



**St. Marie's Church, Rugby, CV22 5EL**  
**Served by Rosminians**  
**Archdiocese of Birmingham**  
**Registered Charity No. 234216**  
 Email: [stmaries.rugby@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmaries.rugby@rcaob.org.uk)



## First Sunday of Lent

**Parish Priest: Fr. Aji Alphonse**

**Website:** [www.stmaries.co.uk](http://www.stmaries.co.uk)

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**Email:** [stmaries.rugby@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmaries.rugby@rcaob.org.uk)

**Live Online Mass:**

[Youtube.com/c/stmariesrugby](https://www.youtube.com/c/stmariesrugby)

**In Community:**

**Rector:** Fr. George Puthoor

Fr. John Buckner

Fr. Charles Sormany

Fr. David Tobin

Br. Joseph Gardner

**Gift Aid Administrator/**

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:**

Michael Borg 07796 283 054

[sg.stmaries.rugby@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmaries.rugby@rcaob.org.uk)

**Health and Safety Officer:**

James Logan

[hs.stmaries.rugby@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:hs.stmaries.rugby@rcaob.org.uk)

**Parish Office:**

Wednesday-Friday

After morning mass – 12.30PM

**Repository:**

After Sunday Morning Mass

**Hibbert's Hall Bookings:**

07864 929 412

[hibbertskitchen@gmail.com](mailto:hibbertskitchen@gmail.com)



On this, the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading recalls Jesus' temptation in the desert. According to St Mark's Gospel, the Spirit drove Jesus into the desert, where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, which is noteworthy. This commemorates the 40 years that the Israelites journeyed in the desert after being freed from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also travelled through the desert for 40 days and nights, arriving at Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was attended to by an angel of the Lord. To remember the significance of these events, we set aside 40 days for the season of Lent. Note that in Mark's Gospel, the desert marks the beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan. Similarly, our Lenten observances are merely the beginning, preparing for and reinforcing our ongoing battle to resist the challenges and temptations we experience in our daily lives. During Lent, the Holy Spirit leads us, only if we are receptive, to remember our Baptismal promises, in which we promised to reject sin and follow Jesus. God, like the angels who tended to Jesus in the wilderness, sustains us in our everyday struggles and temptations. His help we can find in the Eucharist, sacrament of reconciliation, meditation of God's Words, charitable life, prayer and in Jesus' victory over sin and death on the cross. Let us be open and allow the Holy Spirit work in us. When faced with temptations and/or struggles this Lent, remember you are not alone, when struggling, read some of your bible, say the Rosary, come to Church for one of the daily Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Divine Mercy, Confessions, Stations of the Cross and be guided in sustaining your every day struggles and temptations.

**Dates for the Diary**

**Monday to Friday - Divine Mercy Chaplet 3PM**

**Monday - Adoration 9AM-7PM**

**Friday - Adoration & Confessions 6-7PM**

**Fridays - Stations of the Cross**

**Saturdays - Confession after morning Mass**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb - Parish Meeting 6PM**

Sat 17th Feb 2024	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	09:30AM 18.00PM	All Parishioners Paddy Lynch RIP
Sun 18th Feb 2024	First Sunday of Lent	10.00AM 18.00PM	Peggy Comerford RIP Aelish Fitzsimons RIP
Mon 19th Feb 2024	Lent Feria	10.00AM 19.00PM	Maria Leanor Faro & James (Birthday) May & Joe Banningan RIP
Tue 20th Feb 2024	Feast of the Cell	10.00AM 19.00PM	Eddie O'Carroll RIP Kuriakose & Family
Wed 21st Feb 2024	Lent Feria	10.00AM 19.00PM	John Kinal RIP Chloe Logan
Thurs 22nd Feb 2024	Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Apostle	10.00AM 19.00PM	Eliza Vargheese (Birthday) James Kuruvilla RIP
Fri 23rd Feb 2024	Lent Feria	10.00AM 19.00PM	Ugo & Family (Thanksgiving) Meriel Dobinson RIP
Sat 24th Feb 2024	Lent Feria	09:30AM 18.00PM	All Souls in Purgatory The Rosminian Family around the World

**This week's Gospel – Mark 1:12-15**  
**'Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him'**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep you covenant**

**Parish Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> February 6PM**

Following on from the questionnaires that we received prior to the Visitation of Archbishop David Longley and Christmas, Fr Aji has read through these taking into consideration your thoughts, feedback and desires. Fr Aji invites you to a **Parish Meeting at 6PM this Thursday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> February**, followed by Evening Mass at 7PM. Fr Aji will touch upon the questionnaires, things that are already in progress and the vision for the forthcoming months ahead.

