

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Mass Time Sunday 9.30am.

Sunday 19th March 2017 – Third Sunday in Lent – Year A

'A spring welling up to eternal life'

Pope's Prayer Intention: Support for Persecuted Christians - 'That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church'.

Father Frank: In today's Gospel Jesus speaks of the mysterious water which is capable of 'welling up to eternal life.' This is the life given, in Baptism - a life we are called to cherish and nurture. The elements of Baptism, namely the water of the font and the holy oils, refer us to the stuff of the cosmos - reminding us that everything is caught up in God's loving purposes of making all things new. In the early Church Baptism took place during the Easter Vigil and Baptism spoke of the new life and the new time of which Easter is the celebration and manifestation. Baptism has always found its fulfilment in the Eucharist which is the sacrament of the Kingdom - the sacrament of the 'eternal life' of the world to come.

Saints and Feast Days of the Week: St Joseph (20th), St Turibius of Mongrovejo (23rd), Annunciation (25th).

Collections 12th March: Loose plate £86, Envelopes £106, Standing Orders £355.00, Total £ 547. Second Collection for CAFOD £362.28. Thank you.

Activities in Lent: In order to help us to prepare prayerfully for Easter there will be Stations of the Cross on Tuesday mornings after Mass at 10am. Also, there will be Lent talks on the Eucharist after 7pm Mass on Wednesdays. The course is open and accessible to all, wherever you are on your Christian journey. (Please bring a Bible if you can). We begin with coffee at 7.30pm and finish before 9pm. Also there will be a Mass at 7pm on Thursdays followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and meditations on the spiritual life, finishing at 8.00pm with Benediction.

Meditations before the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays in Lent continue to reflect on the writings of Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan who in 2000 Pope John Paul II chose to preach a course of Spiritual Exercises for himself and the Curia. Archbishop Van Thuan majors on "hope" in his addresses - a hope that he discovered during his 13 years imprisonment for his faith, nine of which were spent in solitary confinement. In this Wednesday's meditations Van Thuan reflects on prayer. In our prayerful stillness and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar we can find healing and peace and be present to Christ who teaches his followers how to pray. All welcome.

Pancake Extravaganza: After Mass today, the men of the parish will provide a pancake breakfast (as a change to bacon butties). A variety of toppings will tantalize your taste buds. Proceeds to Parish funds.

Balsall Common Christian Youth Group meets tonight for years 7 and above at St. Peters 6.30-7.45pm. Please speak to Claire Keane/Kathryn Driffield for more info. The Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Cakes for the Columbans: Cake will be available after Mass every Sunday in Lent - a joyful and enjoyable way of giving the seasonal alms. All donations will go to support the Columban's missionary work. Thanks for the cakes already offered. If you would like to contribute cakes, please see Sara Stevens.

Spring Fayre (Sat 1st April 1-3.30pm) Urgent Help Needed: We still need various items for our Spring Fayre so can we ask all parishioners to try and bring some items to sell. There are still some plastic bags available for anyone who didn't collect one last week. We would be grateful if these can be filled with items for the Fayre and brought back to the Church next week or dropped directly to Tracey McAtamney at 86 Meeting House Lane (Tel: 01676 532940). Items needed include Easter Eggs, Bottles, Unwanted Gifts, Good Quality Handbags, Good Quality Bricabrac, Cakes and Preserves. Thank you for your support. There is a list at the back of the church for helpers.

Churches Together Lenten Breakfasts are being held on Saturday mornings in Lent rotating round the Churches. We are hosting on 25th March. Volunteers needed. Please see notice board or speak to Louise or John Perry for info.

Parish Council: The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 23rd March at 7:30 in the Parish Room. All welcome.

Your prayers are asked for those who are sick and their carers: Monica Pillow, Lily Mae Carr, Mary Keane, Consuelo Ramon, Denise Hamilton, Sister Maria Goretti, Joseph Lockington, Brian Kenny, Canon Peter Taylor, Kevin Lambert, John Aitken, Helen Hopkins, Heather O’Connell, Vincent Webb, Dave & Ian, Teresa Petropoulos, Ian Gibbs, Frances Carroll, Sarah & Martin Dunne, Cat Patton-Kennedy, Beryl Mound, Father Pat Sayles, Jonathan Ridler, Sister Teresa Moore, Kevin O’Donnell, Mary Murray, Adele Rudd, Marjorie Lee, Anne Santos, Louis Loughran, Linda Hatton, Leonardo Byrne, Ellie Clarke, Lucy Knifton, Jean O’Reilly, Jim Slattery.

Anniversaries: Thomas Murray, Leon Chesshire.

This Week’s Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	19 th March – 9.30am	26 th March – 9.30am
Day:	Third Sunday of Lent	Fourth Sunday of Lent
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	Eileen Innes (RIP)	Eileen Innes (RIP)
Altar Servers:	Tom, Ethan and James	Matthew, Daniel and Jacob
Wardens:	Joe Martin, Ann Ostler and Chris Mitchell	John Perry, Maria Pulley and Kathy Jones
Readers:	John Peat & Bysshe Gibbs	Godfrey Chesshire & Dominic O’Brien
Eucharistic Ministers:	Carol Beck, Godfrey Chesshire and Madeleine Peat	Mike Fairbrother, Charles Keane & John McLellan
Counting:	Ciaran McSorley & Bernard Hammond	Bob and Kathy Jones
Tea & Coffee:	Selby Family & Chris Mitchell	Margaret and Chris Burleigh
Cleaning:	Chris Mitchell & Eileen Selby	Anne Stewart & Val Timms
Flowers:	None in Lent	None in Lent
Children’s Liturgy:	Claire Keane and Kathryn Driffield	Celine Burley & Louise Perry
Music:	Instrumental Group	Instrumental Group

This week’s services

Date:	Tues. 21 st March	Wed. 22 nd March	Thurs. 23 rd March
Time:	Mass 10am Followed by Stations of the Cross.	Mass 7pm followed by Lent talks.	Mass 7pm followed by Exposition, Meditations and Benediction
Intention:	Sara Stevens	Henry Joseph Wilson Ramsay	Ann Crosby

Parish Room: *MUST be booked with Louise Perry* – Tel 01676 533357.

Contributions for the Bulletin: David Green is currently compiling the newsletter. Please send items to david.monica@bopenworld.com or call on 01564 775155 by 7.00pm on Wednesday.

Priest: Revd Father Frank Smith Tel: 07512 100908 Email: frankj.smith55@yahoo.co.uk

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity No. 234216 www.brgparish.org.uk