

*Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common*

*In the Archdiocese of Birmingham*

*Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am*

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“He taught them with authority.”*

**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:** *The Gospel today describes the first of many miracles performed by Jesus which reveal his authority and power. Jesus speaks with the same miraculous power by which he acts. This first miracle in Jesus’ ministry signifies that Satan’s tyranny over the world has come to an end and that the Kingdom of God has broken into human history.*

**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:** So 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, if there is a call for it, I am happy 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. It is vital that as members of Christ’s Church that we should be united with Him and one another in prayer. News of Masses, other events and any developments will be published in the on-line weekly bulletin.

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>.

**Lent – Teaching and Discussion:** If there is sufficient interest, I am happy to prepare talks and discussion, online, for Lent. Please contact Fr Frank if you are interested in taking part.

**100 Club:** If you normally pay your 100 Club subscription by standing order, please could we ask you to let your standing order renew for 2021? In normal circumstances, John McLellan and Chris Burleigh would start collecting 100 Club cash and cheque subscription renewals from the end of January. Clearly this is not going to be possible at the start of this year. We therefore intend to hold the first draw, in March, on the basis of standing order subscriptions only, adjusting the prizes accordingly. Once it is safe to collect cash subscriptions the draw will be expanded to include all subscribers. The 100 Club is a valuable source of income for our church. Many thanks, Chris and John.

**Racial Justice Sunday:** This year's Racial Justice Sunday, 31 January, is more important than ever and we need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. Videos and other resources on this year's theme, "A Time to Act", are available on the website of the Catholic Church Bishops' Conference of England and Wales here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/racial-justice-sunday-2021/>.

**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.

**Anniversaries:** Mick Webb, Mary Chesshire, Nicholas Dodd, Becky Hulme, Val Burgess, Tommy Kelly.

### **Solemnities, Feast Days and Memorials for this week**

Tues 2 Feb	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
Weds 3	Memorial of St Blaise <i>Intention: Becky Hulme (RIP)</i>
Fri 5	Memorial of St Agatha
Sat 6	Memorial of St Paul Miki and Companions
Sun 31	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Intention: Fr George (RIP)</i>

#### **A prayer for Racial Justice Sunday**

Lord Jesus Christ, in your ministry  
you were approached by people  
of many different nations and cultures.  
You listened to their cry for help,  
treated them with love and compassion,  
and brought them healing and wholeness.  
In our own time may we provide  
to all those who are suffer  
the help that they need  
and the care that they require.

May we respond to the invitation of the Holy Spirit  
to dream of a world made new  
where the poor are not forgotten  
but are given the opportunity  
to live and flourish  
with good health and equal prospects.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

*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)**