

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am

21st March 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

“If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.”

Pope’s Prayer Intention for March: Sacrament of Reconciliation – Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Day of Prayer for the Pandemic: *We are invited to join in a Day of Prayer for the Pandemic on Tuesday 23rd March - to pray for the many needs, hopes and sorrows that have emerged over the last year and to pray that this pandemic comes to an end, reflecting with thanksgiving on the generosity, inventiveness, self-sacrifice and determination shown by so many in this most difficult of times.*

Re-opening of Blessed Robert Grissold Church for Mass:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am pleased to report that, providing the necessary measures can be put in place to keep everyone safe, BRG will be reopening for Mass on Easter Sunday. However, due to the circumstances surrounding my health and that of members of my family, I am only prepared to say Mass from behind the glass screen. There are three of us in my household who are in the high-risk category to infection with COVID and, until we have received full immunity from the vaccination and the risk of infection is low, I will be taking every precaution to protect my family from an illness that is likely to have serious consequences for their health. I have the full support of the Archdiocese in this course of action, and I am grateful to so many of you who have expressed understanding, support and prayers.

However, because I know how important the gathering for Easter is for all of us, I have accepted the kind offer of a priest to celebrate Mass in the main body of the church on Easter Sunday. Also, he has said that he is prepared to do this monthly thereafter. I will continue to celebrate Mass on the intervening Sundays behind the glass screen. Regarding Holy Week - the Archdiocese has recognised the practical difficulties that smaller churches will have in celebrating the Triduum and therefore has suggested that, as a sign of unity, we should share in the online streaming of these celebrations in Holy Week from the Cathedral.

Because the risk of infection remains high, the Sunday obligation is suspended and as most of our congregation are, understandably, reluctant to gather for Mass, I will continue regularly to post the Mass, teaching, Stations of the Cross, a Spiritual Communion and guidance for prayer online.

Hopefully, with the roll-out of the vaccinations, the end of restrictions is in sight. With you, I look forward to the time when we can get back to some kind of normality.

With all good wishes and every blessing

Fr Frank

Lent Online: I hope that our participation in the variety of acts of worship, reflection and devotion listed below will help in drawing us together as members of the Body of Christ during 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 and other activities in Lent together with any developments will be published, here, in the on-line weekly bulletin.

Spiritual Communion: I will post a weekly spiritual communion on this parish website together with a meditation. This also provides a framework for daily prayer and meditation throughout the week as I will supply references for the daily Gospel readings.

Mass Online: So that we might continue to pray together during this time of pandemic and restrictions I will be sharing the Sunday Mass with you on-line.

Link for Mass: 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: Various versions of the Stations of the Cross will be posted online during Lent. This week it is the meditations on the Way of the Cross written by Mother Teresa. Please use the same link as the Mass (see above) to access Stations of the Cross and other activities posted for Lent.

Lent Course: New material for the Lent course on the Holy Scriptures will be posted online on Thursdays - use the same link as for the Mass (see above) to access the Lent course.

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. This prayer was written by St Alphonsus Liguori:

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.

Wanted – Gift Aid Organiser: John McLellan, our Gift Aid Organiser at BRG, has decided to step down in April. As a parish we owe a great debt of gratitude to John for his work in this capacity, not least because the Gift Aid Organiser ensures that substantial funds are returned to the Parish each year. John has kindly expressed his desire for a planned and orderly takeover and is prepared to show his successor the ropes. If you would like to volunteer for this position, or if you want to explore the possibility further, please contact Fr Frank.

National Day of Reflection for Covid-19: Tuesday 23 March has been designated a National Day of Reflection to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown with a minute's silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8pm. All are asked to make this not only a Day of Reflection but also a Day of Prayer.

Book of Remembrance: During Lent we will update our parish Book of Remembrance in which we record the anniversaries of parishioners and loved ones. 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.

Governors wanted: Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School in Tile Hill has vacancies for school governors. For further information please contact the school: admin@ourlady.coventry.sch.uk.

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: Timothy O'Sullivan, Alison Taylor.

Solemnities, Feast Days and Memorials for this week

Sun 21 Mar	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT John 12:20-33 <i>Sara Stevens (Intentions)</i>
Mon 22	John 8: 1-11
Tues 23	Day of Prayer for Pandemic
Thurs 25	SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD <i>Intention: Susan Franklin (RIP)</i>
Sun 28	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD <i>Intention: Dyphna Cassidy</i>

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