



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
 "Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him".
 Mark 1:12-15 Psalter Week 1

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.

First Sunday of Lent February 17th – 18th 2024

Sat 17 th February	Vigil for the First Sunday in Lent.		5.30 pm Mass: Divine Healing on Maureen Walsh, Michael Walsh, and Peggy Lennon
Sun 18 th February	First Sunday in Lent		10.00 am Mass + online via Zoom Marion Fletcher RIP
Tue 20 th February	Lent Feria	9.30 am	Celebration of the Word & Communion
Wed 21 st Feb	Lent Feria	12.30 pm 6.30 pm 6.50 pm	Soup and Roll Lunch Stations of the Cross Mass
Fri 23 rd Feb	Feast of the Chair of St Peter CAFOD Family Fast Day	9.30 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Mass Lenten Prayer and Study Group Stations of the Cross
Sat 24 th February	Vigil for the Second Sunday in Lent. CAFOD Lent Collection		5.30 pm Mass:
Sun 25 th February	Second Sunday in Lent CAFOD Lent Collection		10.00 am Mass + online via Zoom

This Sunday we welcome Tess and the Smallbone family to lead us in our music and singing at our 10.00 mass for this First Sunday of Lent.

Fr Damian: We welcome back Fr Damian this week from his busy and well-earned break. During Lent, he will be leading **Stations of the Cross on Wednesday and Friday evenings** at 6.30pm. We look forward to Parishioners joining us to follow Fr Pat's "We Walk with the Lord on the Way of the Cross" for our Lenten observances in this Year of Prayer. If you have a booklet, please bring it along

Our Tuesday evening mass will move to a Wednesday after the Stations.

Our Lenten Study and Prayer group will restart on Friday 23rd February at 10.30 am. Please do come along and join this lively discussion group.

Lent Walk with Me books: Please do, pick up a booklet to follow the Diocese journey of faith through Lent. They are at the back of the church.

From Fr Damian: The readings this weekend, get us thinking about how God is faithful even when we wander away from him. The first reading is the story of Noah's Ark. The psalm reminds us to be faithful. The second reading explains that the great flood in the time of Noah preceded our baptisms. The gospel tells us that Jesus spent 40 days (like the 40 days of the flood) fasting in the desert and returned ready to spread his message.

These themes invite us to reflect on God's faithfulness, the significance of baptism, the importance of repentance and conversion, and the strength that comes from God's support in overcoming challenges. They frame Lent as a time to deepen one's faith and commitment to living according to the Gospel. It is time to commit to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Warwick Deanery Website: www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk

Follow the Readings at Mass: www.universalis.com/mass. or www.alivepublishing.co.uk.

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, especially our lately departed Barbara Stawiany, and for our parish anniversaries, Martin Cairney, Roy McCall, Joan McAvoy, Marion Fletcher, Jan Pawinski, Mary Sayles, Mary Kiely, Lawrence Hall, Edward O'Donnell, James Murray, Eternal rest grant to them O lord, may they rest in eternal peace.

Soup and a Sandwich lunch group; We will run this on the 21st of February and then each third Wednesday of the month from 12.30 am to 2.30 pm. It will be a chance to come along and share, have a natter and meet parishioners and neighbours. To cover the cost there will be a charge of £3.50. for homemade soup, rolls, tea and biscuits. For more information, please contact Lesley on WhatsApp at +44 7912 623990 or email, lesleyharvey@yahoo.co.uk

CAFOD Family Fast Day: Family Fast Day is on Friday 23 February. "James told us that when his family had no food, he faced a terrible choice: stay home and stay hungry or put everything on the line to go out onto the water in his small canoe. Your support for CAFOD this Fast Day helps hardworking people like James to return home safely and feed their families for good. Thank you for all your support

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.

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-ofprayer-2024

Stratford Foodbank: Their most needed items this month are, tinned chilli, minced beef, meat pies, children's toothpaste, hot dogs, UHT milk, long life fruit juice, shave foam/ gel, shower gel and loo rolls. Any help you can give will make life a little easier for families in our area.

The "100" Club February Draw: 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. For any queries, don't hesitate to get in touch with Annette Howell at 07771847214 or email 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 or alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted at 0121 230 6240 safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Birmingham Archdiocese Link: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk