



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

"If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest".

John 12:20-30 Psalter Week 1.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for March: For the new martyrs – We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

Fifth Sunday of Lent 16th – 17th March 2024

Sat 16 th March	Vigil for the Fifth Sunday in Lent.		5.30 pm Mass: Martin Corrigan RIP
Sun 17 th March	Fifth Sunday in Lent		10.00 am Mass + online via Zoom John Mitchell RIP
Mon 18 th March	Lent Feria	9.30 am	Mass. Divine Healing on Alex McCulloch
Tue 19 th March	Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.30 am	Mass. Private Intention
Wed 20 th March	Lent Feria	12.30 6.30 pm 6.50 pm	Soup and Roll Lunch Stations of the Cross Mass.
Thurs 21 st March	Lent Feria	No Mass	
Fri 22 nd March	Lent Feria	9.30 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Mass. Private Intention. Lenten Prayer and Study Group Stations of the Cross
Sat 23 rd March	Vigil for the Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord		5.30 pm Mass:
Sun 24 th March	Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord		10.00 am Mass + online via Zoom

Holy Week Services

Wed 27 th March	Wednesday of Holy week	7.00 pm: Ecumenical Station of The Cross
Thurs 28 th March	Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper. Renewal of Commission for Eucharistic Ministers Watching until midnight.
Fri 29 th March	Good Friday	3.00 pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion. 7.00 pm Station of the Cross
Sat 30 th March	Holy Saturday	8.00 pm: The Pascal Fire Mass & Service of Light
Sun 31 st March	Easter Sunday Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord	8.30 am Solemn Mass 10.00 am Solemn Mass

From Fr Damian, Fifth Sunday of Lent. In the gospel this weekend, Jesus speaks of his upcoming death and the necessity of it. He tells his followers that unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a single grain. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. Jesus is using this analogy to explain that his death will bear much fruit. His death will bring salvation to all who believe in him. But he is also telling his followers that following him requires sacrifice. We must be willing to let go of our own desires and wills and follow the will of God.

Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard Longley: This weekend we have a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard. Please pick up a copy or download it with the online newsletter.

Lent Preparation: We continue our Stations of the Cross on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 6.30 pm. We will have evening mass after Stations on Wednesday Nights

Confessions during Lent: Please feel free to approach Fr Damian after any of our masses if you would like a confession.

Our Lenten Study and Prayer group; meets on Friday mornings at 10.30 am. Please come along and join this lively discussion group.

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 for Kate Hawkins, for our parish anniversaries, Martin Corrigan, Denis Cowan, Russell Thomas, Gerard Jones, May Kinney and Sean Larim Shakoori-Divani. Eternal rest grant to them O lord, may they rest in eternal peace.

Ecumenical Station of the Cross: Help needed Refreshments. On Wednesday 27th @ 7.00 pm. We will welcome our fellow local Christian communities to join us for Station of the Cross. Can some parishioners please come and help with refreshments after? Please contact Lesley or Fr Damian

Soup and Roll Lunch: 12.30 Wednesday 20th March. Cost £3.50: A chance to come along and share, have a natter and meet parishioners and neighbours. For more information, please contact Lesley on WhatsApp at +44 7912 623990 or email, lesleyeharvey@yahoo.co.uk

Our Lady and St Benedict's Parish, Easter Lilies; If you would like to donate to the floral displays in our Church at Easter in memory of a loved one or as a celebration, please complete the form/envelopes in church. All those who are to be remembered will be placed on a Prayer Board.

Payments can also be made by bacs, please mark your payment 'Easter Lilies.' For more information, please get in touch with Lesley on WhatsApp at +44 7912 623990 or email, lesleyeharvey@yahoo.co.uk

Easter Fundraising Raffle: We will again have a draw for a "Betty's of Harrogate Easter Egg", retailing at over £40 and an Easter Cake to raise parish funds. The Tickets will be on sale from now at £2 per strip or 3 for £5, please do support this by buying a raffle ticket.

Cemetery Wall Update. The contractor has been instructed to carry out the shoring of the wall, which is needed both for safety and to aid the eventual rebuilding of the wall. This will start after the 18th of March and take around 2 weeks to complete. National Grid is still putting together a plan concerning taking their supply under the road and over to the other side. The next stage will be rebuilding the wall, The Structural Engineer is finalising the design. This is to be fast-tracked for completion as soon as possible, for the work to start after all the permissions are granted.

The "100" Club March 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.

Stratford Foodbank: They were busy in Jan feeding 533 people! The food bank is very much needed and feel extremely fortunate for the support we make. Any help you can give will make life a little easier for families in our area.

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 following 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 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

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

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