

## *Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common*

*In the Archdiocese of Birmingham*

*Sunday Mass Time 9.30 am*

### **28<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

*“Blessing on him who comes in the name of the Lord!”*

**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.

***Father Frank:** Holy Week begins today with Palm Sunday, when the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery. The Paschal Mystery, the passage from death to life, is the heart of our faith. The account of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus forms the oldest part of the Gospels. It is what the evangelists recorded first. For them, it was the heart and nucleus of the Lord’s witness to the loving purposes of God. That is why the Paschal Mystery is at the heart of our communal celebration as the Church and is at the heart of our lives as Christians and this is why the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter are so important. Through the Easter Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, we celebrate the greatest mysteries of our redemption, keeping, through very special celebrations, the memorial of our Lord’s crucifixion, burial and resurrection. This year we are encouraged to join together in these celebrations through sharing in the streaming of these sacred events from St Chad’s Cathedral.*

#### **Re-opening of Blessed Robert Grissold Church for Mass:**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am pleased to report that the church will be reopening for a 9.30am Mass on Easter Sunday. Fr Chris Greaney will be presiding with the congregation gathered in the main body of the church on the first Sundays of the month. For the reasons I have explained in previous bulletins, I will be saying Mass on the other Sundays in the month with the congregation gathered in the hall behind the glass screen. Thanks to all the volunteers who are making this possible. A booking system will be introduced if it proves necessary but until then the seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. There are a limited number of seats because of the continued need for distancing. Please refer to the guidance at the end of this newsletter about the arrangements for mass to keep everyone safe.

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*

**Easter Offering:** The collection at Mass on Easter Sunday is the customary Easter Offering for your parish priest.

**Lent and Holy Week 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, we should be united with Him and with 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 continue to 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:** I have provided a variety of versions of the Stations of the Cross online. Please use the same link as the Mass (see above) to access Stations of the Cross and other activities posted for Lent.

**Lent Course:** The final sessions of the Lent course on the Holy Scriptures will be posted online by Thursday of this week - 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.**

**Help Needed:** In order to re-open the church safely we need volunteers to help with cleaning. Please contact Joe Martin: [joem9@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:joem9@tiscali.co.uk).

**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.

**100 Club:** 100 Club 1st draw of 2021. 1st prize, number 64, Bysse Gibbs, £60; 2nd, 23, Keith Delaney, £40; 3rd, 13, Sophie (nee Dodd), £20. As previously announced, prizes have been reduced for the time being as we can only include members whose subscriptions have renewed automatically, as standing orders. When we are able to all meet up at church, we can collect cash and cheque subscriptions, and run the draws including all subscribers.

**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](mailto:david.monica@btinternet.com)) or complete the online form (under Parish Life) on our website.

**Anniversaries:** Reginald Branson, Patrick Flynn, Margaret Ruddy, Rose Carolan, Paul McAuley, Hanna Sheehan.

### Solemnities, Feast Days and Memorials for this week

Sun 28 Mar	<b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b> <i>Intention: Dymphna Cassidy</i>
Thur 1 Apr	<b>MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER</b>
Fri 2	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
Sat 3	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>
Sun 4 – 9:30am	<b>MASS OF EASTER SUNDAY</b> John 20: 1-9 <i>Intention: People of the Parish</i>

**Items for Weekly Bulletin:** Please send items for the bulletin to Ellie Clarke: [iehclarke@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:parishpriest@brgparish.org.uk)**  
The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity No. 234216.

**Parish website: [www.brgparish.org.uk](http://www.brgparish.org.uk)**

**Warwick Catholic Deanery website: [www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk](http://www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk)**

**Archdiocese of Birmingham website: [www.birminghamdiocese.or.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.or.uk)**

## **Masses at Blessed Robert Grissold in a Time of Covid-19**

### **Guidance for Parishioners**

- + Attendees must wear a mask
- + Remain 2 metres apart
- + Sanitise hands on entering and exiting the Church
- + Follow the signs
- + Always follow the stewards' instructions

### **Holy Communion**

- + All responses during the Mass to be whispered
- + Single file queue for Holy Communion (in one kind only) - please follow stewards' guidance.
- + The Host to be received in silence, on outstretched hand
- + Masks to be worn to receive the Host
- + Leave the church immediately after the conclusion of Mass – please follow stewards' guidance

**Please do not congregate in the car park after leaving the church.**

*During Mass there will be no:*

- + Children's liturgy
- + Offertory procession
- + Sign of peace
- + Parish missals, missalettes or hymn books
- + Congregational singing
- + Passing of collection bags
- + Flowers

*Please stay at home if...*

- + You are feeling ill or show any symptoms
- + You suspect you may be ill or have been exposed to Covid-19
- + You have a sick family member at home
- + You have come into contact with someone who is infected

**Those attending Mass will be asked to supply contact details for track and trace.**

### **Please Note:**

- + In the first instance, attendance will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Once capacity has been reached the stewards will prevent entry.
- + Wrap up warm - doors will be left open to increase ventilation wherever possible

**Toilets in the church:** In order to avoid possible spread of infection and to reduce the need for further cleaning we are trying to keep the toilets closed, but the toilet may be used in the case of emergency. If you need to use the toilet, you are asked to carefully clean and wipe down all surfaces you have touched.