



**OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER**  
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 Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Damian Nwankwo  
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 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.  
 Registered Charity No. 234216  
 'I will make you into fishers of men' Mark 1:14-20  
 Psalter Week 4

**Pope's intention for January: For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church;** Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time January 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Vigil for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		5.30 pm Mass: For the intentions of Bernie and Shirley McDonagh
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		10.00 am Mass + online via Zoom Jim Jennings RIP Divine healing for Stella Jennings
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am	Celebration of the Word & Communion
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Memorial of Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops	9.30 am	Celebration of the Word & Communion
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Vigil for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.</b> Second collection Racial Justice Sunday		5.30 pm Mass: Divine Healing on Maureen Walsh, Michael Walsh and Peggy Lennon.
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Second collection Racial Justice Sunday		10.00 am Mass + online via Zoom Pat Fyfe RIP

**Message from Fr Damian:** Our first reading this week opens with a powerful narrative from the book of Jonah. Jonah, initially reluctant, finally obeys God's command to go to Nineveh. Jonah's experience also speaks to us about obedience and trust in God's plan. Often, we might feel reluctant or unqualified to undertake the tasks God sets before us. Jonah's journey reminds us that our willingness to listen and respond to God, even amidst fear and hesitation, can lead to incredible outcomes beyond our imagination.

Our Gospel this week begins with Jesus in Galilee proclaiming the 'good news' or 'gospel' of God. Jesus declares the coming of 'the time' and of 'the kingdom of God'. The essence of his preaching is that the time of fulfilment, the long-awaited time, has arrived. God's kingdom, God's rule, is coming. The reading continues with the call of the first disciples. They are taken away abruptly from their daily work of fishing. They respond immediately to Jesus' summons. They do not show the reluctance which Jonah showed. The call of Jesus is irresistible. They abandon both their work and their family ties. Something momentous is happening in their lives. It is amid the preoccupations of each day that the Lord calls his disciples, and calls them by name.

**Prayer Intentions:** We pray for all on our parish sick list and for those who care for them, May Christ be near them to bless them and keep them. We pray for those departed from this life, and for our parish anniversaries, Joe Fitzgerald, Jerry Fogarty, Robert Bullivant, Kath Shill, Bernard Green and Mavis Bailey. May Christ the light of the world draw all his people to new life and the fullness of redemption.

**Help wanted Conservatory Big Clean.** We need some volunteers to help us give the conservatory a big clean on Saturday 27th January at 10am.

**Racial Justice Sunday. 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> January:** There will be a second collection to support the work of the Catholic Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society.

**Message from the Chair Re Cemetery Wall:** Some of you will be aware that the footpath adjacent to the cemetery wall has been closed by Stratford District Council as a matter of urgency and a traffic management system put in place. This followed a meeting on Friday 12 January at the cemetery which included representatives from the Diocese, Our Building advisors, Highways Department, National Grid and Building Control. We are holding an urgent meeting of the Parish Council next Monday 22 January by which time we hope to have more information from the Diocese. What is definite is that work will begin on the cemetery wall immediately. There are still areas to be clarified such as the location of power cables before building can begin. I will update you as soon as we have further information from the Diocese.

**Parish Finance and Pastoral Council:** The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is on Monday 22nd January at 7.00pm.

**Fr Damian's Silver Jubilee Year and Holidays:** Fr Damian has started the Silver Jubilee of Ordination Year. His home Bishop and fellow seminarian concelebrated mass last Saturday. He has started his holidays visiting family and his old parishes. He will return in mid-February. Please pray for him as he starts his Jubilee Year.

Cover has been arranged for our Saturday and Sunday Masses. This week we are joined by Fr John Collins from the Columban's.

We will have a Celebration of the Word & Communion on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 9.30 am. For any urgent pastoral issues please contact Fr Patrick Mileham at St Mary Immaculate, Warwick 01926 492913 Or email the parish email [olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk).

**Stratford Foodbank:** I Dropped off our Christmas donations this week, the foodbank was very happy with the donation of nearly 60kg of goods from our Lady and St Benedict's. They are supporting 480 people a month with food parcels, their most needed items this month are, tinned chicken meals, hot dogs, UHT milk, juice, deodorant, squash, and bleach, The calls on their service do go up in cold weather so any help you can give will make life a little easier for families in our community and make sure they have something to eat.

**The "100 Club":** The 3 lucky winners in our December draw shared £237 prize money. We still have more numbers available. Our January draw is coming up we still have some numbers the available numbers are listed next to the 100 Club box at the back of the church. Please sign against a number and complete the forms with bank details or a cheque and pop it in the 100 Club Box. Once again, thank you for your continuing support and encouragement. For any queries, please contact Annette Howell at 07771847214 or email [netandsteve@gmail.com](mailto:netandsteve@gmail.com).

**Fr Christopher Greeney RIP:** Funeral arrangements at St Peter's Leamington Spa. Reception and Mass. Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 6.00 pm Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 12.00-noon Funeral Mass. Please continue to pray for him and his family

**Archdiocese of Birmingham Vision:** *"Our Vision is to be a Catholic Diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour".*

**Safeguarding Information From The Archdiocese Office:** Our Lady and St. Benedict's parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Catherine Treacy. She can be contacted at: [sg.olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted at 0121 230 6240 [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Birmingham Archdiocese Link:** [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/)

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

**Follow the Readings at Mass:** [www.universalis.com/mass.htm](http://www.universalis.com/mass.htm) / or [www.alivepublishing.co.uk/](http://www.alivepublishing.co.uk/)