



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



14.03.2021 - Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday - Mothering Sunday

Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

Christ, the Redeemer

Our sins had made us exiles from God's kingdom. But just as God sent Cyrus, the King of Persia, to bring his people back from Babylon, so in his great love he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to bring us back to the new Jerusalem "to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it".

Masses & Intentions

Saturday 13	Elisabeth & Family (Intentions)
Sunday 14	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT People of the Parish
Monday 15	Lent Feria Valerie Berridge Intentions (80 th Birthday)
Tuesday 16	Lent Feria Sr. Sharon Peters & Valerie Berridge (Ints)
Wednesday 17	Feast of St. Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland Fr. John Laybourn's Intentions (70 th Birthday)
Thursday 18	Lent Feria Maureen & Jim Stewart Family (Intentions)
Friday 19	Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary Fr. John O'Brien s.a.c. RIP
Saturday 20	Lent Feria Joanne Stewart & Family (Intentions)
Sunday 21	Fifth Sunday of Lent People of the Parish

Mother's Day

We fondly remember all mothers and say a heartfelt THANK YOU for all that are, all that you do and for all that you have done. You are priceless and precious! Happy Mother's Day!



Happy Feast

Wednesday 17th March is the Feast of St. Patrick and Friday is the Feast of St. Joseph. Wish you all a Happy Feast!

Weekend Masses via YouTube

We continue with the live streaming of the Masses this weekend. We shall restart public Mass in our church from **next Sunday 21st March at 10.00am.**

The following Sunday (28th March) will be Palm Sunday, and we shall have both Saturday (Vigil) Mass at 5.30pm and the 10.00am Mass on Sunday.

The clergy have discussed the guidelines from the Bishops Conference about celebrating the Holy Week and the Easter Triduum at the deanery meeting last Tuesday. Booking system will be followed. Please add your names to the forms made shortly available in our church for this purpose.

Keep up your Lenten devotions!

The following websites might be of help to you to nurture and sustain our spiritual life.

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/> www.sacredspace.ie
<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com>

Let us remember that all true devotions and spiritual exercises are bound to lead us to encounter the Lord in the Eucharist. Wish you a happy lent!

RIP: Please pray for **Fr Oliver Kemp, Fr John Fallon, 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.

Miriam's Walk for Water: Inspired by a video in her school about Cafod's effort in providing drinking water to people in hot countries like Ethiopia, our parishioner Miriam Lambe is doing Cafod's 'Walk for Water Challenge' this Lent. Parishioners are encouraged to support Miriam's and Cafod's effort. The following is the sponsor link:

Nicodemus (John 3:14-21): After Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus comes this reflection on Nicodemus' visit. Is it Jesus' reflection or the evangelist's? The text does not make it clear. Throughout the gospel of John people are coming to Jesus and judging themselves by their reactions to Jesus. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son. In his turn the Son does not judge, but we judge ourselves by our reaction to him. So at the wedding at Cana the disciples believe in him and see his glory. In the Temple the Jews refuse belief and are condemned. Then comes Nicodemus in secret and in fear. At this point he is sitting on the fence, afraid of the Pharisees - but by the time of the burial he has decided for Jesus. After Nicodemus the Samaritan woman approaches Jesus. Cheeky and unbelieving at first, she is won over by Jesus' playful persistence. And so on - the Jews on one side, the man healed at the Pool of Bethzatha on the other: the Jews on one side, the man blind from birth on the other. The decision is ours too.

When confronted by Jesus, do we come to the light so that our deeds may be known, or do we shun the light?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

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.

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/march-14-2021>

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/miriamslentchallenge>

Thank you in anticipation for your generous support.

Weekly Rosary: Thanks to the Isaacs Family for their Rosary initiative. Parishioners could now join with other parishioners for praying the Rosary via zoom, on **Wednesdays at 7.30pm**. Many thanks to all who have joined this initiative.

You can use the same link each week to join which is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84132920743?pwd=NXRoUVJTOVVlanUwVzYxNkvbGlrUT09>

Meeting ID: 841 3292 0743 Passcode: S0AQyB

We are very grateful to Mike Brown for his paintings on the Luminous Mystery of the Rosary and the reflections. These will be incorporated into the prayer this week.

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.

Lent - Sycamore Course: For the last few weeks this zoom Lent course has been taking place on Thursdays at 7.30pm. **But on Thursday 18th March, it will be at 5.30pm.** Anyone is welcome to join in at:

Meeting ID: 896 3805 6659 Passcode: C4wa3B

National Novena to St. Joseph (10 – 18 March 2021)

Year of St. Joseph

(Edited excerpts from the Novena Director, Mill Hill Missionaries)

There can be few, if any, of us who have not been in some way impacted by the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic over the last 12 months. Many of us will have endured the double grief of not being present when a loved one has died, either alone, or in intensive care, surrounded only by sophisticated medical equipment and hard-pressed medical staff. Even the pain of self-isolation, separation from family and friends, the shattering of our hopes and dreams, can feel like its own form of death.

For all of us, the events of the past year have forced us to cancel or change our plans, to accept challenges we would never otherwise have dreamed of accepting, whether it is home-schooling our children or grandchildren, or caring for a shielding and vulnerable loved one or neighbour. At the very least, this past year has given us pause to reflect, to reassess our priorities, and to ask what our true values in life are.



On the 8th of December last year, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and with the current pandemic very much in mind, Pope Francis proclaimed a Year of St. Joseph, to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Pope Pius IX of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. In his Apostolic Letter, Patris Corde (“With a Father’s Heart”), inaugurating the Year, Pope Francis acknowledges that during this pandemic we have experienced how “our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked... men and women working to provide essential services and public safety... How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all.”

He adds, “Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.”

Patris Corde, which inaugurates The Year of St. Joseph, forms the basis this year for our Novena reflections on the life of Jesus’ earthly father. May the praying of our Novena in this Year of St. Joseph guide and inspire us into a closer relationship with this model of all earthly parenthood. May this model be, as Pope Francis puts it, a “sign” pointing to a greater fatherhood, that of the “heavenly Father”.

May this Novena of 2021 be a means of grace and consolation to all who have suffered bereavement and loss during this andemic.

Novena Prayer to St. Joseph (from the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis, Patris Corde—With a Father’s Heart)

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil.

Please call to mind your special intentions...

St. Joseph, Pray for us.
Our Father..., Hail Mary...,
Glory be to the Father..., Amen.

St. Joseph has the power to assist us in all causes, in every necessity, in every undertaking. - St. Thomas Aquinas

Do not lose hope; St. Joseph also experienced moments of difficulty, but he never lost faith and was able to overcome them, in the certainty that God never abandons us. - Pope Francis

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.