



## OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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**20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent.**

### Fifth Sunday of Lent. Psalter Week 1

"If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies it yields a rich harvest". John 12:20-30

**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.*

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|----------------------------|--|--|
| Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>Vigil for Fifth Sunday in Lent</b><br>Divine healing for Maureen Walsh, Pat Crehan, Peggy Lennon, Michael Walsh, Andrew Doyle, Stan Linden  | <b>Public Mass 5.30 pm</b>   |
| Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> March | <b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b><br>Divine Healing for Gerard McMahon   | <b>Public Mass &amp; Mass Online 10.00 am</b><br><b>Live Stream via Zoom</b>   |
| Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> March | Lent Feria   | Mass 9.00 am In Private  |
| Tue 23 March               | Lent Feria<br><br><b>National Day of Reflection for Covid-19</b>   | Mass 9.15 am In Private.<br><b>7.30.pm Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.</b><br><b>8.00 pm Light Vigil on Church Lawn</b> |
| Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> March | Lent Feria   | Stations of the Cross 6.30 pm<br><b>Live Stream via Zoom</b>   |
| Thurs 25 March             | Solemnity of The Annunciation of the Lord  | Mass 9.15 am In Private  |
| Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> March | Lent Feria   | Mass 9.15 am In Private  |
| Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> March | Lent Feria<br>(Day of Prayer for the survivors of sexual abuse.)   | Mass 9.15 am In Private  |
| Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>Vigil for Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b><br>Divine healing for Maureen Walsh, Pat Crehan, Peggy Lennon, Michael Walsh, Andrew Doyle, Stan Linden<br><b>CLOCKS GO FORWARD @ 1.00 am Sunday</b> | <b>Public Mass 5.30 pm</b>   |
| Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.</b>   | <b>Public Mass &amp; Mass Online 10.00 am</b><br><b>Live Stream via Zoom</b>   |

**Prayer intentions:** Please pray for those on our parish sick list and all sick the elderly, the housebound, all who are self-isolating and all who care for them.

We pray for all our family and friends who have recently died Jim Murray and Marion Fletcher, and for our parish anniversaries, May Kinney, Sean Larim Shakoori-Divan, Annie Jones, Pauline Fogarty, and John Barrett

**National Day of Reflection for Covid-19 Tuesday 23 March:** This Tuesday 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.

We will be opening our Church for Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday evening from 7.30 pm. We will then gather outside of the church for a short Candle Vigil at 8.00 pm joining the National Reflection vigil of light as a Parish community (Bring a torch or use a mobile light if it is windy). Please do come at any time after 7.30 pm to join us in prayer, reflection, and our light vigil.

The Full statement from the Bishop's conference is here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/make-national-day-of-reflection-on-pandemic-a-day-of-prayer/>

**The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No. 234216**

**Parish Stations of The Cross 6.30 pm Wednesdays:** Thanks to all who joined us last Wednesday to share our mediation on the way of the Cross. Please do join us in person or log on to Zoom. We will be using our usual Zoom link and Password.

**Children's Easter Decorations for Church.** For Holy Week and Easter this year we have several things planned that we would love the children of the parish to participate in. St. Mary's Primary School is already signed up, but we know that there are children who are part of the parish that are outside of St. Mary's – any child can choose to do everything or just one element. The choices are:

1. **Make a small Easter Decoration to hang on the Easter Tree in the Porch of the Church** – this should be no bigger than the size of a hen's egg please.

2. **Paint a Rock telling a part of the Easter Story** – these will be placed on the windowsills of the church and perhaps also on the lawn – so needs to be made waterproof (easiest way is to paint over the decoration with diluted PVA glue)

3. **Make a rustic cross to go outside the church** – these can be any size up to 50cm. The Cross can be decorated or left plain.

If you could bring whatever your child/children have made to the church and leave it in the presbytery porch anytime between now and Good Friday that would be fantastic – ready for installation. Alternatively, if you are doing an Easter Tree Decoration you or your child can bring it to Easter Vigil or one of the Sunday Masses and hang it on the tree yourselves.

**Holy Week and Easter Services:** Although the lockdown measures are easing, we will still have to regulate the numbers that can attend our principal services at Easter to follow our Covid policies and maintain space between social or family "bubbles". Our easter services this year all be slightly different to our normal for this reason.

On Palm Sunday we will ask worshipers to collect palms as they enter, and we will bless them in the mass and ask everyone to take these home with them.

Our Mass on Maundy Thursday, while celebrating the last supper and the institution of the mass the service will be pared back. There will be no watching until midnight after mass.

On Good Friday there will be no individual veneration of the cross.

Our Easter vigil service will probably be condensed, on Easter day we will be holding our traditional 8.30 mass and 10.00 Mass but unfortunately, we cannot distribute Easter eggs. We will be sharing some of our service by Zoom.

As at Christmas we have sent out a poll to book a seat at the services on Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday morning please return this by 26<sup>th</sup> March to allow us to plan. There are paper copies in Church, but they need to be back before next weekend.

Please remember that No one should feel under any compulsion to come to the Church in person.

**St Marys Primary School Henley in Arden. Diamond Anniversary.** On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March, The School celebrates 60 years in Arden Road, Henley in Arden, it's Diamond anniversary. This is an exciting time for the school as on Monday one of portacabin huts are due to be demolished and the footings laid for the new permanent extension to the school during the Easter holidays.

**Reminder British summer time (BST) officially starts at 1am on Sunday 28 March, the clocks go forward an hour.**

**Financial support for your parish and Gift Aid Envelopes.** The new planned giving Envelopes will be available soon. If you are a taxpayer and would like to start to Gift Aid your donations to our Church, please contact our Treasurer Mary Mayo. If you have not done so, you can Gift Aid any donations though bank transfer or standing order. Thank you to all our parishioners for their continued support in these difficult times.

Mary Mayo can be contacted by email [mary.mayo1@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.mayo1@btinternet.com). for further details and the account number.

**Diocesan Newsletter:** To keep up to date with all the latest news, information, and online events from around our Archdiocese and beyond please sign up to the newsletter, issued every few weeks via email. Please visit [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news) to view the latest news and easter resources.

**Latest Covid Measures:** Although the good news is that many of our parishioners have had their Covid Vaccination and that our schools will start back next week, we cannot relax our Covid measures yet.

**The Church reminds us all that currently there is no obligation to attend mass in person.**

We continue to encourage those who are vulnerable or at any risk to themselves to stay safe, stay at home and join us by Zoom, we can still chat on Zoom. There are plenty of opportunities for worshipers to join spiritually and virtually in mass daily or weekly if they wish. The Guidance for those attending remains important.

**HANDS- FACE- SPACE.**

**Please follow the current restrictions and do not mix with other households in Church.**

If you or your family have the symptoms of COVID 19 please do not come to the church.