

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am

13th December 2020 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

“There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.”

Pope’s Prayer Intention for December: For a Life of Prayer – We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Fr. Frank: *John the Baptist, who we hear about in today’s Gospel, marks the end of the time of waiting and the beginning of the new age in Jesus. John is the last of the great prophets; for a long time, the people had been without a messenger from God but in John the Baptist the people discovered an end to God’s silence. Through John they could hear the word of God. We are told that many went out from the towns and cities to see John - which is testimony to his charismatic power to attract people - such is the powerful attraction of the word of God alive and active in a person.*

Welcome: Welcome back to the second week after re-opening for Mass. My thanks to all the volunteers who have made this possible. Due to my underlying health conditions I have received medical advice that it would be unwise for me to celebrate Mass in the same space as a congregation, therefore I will continue to celebrate Mass from behind the glass screen. I realise this is not ideal - it is frustrating for all of us. I know that I can rely on your patience and understanding.

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.

Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December at 7.30pm

Christmas Day Friday 25th December at 9.30am

Due to the current restrictions and the need for social distancing there are a limited number of places available at each of the Christmas Masses. The only way to secure a place is to **text 07512 100908**. The places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please specify in your text:

- + The day you wish to attend
- + The number of seats you require
- + Whether you require seating alone, for a couple, or for a family group.

Please note that in Tier 2 and 3 areas (we are currently in Tier 3), people must not mingle indoors with anyone they do not live with or have formed a support bubble with.

No one can be admitted once the seating capacity has been reached. Information about arrangements for parishioners attending masses and for wardens during Advent and Christmas can be found towards the end of this newsletter.

Post for Fr Frank: Please hand to one of the stewards at Mass. They will see that I receive all post, including Mass cards, after Mass. I will respond to you during the week.

Joe Walsh (RIP): Please pray for the repose of the soul of our good friend Joe Walsh who died this week. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.*

100 Club: The final 100 Club draw for 2020 has taken place with appropriate social-distancing measures – the draw was done over Zoom using a random number generator! Congratulations to the winners:

1st prize - £75: No. 99 Eileen Selby

2nd prize - £45: No. 62 Jean Henser

3rd prize - £30: No. 40 Megan Westall

Volunteers needed: Thank you to all those who have already volunteered to act as wardens at masses, taking responsibility for helping parishioners to adhere to the guidelines, and for ensuring the church is sanitised. We will need teams for the Christmas masses – please contact Joe Martin at joem9@tiscali.co.uk if you are available to help. New volunteers, either for Christmas or to join the rota for the New Year, are always welcome!

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 Sunday 13th December**.

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.

CAFOD World Gifts: World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

Churches Together in Balsall And Berkswell and Christian Aid: Christian Aid Week as we know it couldn't take place this year, so the Solihull Churches Committee set up a Solihull Churches Christian Aid Week Just Giving page, which raised £4173. This has now been replaced with a new page for an Autumn and Christmas appeal. Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell is represented on the committee and is asking for donations from the member churches. Please visit the following link to donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SolihullChurchesChristianAid>.

Advent Resources: The Archdiocese of Birmingham has links to a range of advent activities, resources and retreats for adults and young people on its website. Visit <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/advent-2020> to find out more.

Job Opportunity: Princethorpe College is looking for Lunchtime Supervisors. Further details and application forms available at: www.theprincethorpefoundation.co.uk/join-us.

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: Austin Ruddy, Bernard White, Sarah Cross, Beatrice Howse, Alec Plater, Marjorie Mayer.

Mass Intentions, Solemnities and Memorials for this week

Sun 13 Dec **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Wardens: Eileen and Elizabeth Selby, Helen Woods, Sarah Noonan

Mon 14
St John of the Cross
Matthew 21: 23-27

Sun 20 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Wardens: Joe and Pam Martin, Terry Biles, Stefan Hunka, Dave Cant

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 Friday**.

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

Masses at Blessed Robert Grissold in a Time of Covid-19

Guidance for Parishioners

- + 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. *(Please note arrangement for reserving a place at Christmas Masses at the beginning of this newsletter).*
- + 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.

Toilets in the church: In order to avoid possible spread of infection and to reduce the need for further cleaning we are trying to keep the toilets closed, but the toilet may be used in the case of emergency. If you need to use the toilet, you are asked to carefully clean and wipe down all surfaces you have touched.

Information for wardens:

One person to open up coming through the door from the car park and then open the main door in the main entrance. All other wardens and parishioners to then ONLY use the main door at the front. After mass, all parishioners and wardens to exit through the main door, with one warden then locking up and leaving through the car park door. No-one else should use the corridor from the narthex to the car park.

Warden's duties – *please arrive by 9am to prepare the church.*

- Sanitise all door handles, light switches and plain surfaces
- At the front entrance, collect names and phone numbers for track and trace
- Ask parishioners to sanitise their hands and remind people to wear masks unless they are exempt
- Guide everyone to their seats
- Direct parishioners to receive Holy Communion keeping 2 metres apart

- After Communion, supply each parishioner with sanitising wipes to clean their own seat before leaving the church
- Lock up after Father has left the church

Warden Teams and Rota

Names in bold indicate those responsible for unlocking and locking up the church as specified above

Team 1: **Joe and Pam Martin**, Terry Biles, Stefan Hunka, Dave Cant

Team 2: **Dominic and Teresa Green**, Dominic Wright, Aidir Parizzi, Liz Temperley-Preece

Team 3: **Monica and David Green**, Clare Keane, Chris Lynn, Irene Gibbons

Team 4: **Eileen and Elizabeth Selby**, Helen Woods, Sarah Noonan

Rota for December

6th: Team 3

13th: Team 4

20th: Team 1

Christmas Eve (7.30pm) – TBC

Christmas Day (9.30am - TBC

Please contact Joe Martin if you are available to be a warden for either of the Christmas masses.