

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am

21st February 2021 – First Sunday of Lent

“Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.”

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: *Holy Week and Easter are the climax of the Christian liturgical year. The time of the Passion and Resurrection is preceded by Lent, a lengthy period of preparation for these painful and illuminating mysteries. Lent is a time of penitence. It is a time for us to examine our conscience and seek reconciliation with the Lord. Lent is also a time for spiritual growth and enlightenment. In Lent we are invited to listen, and respond, ever more faithfully to the voice of God. Lent also commemorates Israel’s liberation from slavery in Egypt and their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Lent relates this to our own spiritual journey, to our liberation, our pilgrimage, our feeding on divine manna and of our meeting with God. And, as we see from today’s Gospel, Lent also recalls the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert during which he contended with Satan, the tempter. And our Lent must be a period of fighting against temptation. From this one can see that Lent is a very rich, a very deep mixture of elements which serve to purify and enlighten us. During the time of Lent the Church leads us towards the radiant glory of the Paschal feast. The more serious our Lenten preparation has been, the deeper we shall enter into the mystery of Easter and gather its fruits.*

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, of teaching courses in Lent, 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>.

Stations of the Cross: Please use the same link as the Mass (see above) to access Stations of the Cross and other activities posted for Lent.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion: Please find below a prayer which you can join in praying during the Mass online as you make your Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. We make this, and all our prayers through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Family Fast Day: CAFOD Family Fast Day is on **Friday 26 February 2021**. This Lent in lockdown, we can help transform lives!

Abdella has to walk ten hours a day to find water to keep his family alive. Please watch the short film by clicking on this link: https://youtu.be/x8NOXN45t_A.

More information about CAFOD’s work and their Lent 2021 appeal, including how to donate, are available on their website: www.cafod.org.uk.

Book of Remembrance: During Lent we will update our parish Book of Remembrance in which we record the anniversaries of parishioners and loved ones. We will be updating the pages on our parish website (www.brgparish.org.uk/faith/remembrance), and then amend the physical book once we are able to return to church. If you would like an anniversary to be added, please email the person's name (first name and surname) and the date and month to Ian and Ellie Clarke iehclarke@btinternet.com. We will update the records ready for Holy Week.

Resources for Lent and Easter: Links to online activities, retreats and resources for this Lent and Easter, are available on the diocesan website: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lent-and-easter-2021.

Job Vacancy - Headteacher: Due to the impending retirement of our current head teacher, the Governors of St. Mary's Catholic Primary School in Southam are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and visionary head teacher to lead our successful, happy and growing Catholic school community from September 2021. If you are interested in applying, please see the school website www.stmaryssoutham.org.uk or contact the school on **01926 812512** to arrange a visit after 4 p.m. Closing date for applications is 1st March 2021. Interviews will take place on 9th and 11th March.

Job Vacancy – Part-time HR Advisor: The Columban Missionaries invites applications for the part-time position of HR Advisor. Based in the Columban Mission Office at St. Columban's in Solihull, the successful candidate will provide HR support on employee relation issues, will undertake recruitment and be responsible for on-boarding and the life cycle of all our employees and volunteers. For more information and to apply visit: www.columbans.co.uk or email: hr@columbans.co.uk. Deadline for applications: Sunday 28th February 2021.

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

Margaret Collins (former parishioner of Blessed Robert Grissold Church).

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: Winifred Ruane, Mary Restall, Peter Doyle, John Cawley, Margaret Mulrennan, Glen Burgess, Martin Moylan, Cyril Smith.

Solemnities, Feast Days and Memorials for this week

Sun 14 Feb	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Mark 1: 12-15 <i>Intention: Joe Walshe (RIP)</i>
Mon 22	Chair of St Peter Matthew 16: 13-19
Tues 23	St Polycarp Matthew 6: 7-15
Fri 26	<i>Lent Fast Day</i> Matthew 5: 20-26
Sun 28	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Mark 9: 2-10

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.org.uk