

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am

10th January 2021 – Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

“You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him”

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: *Mark, the earliest of the Gospel writers chooses to begin the story of Jesus, not with the birth of the Christ-child, but with the baptism of the adult Jesus. And this beginning is highly significant for Jesus and the whole of creation. Today, Baptism is too often thought of as a family affair - a private ceremony arranged between parents and priest and performed quietly in a corner of the church. But properly understood, Baptism is far from a private affair, for Baptism involves and concerns not only the whole of the Church but also the whole of creation. Baptism is of cosmic and eternal significance.*

Notice regarding church closure: First of all, I would like to thank all the volunteers for their help and support over the past weeks in keeping the church open for Mass. However, despite having tried my best to keep the church open, in the light of prevailing circumstances and for the safety of all, I have decided to close the church, **as from tomorrow Sunday 10th January**, until the situation with the virus improves.

Information concerning the Mass and other parish business will be posted regularly on the parish website together with a weekly spiritual communion and reflection. The Church advises us that the Sunday obligation is suspended at the present time and Masses are streamed on-line.

Keep safe and well,

With all good wishes and every blessing,

Fr Frank

Masses online: A number of churches stream their Masses online during lockdown. You can find links to the churches within the Archdiocese of Birmingham that provide this service (including St Chad’s Cathedral and several churches that our local to us) on the diocesan website:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-with-live-streams>.

Masses on television and Mass by phone: The diocesan website also contains details of additional resources for accessing the Mass:

EWTN (the Eternal Word Television Network) is a Catholic channel that is available on Freesat as well as through Sky and other paid-for services. Their broadcast schedule includes regular Masses.

A **Mass-by-Phone** service, specifically provided for those without internet access, has been launched by the Diocese of Middlesbrough. The number to call is 01642 130120. Calls are charged at local rate and free if in your included minutes. If you know of anyone who you think would benefit from this service, please pass on the number.

Details of these services, and links to resources to use at home, can be found on the “Parishes Online” page of the diocesan website: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-online>.

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. 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.

Lately Dead: Barry Holmes (father of Ellie Clarke).

Anniversaries: Edward Sheehan, Eileen Innes, Jack Brookes, Angela Belford.

Solemnities, Feast Days and Memorials for this week

Sun 10 Jan Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Sun 17 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer for those Affected by Illness

Merciful God,
come to the help of your people.
Be our shelter in this time of peril
and strengthen the bonds of our community. Bring healing to all who suffer
the ravages of disease
and assist those whose skill and art
can put an end to this affliction.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Liturgy Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales.

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