**Children's Liturgy**

Every Sunday at the 10AM Mass where the children have the Sunday readings and discussion.

**Hibbert's Hall**

As many of you will be aware, but also to our new parishioners, the use of the hall has always been at a reduced rate to parishioners of St. Marie's Church, this will continue. However, due to increasing inflation and rising costs that is affecting us all we are having to raise the hire of Hibbert's Hall, which we have tried not to do for many years. Originally for parishioners the hall hire was £10 per hour which will now be increased to £15 per hour. If you are interested in seeking to hire the hall, please contact Kelly (Hibbert's Kitchen) on 07864 929 412 or [hibbertskitchen@gmail.com](mailto:hibbertskitchen@gmail.com) Thank you.

**'Listening to God's Call' – Tuesdays 7PM**

Starting this week, the Dudley and Wolverhampton Deanery will be hosting a series of vocations events, there will be three online sessions on

**Tuesday 20 February: Consecrated Life 7PM**

Tuesday 27 February: Marriage and Single Life 7PM

Tuesday 5 March: Priesthood and Diaconate 7PM

There will be the opportunity to ask questions. Everyone is welcome to join. The Zoom link is

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88033199202?pwd=Bkfm1pgM2iXaYczxemtzmzdH7lJlSld.1>

Meeting ID: 880 3319 9202

Passcode: 218505

**Burning of the Blessed Palms**

Thank you to all who donated the Blessed Palms that you had from previous years, on Shrove Tuesday we had the Burning of the Blessed Palms, thank you to those who braved the rain to join us for this service.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**FRIDAYS AFTER 7PM MASS DURING LENT**

The Stations of the Cross is a mini pilgrimage, which takes us through the steps taken by Jesus on Good Friday, from his condemnation to his burial. The Stations are a "way of prayerfully uniting oneself to the sacrifice of the Lord and his love for us. It's also an invitation for us to place ourselves within that journey."

Stations of the Cross will be every Friday throughout Lent. The Stations will begin after the Evening Mass, therefore on Fridays we will have Divine Mercy at 3PM, Adoration and Confessions from 6PM, Evening Mass at 7PM followed by the Stations of the Cross at about 7:25PM.



**Cafod Family Fast Day – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb**

This Lent, your donations will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give online at [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) and join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. Thank you

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Brian McGloin, Steven McHugh, John MacDonald, Stan Ratajczyk

**FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES FALL AROUND THIS TIME**

Dedee Flint, Maureen Dooley, Alfons Linden, Indiana Ward, Patricia RodenJan Sliwa, Maria Krause, Rev Primavesi, Margaret Jones, Sheila Rowlands, David Hipwell, Antonia Kowhan, Patrick Hamill, Anne Watters, Anna Walter

**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE SICK**

Tom Donnelly, Sharon Colleran, George Mears, Freddie Fereday, Elsie Johnson, Piotr Fior, William Hearne, Hattie Taylor, Lenny & Marie Niner, Val Muir, Sybil Brookes, Maureen Keane, Ginny Eves, Paula Ann Smith, Michael Duffin, Teresa Summersgill, Breda O'Byrne, Alan Thomas, Philomena, Antonio Hernandez, Eamon Curry, Janet Eyles, Avito D'Souza, Malcolm Reeves, John Dover, Terry McSweeney, Stuart Woodcock

