

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am

27th December 2020 – Feast of the Holy Family

“The child grew, filled with wisdom.”

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: *The Feast today reminds us that God’s revelation and the outworking of his loving purposes takes place in the context of human families. In today’s readings we see how God begins a new work in the world through Abraham and Sarah, in the Old Testament and through Mary and Joseph, in the New Testament. Both couples faithfully trusted in God’s promises and saw them come to fulfilment - such is the faithfulness and mercy of God.*

Welcome: Our thanks to all the volunteers who have worked selflessly to keep the church open and have made it possible for us to celebrate the Christmas Masses. Our hearts go out to all those members of our parish who would usually gather with us at Christmas. We pray that God will bless and protect them and we look forward to the time when we will all be united around the altar once again. As this is the last bulletin before Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy Christmas, filled with the blessing and joy of Christ.

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.

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.

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.

Archbishop’s Pastoral letter: Archbishop Bernard Longley has provided parishes with a pastoral letter for the Feast of the Holy Family. This will be read at mass on Sunday and can found on the diocesan website by following this link: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/archbishops-pastoral-letter-sunday-27>.

CAFOD World Gifts: World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. They are available all year round and make great gifts for birthdays, weddings, baptisms, to say thank you or “just because”. There are gifts to suit all budgets, starting at just £4 – but all of them will change lives. Visit www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

Christian Life Community “Come and See”: The Christian Life Community (CLC) is a world-wide organisation for lay people who meet in small groups, currently virtually, to pray and share, and support each other to live in the spirit of the Gospel. There already are several CLC groups within our Archdiocese, and they would like to offer the opportunity to Christians to experience this way of life by setting up new virtual groups by Zoom across the Archdiocese. There is a virtual information evening for anyone who would like to know more on **Thursday 14 January at 7.30pm**. Please contact Peter Dimambro via email mdimambro@hotmail.co.uk or call **01926 428399** if you'd like to join this event.

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: Allison Taylor, George Ritchie, John Farmer, Frederick Woodhouse, Margaret Martin, Leo Fullbrook, Sydney Hopkins, Bernard Ward.

A prayer to help us prepare for 2021

You keep us waiting.
You, the God of all time
Want us to wait
For the right time in which to discover
Who we are, where we must go
Who will be with us, and what we must do.

Amen.

Iona Community, quoted by Archbishop Bernard Longley in his pastoral letter for this Sunday.

Masses and Solemnities, Feast Days and Memorials for this week

Sun 27 Dec	Mass at 9.30 am – Feast of the Holy Family Mass Intention: Sister Rita (Intentions) <i>Wardens: Dominic and Teresa Green, Dominic Wright, Aidir Parizzi, Liz Temperley-Preece</i>
Mon 28	Feast of the Holy Innocents
Tues 29	Feast of St Thomas Becket
Weds 30	Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas
Thurs 31	Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas
Fri 1 Jan	SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD
Sat 2	St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazienzen
Sun 27	Mass at 9.30 am – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY Mass Intention: Perry Family (Intentions) <i>Wardens: Monica and David Green, Clare Keane, Chris Lynn, Irene Gibbons</i>

Items for Weekly Bulletin: Please send items for the bulletin to Ellie Clarke: 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, misalettees 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.