

# *Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common*

*In the Archdiocese of Birmingham*

*Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am*

**24<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“Repent and believe the Good News.”*

**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:** *In today’s Gospel reading we see how Jesus begins his public life with an exhortation to repent because the kingdom of heaven, or in Mark’s version the kingdom of God, is at hand. This warning prompted by love is addressed to all, for no one is without sin. Yet no matter how many wounds our human nature has sustained, we are never justified in giving way to despair, for the Lord, in his great love for us, pours out his compassion abundantly on all who need it.*

**Greetings:** I trust that you are keeping well. I miss you all and keep you in my prayers daily - especially in the Mass.

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.

*Take care and stay safe.*

*With all good wishes and every blessing*

*Fr Frank*

**Mass Online:** In order that we might continue to pray together during this time of pandemic and restrictions I will be sharing the Mass with you on-line. In addition, I will continue to post a weekly spiritual communion and reflection on the parish website. Also, I will endeavour to produce opportunities on-line for teaching and devotions during Lent. I hope that our participation in these acts of worship, reflection and devotion will go some way to drawing us together as members of the Body of Christ in this place at this challenging time. News of Masses, other events and any developments will be published in the on-line weekly bulletin and on the main Parish website.

In order to join in with the Mass online each week please click on the YouTube link below to open the Parish YouTube channel and you will see the latest Mass with the date as the title. -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-jl7rCVWalEI8W4aBn6pUw>.

**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.

## **A Prayer for Unity**

May the divisions among Christians be overcome  
so that we may hasten to your eternal Kingdom  
in the perfect communion of the Church.

*cf. Roman Missal*

**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](mailto:david.monica@btinternet.com)) or complete the online form (under Parish Life) on our website.

**Lately Dead:** Father George Webster SCC.

*Fr George died peacefully in his sleep at St Columban's in Solihull, where he has lived in retirement these past few years. He frequently celebrated Mass for us here in Balsall Common.*

**Anniversaries:** Emily McLellan, Joan Donovan, Dick Brennan, Marion Jones, Anne Marie Bossy, Vincent Webb.

**Solemnities, Feast Days and Memorials for this week**  
*Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity*

Sun 24 Jan	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Mass intention: Joan Donovan (RIP)</i>
Mon 25	Feast of the Conversion of St Paul
Tues 26	Memorial of Ss Timothy and Titus
Thur 28	Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas
Sun 31	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**A prayer for health care workers**

Wondrous God, author of life,  
you fashioned us in your likeness  
and breathed into us  
the life which is your own.  
Be with those whose special care  
is the health of mind and body.

Fill their hearts with awe  
for the life which is your gift  
and sustain them daily in your service,  
that their hands may bring to others  
the comfort of your healing touch.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

*From the Liturgy Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.*

**Items for Weekly Bulletin:** Please send items for the bulletin to Ellie Clarke: [iehclarke@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:parishpriest@brgparish.org.uk)**

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity No. 234216.

**Parish website: [www.brgparish.org.uk](http://www.brgparish.org.uk)**

**Warwick Catholic Deanery website: [www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk](http://www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk)**

**Archdiocese of Birmingham website: [www.birminghamdiocese.or.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.or.uk)**