jesus Christ comes to us. We can be assisted in remaining vigilant through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, that’s why these disciplines are recommended in this season. Like the “doorkeeper” in Mark’s Gospel, Christians have to remain ever watchful and be attentive to what the Lord wants to reveal to us in all the circumstances of our everyday lives.*

Re-Opening for Mass: From Sunday 6th December Mass will resume as before the lockdown. Please observe the directions given below.

Masses at Blessed Robert Grissold in Time of COVID-19

- + Attendees must wear a mask
- + Remain 2 metres apart
- + Sanitise hands on entering and exiting the Church
- + Follow the signs
- + Always follow the stewards’ instructions

Holy Communion

- + All responses during the Mass to be whispered
 - + Single file queue for Holy Communion (in one kind only) - please follow stewards’ guidance.
 - + The Host to be received in silence, on outstretched hand
 - + Masks to be worn to receive the Host
 - + Leave the church immediately after consuming the Host
- Please do not congregate in the car park after leaving the church

During Mass there will be no:

- + Altar servers
- + Readers
- + Children’s liturgy
- + Offertory procession
- + Sign of peace
- + Parish missals, misalettes or hymn books
- + Singing
- + Passing of collection bags
- + Flowers

Please stay at home if...

- + You are feeling ill or show any symptoms
- + You suspect you may be ill or have been exposed to Covid 19
- + You have a sick family member at home
- + You have come into contact with someone who is infected

Those attending Mass will be asked to supply contact details for track and trace.

Please Note:

- + The Church will be cleaned after each Mass
- + In the first instance, attendance will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Once capacity (30 persons) has been reached the stewards will prevent entry
- + Wrap up warm - doors will be left open to increase ventilation wherever possible
- + All areas of the church, apart from the narthex and hall area during Mass, are out of bounds until further notice

I hope that you are all keeping well under these trying and frustrating circumstances and that you are coping with the new lockdown. You continue to be in my prayers daily as I offer the Mass. I will continue to post a weekly Spiritual Communion and reflection on the parish website so that we can still pray together.

It has been encouraging to see the generous response to the call for volunteers needed to celebrate Mass. Once again, I have cause to be impressed and grateful for your selfless dedication and for the love of Christ and his Church which this shows. Archbishop Bernard has also recognised the diligence and devotion of the volunteers and has asked me to pass on his gratitude and appreciation.

A Daily Advent Retreat: This Advent, beginning on 1st December, the diocesan Evangelisation Team invites us to take part in an online daily retreat. The retreat is made up of a short, daily YouTube video (about 5 minutes) on the Jesus Prayer, with an invitation to pray the prayer together in preparation for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. For more information on the retreat and other Advent resources, see the diocesan website www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/advent-2020.

Weekly Offerings: The Finance committee would like to let any parishioners who wish to catch up with their normal weekly offering know that this can be done safely and easily by giving your donation to Bob Jones at 56 Balsall Street East, Balsall Common, CV7 7FT, or any member of the Finance Committee who will pass it on. This can either be a cheque (payable to Blessed Robert Grissold Church) or cash. Bob will always ensure that you have a receipt. Alternatively, you can set up a standing order from your bank account to make regular donations – information about how to do this is available on our parish website. www.brgparish.org.uk.

Christmas Giving Tree: Our annual giving tree has to take a different form this year. Rather than buying and wrapping gifts for different age groups, Fr Hudson's society has asked that we donate cash or store vouchers instead. Covid-19 has hit us all this year but, as with any crisis, the people who were already disadvantaged will have been most affected. We are therefore asking the parish to come together, in a safely socially distanced way, to make a Christmas offering for this.

We will be collecting cash, cheques, or store vouchers (please include a receipt with these) outside the church between **9.00am and 9.30am on Sundays 6th and 13th December**. There will be an additional collection in the car park on **Saturday 12th December 10.00am-11.00am**.

Some of the funds collected will be used to send Christmas cheer to members of the parish who are unable to come to church during the pandemic. If you would like to help with distributing a local gift please leave your contact details for Kathryn Driffield at one of the collections.

Your prayers are asked for those who are sick and their carers.

If you would like someone to be named on our list of those who are sick, please contact David Green (david.monica@btinternet.com) or complete the online form (under Parish Life) on our website.

Anniversaries: Mary Richards, Margaret Kinsella, Rita Weston, Valerie Harris, Patricia Westerman, Mary Howell, Dennis Clifford, Johnnie Kelly, John Burke, Frederick Garnham, Teresa Arikat, John White, Baby Dixon, Bernard Freyne.

Mass Intentions, Feast Days and Memorials for this week

Sun 29 Nov	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Mon 30	Feast of St Andrew <i>Intention: Phoebe Stevens (Birthday)</i>
Tue 1 Dec	Feast of St Edmund Campion
Thu 3	Memorial of St Francis Xavier
Sat 5	Feast of St Birinus
Sun 6	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Items for Weekly Bulletin: Please note that **Ellie Clarke** is now editing the bulletin. Please send items to her at: iehclarke@btinternet.com or call on **01676 533931** by **7.00pm on Wednesday**.

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