

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am

7th February 2021 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.”

Pope’s Prayer Intention for February: Violence Against Women – We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

Fr. Frank: *At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, his acts revealed him as a man of mysterious power, working impressive miracles reaching out and curing people instantly. But miracles were only part of the story – they were signs of the new life of the Kingdom of God breaking in but Jesus knew that those who saw him only as a wonder-worker would miss the real meaning and purpose of his life. Therefore, he silences the demons, who know who he is, commanding that his true identity should be kept quiet until the rest of the story could be told – the story which leads to the cross and resurrection. It was not that he wanted to hide his true identity, rather it was that he wanted it revealed fully, and that would be possible only after his death and resurrection. Only then could he be seen as much more than a wonder-worker and performer of miracles – only then could he be seen as the Lord and Saviour of the world.*

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.

Your prayers are asked for those who are sick and their carers.

Margaret Collins

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: Derek Bubb, Mollie Lea, George Hammond, Tom Ward, Jack McLellan.

Solemnities, Feast Days and Memorials for this week

Sunday 5 Feb	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Intention: Fr George Webster SCC (RIP)</i>
Wednesday 10	Memorial of St Scholastica
Thursday 11	Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes
Sunday 14	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Prayer for Uncertain Times

Lord Jesus Christ, light of this world,
thank you for the hope you have given us.
Help us to give our worries to you and, above all,
to trust in your unfailing love.
For you have promised us
"Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you."
Almighty God, our protector,
let us trust in you to carry us through this time of uncertainty.
Jesus, hear our cries as we mourn those who've left us.
Whatever tomorrow may bring,
we will praise your name.
Amen.

Sasha Breakenridge, CAFOD volunteer / CAFOD website

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