



**OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER**  
 Alcester Road, Wootton Wawen, B95 6BQ Tel: 01564 792647  
 Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Damian Nwankwo  
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 Parish Email: [olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk).  
 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.  
 Registered Charity No. 234216  
 "He Cast out devils, and cured many who suffered from disease".  
 Mark 1:29-39 Psalter Week 2

**Pope's intention for February, For The Terminally Ill:** Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, may receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time January 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>Vigil for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.</b>		5.30 pm Mass: Michael Brennan RIP
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		10.00 am Mass + online via Zoom People of the Parish
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am	Celebration of the Word & Communion
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am	Celebration of the Word & Communion
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Vigil for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time.</b>		5.30 pm Mass:
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		10.00 am Mass + online via Zoom Charlie Mander RIP (18 <sup>th</sup> Birthday)

**Message from Fr Damian:** The readings for this Sunday highlight Jesus' healing power and the themes of serving others, hope, and evangelization. Job's lamentation in the first reading contrasts with the psalm's reminder of God's ability to heal the broken-hearted, In the Gospel reading, we see a profound example of responding to God's grace. When Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law, who was gravely ill, her immediate reaction is to serve those around her. In a time when illness was often life-threatening due to the lack of modern medicine, her recovery is miraculous. Yet, she doesn't focus on herself. Instead, she turns her gratitude into action, serving Jesus and others. This passage invites us to reflect on our own responses to God's grace. Are we like Simon's mother-in-law, channelling our gratitude into acts of service and love?

**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 all who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again, for Michael Brennan, and for our parish anniversaries, Maureen Dyer, Marjorie Sandford, Pierce Bradley, Zoe White, Tom McVeigh, Frances Maypothor, Mary Dyer, Margaret Chapman, Margaret Colley, Barbara O'Brien and Charlie Mander whose 18th birthday would have been coming up. Eternal rest Grant to them O lord, may they rest in eternal peace.

**Ash Wednesday 14th February Mass at 7.00 pm.** Fr Bernie will be celebrating mass with us on Ash Wednesday. We hope we will have the Station of the Cross on Wednesday and Friday Evenings and look forward to Parishioners joining us for these Lenten observances in this Year of Prayer. Our Lenten Study and prayer group will meet on Friday Mornings. More details to follow.

**Soup and a Sandwich lunch group;** We are keen to start a soup and sandwich lunch group soon using our own parish rooms. A chance to come along and share, have a natter and meet parishioners and neighbours. At the moment we are looking to see how much interest there would be, and if we can get volunteers to assist. For more information, please contact Lesley on WhatsApp at +44 7912 623990 or email, [lesleyeharvey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lesleyeharvey@yahoo.co.uk)

**Readers at Our Lady and St Benedict's :** We would like to increase the number of readers at Mass. We welcome anyone but young people especially. (Some of them read so well in school masses.) If you would like to read and join the teams either for 5.30 pm or 10.00 am masses, Please sign up by emailing the parish email, or speak to John Burke after Mass.

**Greeters / Stewards:** We would also like to increase the number of Volunteers as stewards/greeters at mass, to welcome parishioners and visitors to our services at Our Lady and St Benedict's. If you can help, please contact John or any of the stewards

**Children Liturgy:** We are still looking for volunteers to run our children's liturgy, please do get in touch if you think you can help.

**Annual Pro-Life collection: Weekend 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> February.** Please support this Locally based and important charity working nationally as a pregnancy support charity, creating a world where no one faces pregnancy or pregnancy loss alone.

**Fr Damian's Holidays:** Fr. Damian is still away with his family in Nigeria. 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. 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). We will have a Celebration of the Word & Communion on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 9.30 am.

**Holy Year 2025: Year of Prayer 2024:** During this Year of Prayer in preparation for the Holy Year in 2025, Pope Francis asks us to meditate on the words of the Lord's prayer. Each day we pray with Jesus, "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil" New from the Archdiocese for 2024: Pause for Prayer, a reflective, monthly, video resource of teaching, testimony and intentions. To learn more and to watch, visit: [www.vocations.org.uk/year-of-prayer-2024](http://www.vocations.org.uk/year-of-prayer-2024)

**Stratford Foodbank:** In the week of 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January they had calls to support 32 children and 87 adults. They are supporting around 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 area.

**The "100" Club January Draw:** In our Draw last weekend Cath Philips no31 won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £118.50, J Hallisey won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £79.39 and no 55 Jim Kelly won the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of £39.50. our treasurer will issue the cheques after Fr Damian returns. It is not too late to sign up @ £10 a month as 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, 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, don't hesitate to get in touch with Annette Howell at 07771847214 or email [netandsteve@gmail.com](mailto:netandsteve@gmail.com).

**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".*

**Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024 - 27th May to 1st June.** Each May half Term, the Archdiocese of Birmingham organises a pilgrimage to Lourdes, in France, for a week of prayer and service at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. 2024 will be the 82nd Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage.

**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/)