



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

WOOD STREET, SOUTHAM CV47 1PP

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



07.02.2021 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

Prayer and Praise, the Spiritual Nourishments

Most of us live very busy lives. As a result, we may be spiritually undernourished, even impoverished. Today's Gospel shows us how in the midst of all his work Jesus took time out to pray. The Eucharistic Celebration provides us with a great opportunity to take time to be with the Lord.

Masses & Intentions

Saturday 06

Mary Earley (Intentions)

Sunday 07

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mary Earley (Intentions)

Monday 08

St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Josephine Bakhitha
Day for the Victims of Human Trafficking

Sr. Sharon Marie

Tuesday 09

Feria in Ordinary Time

The Medley Family (Intentions)

Wednesday 10

St. Scholastica, Virgin

Margaret Stewart RIP

Thursday 11

Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day for the Sick

Terry & Christine Keech (Golden Wedding)

Friday 12

Feria in Ordinary Time

Mary Robinson RIP

Saturday 13

Feria in Ordinary Time

John Grimshaw RIP

Sunday 14

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

People of the Parish

Mass via Internet

We feel great relief and even greater hope with the number of vaccinations administered to this day in our country. While the Covid-19 and its variants are around us, frightening even, we should have even greater hope with the ongoing development in medical research and the dedication with which our NHS has handled the pandemic, with their typical and undaunted dedication. We are immensely grateful to them and rightly feel proud of them and for all our frontline service providers.

As people of faith, we can do one more thing! It is to pray for them. Let us pray for the victims of Covid – 19 and for their families, for us and for our loved ones, and for our world weighed down with the pandemic and its effects, that it might emerge safer and stronger with enhanced quality of life for all and respect for God's creation. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of" said Alfred Lord Tennyson. So, let us pray, and with perseverance!

While there is no public Mass celebrated at the moment in our church, we hope to gather to celebrate Mass as soon as possible. Do join in the Mass live streamed from our church this Saturday at 5.30pm and Sunday at 10.00am by searching on the YouTube for "St Wulstan's, Southam".

May we view the current restrictions positively and accept them as an opportunity to start / restart and cultivate the habit of personal prayer / family prayer, scripture reading & meditation, grace before and after meals and similar private devotions that would nurture our spiritual life on a daily basis. All true devotions and spiritual exercises are bound to lead us to encounter the Lord in the Eucharist. Have a good week!

RIP: Please pray for **Fr. Giles Goward, Fr. Patrick Joyce, George Derek Watson, Stacy Reed, Kay Griffin, Kathleen Healy** and all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

Sick: Please pray for all those who are unwell at this time, especially all those who are affected by Covid-19, those who are in isolation and all who help / take care of them as well as all those who serve our communities in frontline jobs.

Telephone support: Some of our parishioners are supporting each other by telephone. Please phone 811703 (Shirley) or email (shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com) if you want a chat or to receive calls or if you would like to join those who are calling others

Unleash the Gospel: The following is a lovely website with week by week activities for families, prayers and exploration of the Gospel. Hope you will find it helpful. (This week):

<https://www.52sundays.com/sundays/february-7-2021>

Jesus at Capernaum (Mark 1:29-39): The snippets gathered in the gospel reading give us a sample of Jesus' activity at Capernaum – healing and prayer. The first incident, the healing of the relative of his friend and follower Simon Peter, reminds us that Jesus does respond if we pray for the needs of our nearest and dearest. Then the summary of his evening activity shows his concern to bring healing and wholeness. Any Christian will desire to follow his example: we can harm or heal those around us in so many ways. It does not need to be a miracle! A greeting, a look, a smile, a touch can bring the peace of Christ to someone in desperate need of reassurance - and no less can these actions harm and wound. But the third little story, of Jesus going off to pray in the early morning, shows that the well-spring of all his activity was his union with God whom he called his Father. We cannot say what Jesus' prayer was, any more than I can say what your prayer is, but the confident communication between Father and Son must have been the source of his strength and compassion.

**What sort of things can you do to bring healing to others?
Where do you find it easiest to pray?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

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.

LIFE: Next Sunday, there will be a voluntary Second Collection for the LIFE charity.

Lent 2021: The Season of Lent is round the corner. 17th of February is the Ash Wednesday. It will be good to organize a Lenten Course to learn about or to deepen our faith. If anyone could help or take part in this, please let Fr. Arul know.

‘Walk with Me’ prayer books and calendar have arrived. We’ll try our best to reach them to as many parishioners as possible. Weather permitting, they’ll be available outside the church. If you happen to pass through the area, please do collect your copies.

Weekly Rosary: You will be pleased to know that parishioners could now join with other parishioners for praying the Rosary via zoom, on **Wednesdays at 7.30pm**. All those who are currently on the parish email list will be contacted before Wednesday, with details for you to join in.

Be encouraged to pray the Rosary regularly (even if a decade or two), especially for the deliverance from the pandemic. Your prayers are much appreciated.

Our Lady of Lourdes: The many miracles which have been performed through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes prompted the Church to institute a special commemorative feast, the "Apparition of the Immaculate Virgin Mary." The Office gives the historical background. Four years after the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1854), the Blessed Virgin appeared a number of times to a very poor and holy girl named Bernadette. The actual spot was in a grotto on the bank of the Gave River near Lourdes.

The Immaculate Conception had a youthful appearance and was clothed in a pure white gown and mantle, with an azure blue girdle. A golden rose adorned each of her bare feet. On her first apparition, February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin bade the girl make the sign of the Cross piously and say the rosary with her. Bernadette saw her take the rosary that was hanging from her arms into her hands. This was repeated in subsequent apparitions.



With childlike simplicity Bernadette once sprinkled holy water on the vision, fearing that it was a deception of the evil spirit; but the Blessed Virgin smiled pleasantly, and her face became even more lovely. The third time Mary appeared she invited the girl to come to the grotto daily for two weeks.

Now she frequently spoke to Bernadette. On one occasion she ordered her to tell the ecclesiastical authorities to build a church on the spot and to organize processions. Bernadette also was told to drink and wash at the spring still hidden under the sand.

Finally, on the feast of the Annunciation, the beautiful Lady announced her name, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

The report of cures occurring at the grotto spread quickly and the more it spread, the greater the number of Christians who visited the hallowed place. The publicity given these miraculous events on the one hand and the seeming sincerity and innocence of the girl on the other made it necessary for the bishop of Tarbes to institute a judicial inquiry. Four years later he declared the apparitions to be supernatural and permitted the public veneration of the Immaculate Conception in the grotto. Soon a chapel was erected, and since that time countless pilgrims come every year to Lourdes to fulfill promises or to beg graces.

— Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

St. Josephine Bakhita: For many years, Josephine Bakhita was a slave, but her spirit was always free and eventually that spirit prevailed. Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of seven, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan.

Two years later he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Soon Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine.



When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885.

Josephine entered the Institute of Saint Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!"

The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later.

— Excerpted from *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

"Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know him. What a great grace it is to know God!" — *St. Josephine Bakhita*

Prayer of Spiritual Communion
(St Alphonsus Liguori)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion
for Vocations to the Priesthood

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, offered as a Sacrifice on the Cross to take away the sins of the world:

I unite myself with your sacrifice on the altar, with the Eucharist which I cannot receive. You have given to your Church the Sacrament of Baptism through which your people are made holy. You have given to your Church the Sacrament of the Priesthood by which the banquet of the Eucharist is set before us. I pray today for all priests, who through their consecration make present in your Church your real and abiding presence.

I thank you for the gift of the Priesthood. I praise your wonderful presence in the Eucharist.

Amen.