

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am

17th January 2021 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

“They saw where he lived, and stayed with 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: *Today’s Gospel conducts us to the River Jordan. This was the holy place where first century Judeans expected to see the Messiah come. It was also at this place that the people, long ago, crossed over into the promised land. Today’s story finds us here at this holy place, where John the Baptist is proclaiming Jesus to be the Lamb of God - the One who takes away the sins of the world, the One we are to follow.*

Notice regarding church closure: First of all, I would like to thank the volunteers in the parish for their support and hard work in keeping the church open for Mass. However, since the beginning of the new lockdown I have received messages and been involved in numerous discussions regarding the safety of our gathering for Mass during a time when the prevalence and transmissibility of the virus are very high. Due to safety concerns, many, including some who are very well informed in matters of health and safety, have decided not to attend Mass at this time. Among these are a significant number of volunteers who are key to keeping our church safe. This puts an added burden on the diminished number of those who remain.

In the light of these developments, and in the interest of the safety and welfare of our community, especially the most vulnerable, I feel constrained to close the church during this period of lockdown. This decision will, of course, be kept under review in the light of changing circumstances. It is important to note that, at present, the Sunday obligation is suspended. **I will continue to post a weekly spiritual communion and reflection on the parish website.** News of any developments will be published in the on-line weekly bulletin.

Take care and stay safe.

With all good wishes and every blessing

Fr Frank

On-Line Worship, Prayer and other activities: To assist us with worship and prayer, I intend to make Mass available on-line. Also, looking ahead, it might be possible to do the same with teaching and devotions in Lent. Please email me (frankj.smith55@yahoo.co.uk) if you are interested in being part of this and I will send you the relevant links and information in due course.

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity: This is the Sunday within the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity and, as Christians, we must be deeply committed to that unity among believers for which Jesus prayed. The two great commands of Christ, to love God with our whole strength and being and to love our neighbour as our self, show us the way to that unity, for the more we grow in love and unity with God the more we will grow in love and unity with one another. The scriptures proclaim God’s great love for the world and of his plan to draw all things together in unity in Christ.

Diocesan Resources: The website for the Archdiocese of Birmingham has links to various resources for use during lockdown and information about parishes in the diocese that live-stream their masses. For more information visit <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: Aidir Parizzi senior (father of parishioner Aidir Parizzi).

Aidir (senior) passed away unexpectedly in his sleep on 9th January. He was a devout Catholic who dedicated his retirement to charity and several decisive actions to help children in need in Brazil.

Anniversaries: Audrey Morris, Diane Harper, Philip Given.

Solemnities, Feast Days and Memorials for this week

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sun 10 Jan Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mass intention: Shirley Smith (RIP)

Tues 19 Feast of St Wulstan

Thurs 21 Memorial of St Agnes

Sat 23 Memorial of St Nicholas Owen

Sun 17 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mass intention: Joan Donovan (RIP)

A prayer for those who are ill

All-powerful and ever-living God,
the lasting health of all who believe in you,
hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick;
restore their health,
that they may again offer joyful thanks in your Church.

Grant this through Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Roman Missal: for the sick.

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