

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am

3rd January 2021 – Second Sunday after the Nativity

“The Word was made flesh, and live among us.”

Pope’s Prayer Intention for January: Human Fraternity – May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Fr. Frank: *Our hope is in God, not in the sense of a generic religiosity or a fatalism cloaked in faith. We trust in God who revealed completely and definitively in Jesus Christ his desire to be with human beings, to share in our history, to guide us all to his Kingdom of love and life. And this great hope enlivens and at times corrects our human hopes. [The scriptures] affirm that God is not only the creator of the universe, an aspect common to other religions too, but that he is the Father who “chose us in him before the foundation of the world... He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ,” and that for this reason he even, inconceivably, went so far as to make himself man: “the Word became flesh and dwelled among us.”*
(Pope Benedict XVI)

Thanks from Fr. Frank: I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your cards, offerings, gifts and for all your generosity and support and to wish you and your loved ones a happy and blessed New Year.

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 Mass in this Christmas season. 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.

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.

“Giving Tree” Collection: Thank you to everyone who donated to our parish collection before Christmas to replace our usual Christmas Giving Tree. The total of money and vouchers donated was £410 – a wonderful result, especially with current restrictions on numbers able to attend mass. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to deliver a small gift and Christmas card to 21 of our older, more isolated parishioners, as well as a gratefully received donation to Father Hudson’s Care, which will be used to help those in need in our diocese. If you missed our parish collection, you can still donate to Father Hudson’s directly, via bank transfer, cheque or online – see their website for details:

<https://www.fatherhudsons.org.uk/getinvolved/donate/3.htm>.

Focus Group volunteers needed: The Joint Working Group of Balsall Common and Berkswell Parish Councils has invited local churches to form their own focus group to provide their views on the future development of Balsall Common centre, as part of their project to obtain community input. The group would consist of one or two people from each church who regularly use Balsall Common centre, and would “meet” via Zoom for a session of about 2 hours in January – probably in the early evening. If you are interested in representing Blessed Robert Grissold in this way, please email Ian Clarke at iehclarke@btinternet.com.

This “Churches Focus Group” is just one of a number of groups that the Joint Working Group hopes to establish to discuss plans – there is a link to their general request for volunteers for focus groups especially on the home page of our parish website. The general groups are open to everyone – the Parish Councils are particularly keen to see that the views of all age groups are represented.

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: Annama, Austin Griffith, Athlene O’Connell, Michael Simpson, John O’Reagan, Joan Applin.

This Week’s Masses and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time: Day: Celebrant: Intention:	Sunday 3 rd January 9.30am Second Sunday after the Nativity Father Frank Perry Family (Intentions)	Sunday 10 th January 9.30am Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Father Frank Larry Quinn
Wardens:	Monica and David Green, Clare Keane, Chris Lynn, Irene Gibbons	Eileen and Elizabeth Selby, Helen Woods, Sarah Noonan
Eucharistic Minister:	Nuala Fulham	Eileen Selby

Solemnities, Feast Days and Memorials for this week

Sun 3 Jan Second Sunday after the Nativity
Weds 6 Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Sun 10 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

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.or.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.

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