



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



14.02.2021 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

Jesus, Friend of Outcasts

In biblical times people did not touch lepers for fear of contagion. Yet Jesus reached out and touched lepers. He still reaches out to us. To help to outcasts, Jesus himself had to become an outcast and “stay outside in places where nobody lived”.

Now, more than ever, God calls us to treat the sick with dignity.

Masses & Intentions

Saturday 13

John Grimshaw RIP

Sunday 14

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Christopher Pratt RIP

Monday 15

Feria in Ordinary Time

Pat & Ian Woolstan (Intentions)

Tuesday 16

Feria in Ordinary Time

Louise Kent (Intentions)

~ ~ ~ **The Season of Lent** ~ ~ ~

Wednesday 17

Ash Wednesday

Fr. Patrick Joyce RIP

Thursday 18

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Fr. Giles Goward RIP

Friday 19

Friday after Ash Wednesday

James Ward RIP

Saturday 20

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Harold Sweeney

Sunday 21

First Sunday of Lent

People of the Parish

Mass via Internet

We invite you to join in the Masses live streamed this weekend, on Saturday at 5.30pm and Sunday at 10.00am by searching on the YouTube for "St Wulstan's, Southam".

We begin the Season of Lent this week with Ash Wednesday on 17th February. **It is to be observed as a day of fasting and abstinence.** Let us involve ourselves wholeheartedly with our prayers and Lenten devotions.

Limited attempts have been made to reach ‘**Walk with Me**’ prayer books and calendar to parishioners. Our primary school has been provided with sufficient number of prayer books and calendars. A small number of copies are placed outside the church. If you happen to pass through the area, please do collect your copies.

Hopefully, the evening Mass on Ash Wednesday will be live streamed at 7.00pm. Please do join if you can.

May the Season of Lent be an opportunity for us 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 and sustain our spiritual life. All true devotions and spiritual exercises are bound to lead us to encounter the Lord in the Eucharist. Wish you a happy lent!

LIFE: This weekend, there will be a voluntary Second Collection for the LIFE charity.

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/january-31-2021>

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

Jesus Heals a Leper (Mark 1:40-45): Mark shows the warmth of Jesus’ humanity with his concern for a leper. The leper had no right even to approach Jesus, but must have felt that he would get a favourable response and no word of reproach. “Jesus felt sorry for him” is rather a weak translation - the Greek is far stronger: colloquially it literally means ‘was gutted’; so Jesus felt compassion to the depths of his being. Then Jesus touched him – in this touching he was both reaching out to someone ritually impure and risking infection. There have been famous repetitions of this brave and heartfelt gesture: Francis of Assisi kissing a leper’s hand, Princess Diana shaking hands with an AIDS sufferer (when the sickness was thought to be contagious by touch). One can imagine the awestruck horror of the bystanders at this outrageous expression of love and sympathy. Why, then, does Jesus ‘sternly’ send him away? A more faithful rendering would be not ‘sternly’ but ‘in anger’. It is possible that the anger is directed at the leprosy, considered as an exterior invasion, and so he sent it (the disease) away. At least Jesus’ whole-hearted emotional involvement with the sufferer is palpable.

Who are the equivalent of lepers in our society?

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.

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.

St Marys Catholic Primary School, Southam: Due to the impending retirement of our current head teacher, the Governors of St. Marys Catholic Primary school are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and visionary head teacher to lead our successful, happy and growing Catholic school community from September 2021

Closing date 1st March 2021. Interviews 9th & 11th March

If you are interested, please see the school website www.stmaryssoutham.org.uk or contact the school 01926812512 to arrange a visit after 4p.m.

Job Vacancy – 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 to: hr@columbans.co.uk. Deadline for applications: Sunday 28th February 2021.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

An opportunity for couples to enrich their relationship, regardless of the length of time they have been together. Couples can explore their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Other dates for 2021 - 20th-21st March & 15th-16th May

To find out more visit <https://wwme.org.uk/> or call 0845 2602016

Marriage and Family Life: Alliance of Catholic Marriage Organizations is formed of many organizations that support couples at all stages of their relationship from marriage preparation to marriage enrichment as well as when marriages experience difficulties.

All of these organizations have adapted how they support couples and are now able to remotely provide their services online.

Couples preparing for marriage, please be assured that Marriage Care & Engaged Encounter are still providing marriage preparation courses online during the pandemic.

The Mystery of Lent

What Is Lent? Lent is the penitential season of approximately 40 days set aside by the Church in order for the faithful to prepare for the celebration of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. During this holy season, inextricably connected to the Paschal Mystery, the Catechumens prepare for Christian initiation, and current Church members prepare for Easter by a recalling of Baptism and by works of penance, that is, prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Even in the early Church, Lent was the season for prayerful and penitential preparation for the feast of Easter. Though the obligation of penance was

"During these 40 days, let me put away all my pride. Let me change my heart and give up all that is not good within me. Let me love God with all that I am and all that I have."

—Genesis Grain

originally only imposed on those who had committed public sins and crimes, by medieval times all the faithful voluntarily performed acts of penance to repair for their sins.

Ash Wednesday is the clarion call to "Repent and believe the gospel" (Mk 1:15). For the next forty days, the faithful willingly submit to fasting and self-denial in imitation of Our Lord's forty-day fast in the desert. It is in these dark and still nights, these desert-times, that the soul experiences its greatest growth. There, in the inner arena, the soul battles the world, the flesh and the devil just as Our Lord battled Satan's triple temptation in the desert. His battle was external, for Jesus could not sin; our battle is interior, but with a hope sustained by the knowledge of Christ's Easter victory over sin and death.

His victory is our renewal, our "spring" — which is the meaning of the Anglo-Saxon word, "lengten" or Lent. In this penitential season we have the opportunity to make an annual spiritual "tune-up", a 40-day retreat with Our Lord. Have we allowed worldly cares and the "daily drama" to obscure our call to holiness? Have self-love and materialism eroded our



relationship with God? Then let us renew our efforts, and through our Lenten observance, discipline the body and master it as we "follow in the footsteps of the poor and crucified Christ" (St. Francis of Assisi).

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=1010>

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.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE RENEWAL IN OUR PARISH

Father, pour out your Spirit upon your people, and grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service, that your love may grow among us, and your kingdom come: Through Christ our Lord. Amen.