### Kenelm Summer Camp

The Kenelm Youth Trust is committed to providing life changing opportunities for young people, helping each person to reflect upon their life of faith, and how they respond to the call of Jesus Christ in their lives. The Trust has been established by the Archdiocese of Birmingham, to oversee and bring together the wide variety of youth work that is undertaken in various settings throughout the Archdiocese. Every summer, Kenelm and Life Teen UK host a summer camp for young people aged 12-18 from across the country. The camp lasts a week and involves a range of exciting activities. The camp is based at Alton Castle, making use of the activities Alton Castle have on site, visiting the nearby theme park Alton Towers, as well as heading off to a variety of different places for fun and games. Alongside this, summer camp provides spaces and times for prayer, adoration and for young Catholics to connect and gather together. For more info go to <https://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/summer-camp-2024.html>

### Mass for Marriage

Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2024? Are you engaged to be married this year? Or would you simply like to give thanks to God for your marriage, and ask for His ongoing blessings? If so, the Archdiocese would like to invite you to attend this year's Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage. It will take place at St Chad's Cathedral, the Diocesan Mother Church, on **Saturday 4 May at 12noon**. The Celebrant will be Archbishop Bernard Longley. Please register your attendance by **Sunday 21 April** via [www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass](http://www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass)

### Caretaker School Vacancy

Our Lady of the Magnificat MAC are looking to recruit a caretaker based at St Marie's Catholic Primary School and Nursery. St Marie's is a vibrant, exciting place to work with an experienced staff and welcoming ethos.

This is a full time position with a split shift:

- **Monday to Thursday** from 7:00 am to 9:30 am and 1:00 to 6:00 pm
- **Friday** from 7:00 am to 9.30 am and 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm
- Shift is negotiable during school holidays.

Please complete an application form and consent for references form, both to be returned to Danielle Hunt at [office@sma.magnificat.org.uk](mailto:office@sma.magnificat.org.uk)

Visits to the school are highly recommended, please contact Danielle Hunt on 01788 543636 to arrange a visit.

Closing date: **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 12 noon**

Interviews: **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024, time to be confirmed**

### World Day of Prayer

The Christian Women of Palestine have prepared a day of prayer on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30AM at St Marks in Bilton, all are welcome to attend, the theme is "I beg you, bear with one another in love"

### Health & Safety and Church Maintenance

As some of you may be aware we have a leak around the confessionals, choir loft and the main Spire of the Church, along with dripping gutters, we have been in liaison with the Archdiocese and have awarded a contractor to undertake initial works on the Church roof who have experience of working on and in Churches. This will start on week commencing Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, they will keep disruption to absolute minimum and all Church Services will continue as normal including Adoration on the Monday as these works are external. However please be mindful of these works being undertaken taking extra caution where necessary, if you have any concerns then please do not hesitate to contact me or the parish office.

Some of you may have noticed that the higher areas of our Church are in need of a deep clean, this is extremely evident on the High Altar but also on the Sanctuary as large amounts of dust falls, we are now looking to receive quotations for specialist cleaners to undertake this work who are not only respectful of working in a Church but also sensitive to the fabrics and materials that make up our beautiful Church, the High Altar and paintings etc. If you know any companies who may wish to quote, please do let me know so I can include them.

Our Quinquennial Inspection will be undertaken this June on the Church, Coach House and Hibberts Hall. This inspection will survey the buildings and tell us of any immediate works necessary and forecast any works that may need to be undertaken within the next five years. As you may be aware our buildings are listed and lay within a conservation area and so those awarded the survey will be suitably qualified but unfortunately this adds to the costs.

As you may have noticed a few defaults with our sound system, one being the mobile microphone used during Masses and Funerals has not been used due to it breaking due to its age and wear and tear. Additionally, the sound levels are something we constantly monitor as on occasion you will have heard the feedback when the readings are being said from the Lectern, therefore we have had sound engineers out recently to assess our system, microphones and speakers, we now await this quotation.

We are also undertaking a review of our CCTV and the potential need for greater CCTV on the Church grounds, again if you know of any companies that may wish to work with us please do let me know.

