



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

WOOD STREET, SOUTHAM CV47 1PP

Parish Priest: Fr Arul Samy Deacon: Rev. Terry Hum (Rtd)

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Angela Scull, Phone: 07847611013

Parish School: St. Mary's Catholic Primary & Nursery School, Daventry Road, Southam CV47 1PS

Tel. No. 01926 812512 Head Teacher: Mrs. Price

Tel: (01926) 812351 E-mail: stwulstan.southam@rcaob.org.uk www.stwulstan-southam.co.uk

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216



21.03.2021 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

The Seed must die.

A grain of wheat has to die in order to bear fruit. We too have to die to ourselves in order to live more fully as human beings and children of God. This dying to self is a gradual thing and happens in very ordinary ways. The Lord who died for us gives us courage, strength and love.

Masses & Intentions

Saturday 20	Joanne Stewart & Family (Intentions)
Sunday 21	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
10.00am	People of the Parish
Monday 22	Lent Feria
	Jane & John Wilson Intentions
Tuesday 23	Lent Feria (National Day of Prayer for Covid 19)
9.10am	Holy Rosary
9.30am	Sr. Anne Robson pcj RIP
12noon	Stations of the Cross
7.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday 24	Lent Feria
	Fr. John Laybourn's Intentions (70 th Birthday)
Thursday 25	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
9.30am	Mary Hughes (Intentions)
Friday 26	Lent Feria
	Margaret Guillard (Intentions)
7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 27	Lent Feria
5.30pm	Philip Hughes RIP
Sunday 28	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
10.00am	People of the Parish

Welcome back!

We are very grateful to God and are happy to gather together once again as we restart public Mass in our church this Sunday. Many thanks to all our volunteers for helping with church cleaning in preparation for welcoming parishioners to church. Our dedicated team of stewards have been very helpful and supportive all along. We remain very grateful to them.

Next 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.

Let us 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!

Holy Week Celebrations: Now we are looking forward to the celebration of the Holy Week. Please be advised that booking system will be followed for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Please add your names to the forms made available in our church for this purpose or let us know by phone or email.

National Day of Prayer for Covid 19: As we know that Tuesday 23rd March has been designated as a National Day of Reflection, the nation will mark it with a minute's silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8pm.

Catholic parish communities have been asked to make this also a Day of Prayer. We are invited to ponder on all that has taken place and are encouraged to bring them to God in prayer.

The Day will start at 9.10am with Rosary and Mass at 9.30am and end with Eucharistic Adoration at 7.00pm for half an hour allowing time for parishioners to join in the doorstep vigils of light at 8.00pm. Parishioners will be welcome to the church if you so wish or may join in via live streaming.

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.

RIP: Please pray for Fr Michael Crumpton, **Deacon Pat Duffy, Fr Oliver Kemp, Fr John Fallon, Fr. Giles Goward, Fr. Patrick Joyce,** and all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

Exaltation through Suffering (John 12:20-30): This moving gospel reading is the immediate prelude to the account of the Last Supper and the Passion. In it we witness how Jesus' dread (his soul is 'troubled') is mixed with confidence at what he knows is approaching. In the gospel of John there is no agony in the garden before Jesus' arrest, for in John the story of the Passion is so shaped that it is clearly understood as the triumph of the Son of Man. There is no mention of humiliation or mockery. Jesus remains in control from the beginning (when he permits the guards to take him into custody) until the end (when he calls out that he is ready to die: 'It is complete'). This is all about the hour of the exaltation of the Son of Man, when Jesus is raised up in every sense. All the more important, then, for John to show that, before the Passion, the cost for Jesus was real. He does this with this little dialogue in prayer between Jesus and his Father. This is John's equivalent to the prayer in the garden. The second reading from Hebrews is another variant on Jesus' prayer before his Passion. All these prayers express Jesus' very human fear, his unshakable commitment to his task and his loving confidence in his Father's care.

Does Jesus fear death? Do you? What are the grounds for Jesus' confidence? Do you share this confidence?

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.

New Head Teacher: We are pleased to announce that a new Head Teacher has been appointed to succeed Mrs. Jane Price at St. Mary's Primary School Southam. Maureen Collier, who is Assistant Vice Principal at the moment at St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School at Coventry will assume office in September 2021. We wish her all the best and we express our profound gratitude to Mrs. Price and to the Governing Body for all their support and help.

Easter Cards: There are a few Easter cards for sale. Those who wish to buy please speak to Pat Woolstan, tel. no. 01926-814883

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:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/miriams-lent-challenge>

Thank you in anticipation for your generous support.

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-21-2021>

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=NXRoUVJQTUVVlanUwVzYxNkxkbGlrUT09>

Meeting ID: 841 3292 0743 Passcode: S0AQyb

We are very grateful to Mike Brown for his paintings on the Mysteries 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

Annunciation of the Lord



The flutter of a wing, a rustling in the air, a voice, and the future began to begin

The Feast of the Annunciation is the reason why we celebrate Christmas on December 25. Christmas comes exactly nine months after the Archangel Gabriel invited the Virgin Mary to be the Mother of God, an event we commemorate on March 25.

The dating of these Feast Days, although interesting, is of minor importance compared to their theological significance. It is fruitful to reflect upon the incarnation of Jesus Christ in the womb of the Virgin Mary as the antecedent to the explosion of joy, caroling, gift giving, eating, drinking, love and family unity that surrounds the birth of the Saviour. Perhaps Mary had a sort of private and internal Christmas at the moment of the Annunciation. Maybe she felt the fullness of the world's Christmas joy inside of her own heart when she realized she had been chosen to be the Mother of God.

God could have become man in any number of creative ways. He could have incarnated Himself just as Adam was incarnated in the book of Genesis, by being formed from the clay and having the divine breath blown into his nostrils. Or God could have slowly backed down to earth on a tall golden ladder as a twenty-five-year-old man, ready to walk the highways and byways of Palestine. Or maybe God could have taken flesh in an unknown way and just been found, like Moses, floating in a basket by a childless young couple from Nazareth as they enjoyed a Sunday picnic along the Jordan River.

The Second Person of the Trinity chose, however, to become man like we all become man. In the same way that He would exit the world through the door of death, as we all have to do, before His Resurrection and Ascension, He also entered the world through the door of human birth. In the words of the early Church, Christ could not redeem what He did not assume. He redeemed everything because He took on human nature in all of its breadth, depth, complexity and mystery. He was like us in all things save sin.

The incarnation of the Second Person of the Trinity was a self emptying. It was God choosing to become small. Imagine a man becoming an ant, while retaining his human mind and will. The man-turned-ant would appear to be like all the ants around him, and would participate in all of their ant activities, yet still think at a level far above them. There was no other way to do it. The man had to learn through becoming, not because insect life was superior to his own, but precisely because it was inferior. Only through descending, only through experience, could the man learn what was below him. All analogies limp, but, in a similar way, the Second Person of the Trinity retained His infused divine knowledge while reducing Himself to a man and learning man life, doing man work, and dying a man death. By such a self emptying, He dignified all men and opened to them the possibility of entering into His higher life in Heaven.

The Church's theological tradition speculates that one of the reasons the bad angels may have rebelled against God was envy. They may have discovered that God chose to become man, instead of the higher form of an angel. This envy would have been directed at the Virgin Mary as well, that Vessel of Honour and Ark of the Covenant who bore the divine choice. God not only became man, we must remember, but did so through a human being, one prepared from her conception to be perfect. March 25 is one of only two days of the year when we kneel at the recitation of the Creed at Mass. At the words "...by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man" all heads bow and all knees bend at the wonder of it. If the story of Christ is the greatest story ever told, today is its first page.

O Holy Virgin Mary, we ask your intercession to make us as generous as you in accepting the will of God in our lives, especially when that will is expressed in mysterious ways. May you be our example of a generous response to what God desires of us.

<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/march-25-annunciation-of-the-lord/>

"God assumed smallness in her – yet without diminishing His nature – to make us great!" - Saint Ephrem

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.

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.**