



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 11 February 2024 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Year B

NEXT WEEK in

Holy Trinity:

Monday 12 February

Tuesday 13 February

Mass at 9:15am

Wednesday 14 February

Ash Wednesday

Mass 7pm

Thursday 15 February

Mass 9:15am

Friday 16 February

Prayer for Peace 9:15am

Saturday 17 February

**The Seven Holy Fathers of
the Servite Order**

6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 18 February

Mass 11am

First Sunday of Lent

ALL WELCOME

**Weekday Masses in our
sister parish St Teresa's
Charlbury 9.15am on
Wednesday, Friday and
Sunday.**

Dear Parishioners

This weekend I am on a pre-Lent retreat in Wolverhampton. Why Wolverhampton, a Black Country town not usually associated with silence and reflection, you may well ask? In that bustling industrial setting there lies an oasis of calm and prayer called the Carmel of the Magnificat, celebrating a centenary recently of its foundation and housing a small enclosed community of contemplative sisters. You can find it on www.carmel-in-wolverhampton.org.uk

The "Discalced" Carmelites arose in the great reform of their Order by St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross, the two great Spanish mystics of the 16th Century. The sisters are totally dedicated to prayer and penance and do not leave their enclosure except to visit the doctor's or to vote. St Thérèse of the Child Jesus (after whom our lovely Charlbury church is named), was a Carmelite, as was St Benedicta Ward (formerly Edith Stein), martyred at Auschwitz, and the history of the Catholic Church is illuminated by priests, sisters and lay of this Order. Here in Oxfordshire we have a very active Carmel at Boar's Hill where the fathers carry out a great apostolate of teaching, in person and on-line.

The Carmelites have been an inspiration for many years, since I first studied the two Spanish saints at Oxford back in the 1980's. The depth of their spiritual life is inspiring and beautiful and I feel very blessed to have this weekend with the sisters.

Thank you to Fr Martin at St Teresa's and Fr Paul at Holy Trinity (who has shared his reflections on our weekend readings below), for celebrating Mass while I am away. I will offer the Holy Sacrifice for everyone in Carmel. Please do not hesitate to contact me in an emergency and send through any particular prayer requests.

This is a time to draw closer to the Lord of Life, the Person who can give us real, lasting peace. "A good Lent makes for a better Easter!"

God Bless Everyone Fr Clive

Dear Parishioners

This Sunday is World Day of Prayer for the Sick. It's appropriate that the first reading at Mass should be from Leviticus, where the Lord tells Moses and Aaron what to do in a suspected case of leprosy. The important thing is that the sick person should "live apart -- outside the camp." Leprosy was, and continues to be, an easily-spread disease, and it threatens the existence of the whole community. So lepers had to live isolated lives for the common good. We now know that many of the people identified as lepers in the

ancient world were nothing of the kind: they were suffering from less serious diseases. But we can still see why they were treated in the way they were.

Look how we had to learn to behave differently during the pandemic, limiting contact with one another, changing our social habits, increasing our hygiene. A disease that we don't fully understand and can't control is a terrible thing, and one of the worst aspects of it is its divisiveness - it separates people from one another. It can give its sufferers a sense of living "outside the camp". Here we are 4 years after Covid first burst upon us, and in many ways we're still living with the consequences. The mental, social and spiritual damage lingers on. "Long Covid" is a reality.

Today's gospel, like last Sunday's, reminds us that one of the ways in which Jesus proclaimed God's kingdom was by healing the sick. But he was so much more than a mere wonder-worker, a healer of physical ailments. His task was to call everyone into a new community where all the things that separated human beings from God and from one another would be overcome. He confronted the forces of evil, He forgave sinners. He demonstrated the power of God's love to bestow a new kind of life.

Lent begins on Wednesday, and one of the things we must do is to let God heal our divisions. The devil is the great divider. He divides us from God and from one another by our sins. Through our mental and physical pains he increases our sense of isolation. But Jesus doesn't want us to stay isolated. As with the leper in today's gospel, he wants to come close to us and touch our lives, and he does that in and through the Church's sacraments -- the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confession.

So make the most of the opportunities that Lent provides. Rejoice in the eager desire of Jesus to heal whatever is preventing you from living your life to the full. Allow him to come close to you.

With blessings Fr Paul

Parish Notices - Masses - Next week there is no Mass on Monday at Holy Trinity and no Mass on Friday at St Teresa's (Father Clive and Father Tony will be at Fr Sandy's funeral in Birmingham). **Please pray for Fr Sandy's eternal soul** and also for those who are mourning his departure.

Wednesday 14th is ..Ash Wednesday, a day of Fasting and Abstinence (Missing a meal and not eating meat). St Valentine can be fêted on Tuesday 13th! **Mass with Imposition of Ashes will be: 9.15 am St Teresa's and 7 pm Holy Trinity.**

Stations of the Cross at St Teresa's Wednesday and Holy Trinity Thursday both after Mass at 9.45am

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February 2024: For the terminally ill. We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes: Carol Wilson, Tom Cantwell, Bridget Kennelly, Audrey Nellis, Richard O'Farrell, Mary Ward, Paula Biggs, Lynette Murphy, Betty, Ania.

In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.