Unfortunately, all these repairs and maintenance comes at a cost, **therefore if anyone has experience of grants and writing bids** or feels this is something they would like to learn more about and would like to donate your time to help then please do get in touch with me, you can get me on the email on the front page of the newsletter or I am at the weekend masses and always open for a chat. If anyone would like to step forward **with fund raising ideas and lead a group of fundraisers**, who not only help the Church with money but also bring us all together as a Parish we need your help and would like to hear from you, please speak with the parish office or myself, thank you Jimmie

Safeguarding from the Archdiocese Office The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese's policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative are Mike Borg & Anne Ormsby. They can be contacted at [sg.stmaries.rugby@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmaries.rugby@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 / [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.



## Feast of the Cell

The 20th of February is one of the most special days in what we might call the Rosminian Calendar. The Feast of the Cell commemorates the location where Blessed Antonio Rosmini began writing the Constitutions of the Institute of Charity (Rosminians) at Monte Calvario in northern Italy. February is, of course, winter in Italy; it can be bleak in the north, cold and snowy! Blessed Rosmini was planning to write the Constitutions (the aims of the Institute of Brothers and Priests) in a secluded location, but what he found on the Sacred Mountain of Calvario was more like a haunted Castle. Blessed Rosmini, still a young man, abandoned his studies, leaving behind his friends and family, and set out with two companions to ascend the mountainside to the abandoned monastery where they would remain.

What did he find? The garden was a wilderness, the forest was alive with vipers and snakes, and the building was almost a ruin. We are told that the rain was torrential, the windows were broken, lizards, scorpions, and birds had made there home inside the ruin. And to top it all off, his closest supporter at the time (who had decided to join him and agreed to meet him on the 20th) arrived three months late!

So, what did Blessed Rosmini do? From this wildness and disarray, he created a humble home, writing his Constitutions or foundations with great patience and trust. He celebrated Mass on February 20, 1828, which was Ash Wednesday that year, and spent the next two months writing the Constitutions in his small, simple room known as 'La Cella' (pronounced chella), or the Cell, hence the name of our feast. Over time, others joined him. His humility, acute intelligence, and passion for truth attracted young men and women (later the Sisters were founded, the Sisters of Providence). Slowly what is now the Mother House of the Order took shape.

Today, Monte Calvario is a far different place from those early years. The cell is still there with its simple iron bed, but the wilderness has been transformed set against the rugged surrounding mountains. Calvario's heart remains the same; a place to draw close to God in quietness, reflection and prayer, now to young men coming from Italy, UK, and around the world who are following in the footsteps of Blessed Antonio Rosmini seeking God's truth, love, wisdom and life as a Brother.

Rosmini spent two months writing the Constitutions. After studying similar works of other Orders, Blessed Rosmini's vision for the Institute of Charity emerged, he described it: "The Institute came to me one day like a flash of light. I saw it in its totality. The work of the Constitution's detail of what had been shown me at a glance'.

What could you find in the constitutions? The book is divided into 12 parts. It opens with a very general description of the Institute: 'it is dedicated to Jesus Christ and open to any faithful Christian who is ardent in their desire to live as a disciple of Jesus' (see article 2). Typically, it closes with encouraging words and a flourish from Scripture: "struggle constantly to put into practice all the things laid down in the Constitutions. Know them well and apply them so that all will see greatness: 'planted in love and built on love, may you with all God's holy people have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and love of Christ which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God'" (cf. Eph 3:17-19)' (cf. Article No. 1068). And in between? Selection of candidates, formation, community life, and governance. Prayer, poverty, chastity, humility, and obedience. Universal works. Lofty ideals and practical details can be found! For detailed information visit: 'The Rosminian Constitutions and the Constitutions of St Ignatius'

The above already indicates an openness to all. Article 126, among others, fleshes out such a vision: "the spirit and purpose of the Institutes name from the Charity of Jesus Christ, wishes to pour out and share as widely as possible with others whatever good it may obtain by the Lord's grace." In a very real sense, following this Constitution, we can consider ourselves Rosminians.

The Feast of the Cell is a wonderful time to pray for the Rosminian Family around the world. For more information on the Rosminians, please take a leaflet from the back of Church detailing the Ascribed Members, or if you would like to follow in the footsteps of Rosmini and visit Monte Calvario to discover more about the Rosminians. Fr David Tobin IC is organising a pilgrimage to North Italy this May.

