



St. Marie's Church, Rugby, CV22 5EL

Served by Rosminians

Archdiocese of Birmingham

Registered Charity No. 234216

Email: stmaries.rugby@rcaob.org.uk



Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

Parish Priest: Fr. Aji Alphonse

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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:

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Health and Safety Officer:

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Parish Office:

Wednesday-Friday

After morning mass – 12.30PM

Repository:

After Sunday Morning Mass

Hibbert's Hall Bookings:

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hibbertskitchen@gmail.com



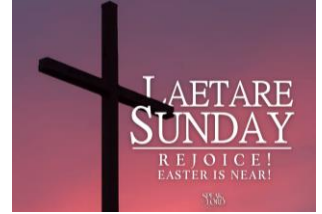
Confessions

After Saturday

9.30AM Mass

Fridays 6-7PM

with Adoration



Welcome to Laetare Sunday! We are halfway through the Penitential Season of Lent, which invites us to participate in an inner conversion and change of heart by setting aside time for prayer and acts of kindness. Laetare, which means rejoice, may be felt in the Liturgy this weekend. You will also see that rose-colored/pink vestments are worn today; these external signs symbolise the Church's joy in expectation of the Resurrection, a joy that cannot be contained even during Lent, though we still refrain from singing Alleluias and the Gloria until the great Easter Vigil. And what distinguishes joy from happiness is that it always comes from within. In the Gospel Jesus is saying that He must be lifted up 'as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert so that everyone who believes might have eternal life'. The Israelites in the desert were plagued by deadly serpents, so God had Moses create a bronze serpent for them to look at and be cured. Jesus is, of course, predicting His own death, lifted up on the Cross but also inviting us to look to Him for salvation. We may not be plagued by snakes, but we surely are by sin. Jesus is the cure for that, and so, as Paul writes in the second reading, is the way in which we, too, may be raised up, not on a cross, but to the glory of the new and risen life that we will celebrate at Easter. And as we talk of new birth, today we celebrate those who gave us earthly birth: our mothers; and Holy Mother Church, who gave us the new life of baptism; and Our Lady, whom Christ Himself shared with us.

Sat 9th March 2024	Lent Feria	09:30AM 18.00PM	All Parishioners John O'Brien RIP
Sun 10th March 2024	Fourth Sunday of Lent	10.00AM 18.00PM	Jean Bourne & Mel Cahill Eileen O'Byrne & Eileen Crook
Mon 11th March 2024	Lent Feria	10.00AM 19.00PM	Maureen Borg RIP Dementia patients and their family and carers
Tue 12th March 2024	Lent Feria	10.00AM 19.00PM	Billy Watts & Bridie Healey For all those with Dementia
Wed 13th March 2024	Lent Feria	10.00AM 19.00PM	Kate McDougall RIP Molly James RIP
Thurs 14th March 2024	Lent Feria Vocations Adoration & Mass	10.00AM 19.00PM	John Melia RIP For All Vocations
Fri 15th March 2024	Lent Feria	10.00AM 19.00PM	Dennis Hoffman Molly James RIP
Sat 16th March 2024	Lent Feria (Altar Servers Retreat)	09:30AM 18.00PM	All Parishioners John & Mary Canty

This week's Gospel – John 3:14-21
'God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved'

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Responsorial Psalm

**O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!**

Parish Choir

The choir with our Organist leads the 10AM Mass on Sundays which we are most grateful for. As we head towards Holy Week, where the choir will be involved in almost every aspect, now is a great time to join if you have ever been interested. The choir are a friendly group of all ages, and accept people of any age and experience. If interested, pop up to the choir loft after Mass when they practice or ask for more information from the Parish Office.

Parish Retreat Days

Altar Servers Retreat Day to St Anne's in Wappenbury
Saturday 16th March with Fr Aji & Fr O'Brien.

Half Day retreat on Sat 23rd March here at St Maries Church and in Hibberts Hall. This is for both **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Lectors**, the day will start with a renewal of commitment at the 9:30AM Mass led by Fr Ted Mullen IC. All parishioners are welcome to attend the parish retreat, please confirm your attendance.

Novena to St. Joseph

Starting this Sunday the 10th March we will begin a 9 day Novena to St. Joseph, this will be a short prayer after both the morning and evening masses for the 9 days preceding the Solemnity of St. Joseph celebrated on March 19th.

You may wish to pray this novena to ask for St. Joseph's special care over a particular intention such as help in an area of our lives needing discernment. St. Joseph the Patron Saint of husbands and fathers, the Universal Church, unborn children, immigrants, workers, employment, explorers, pilgrims, travellers, carpenters, realtors, against doubt and hesitation, and of a happy death

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."

Mothers Day

In celebrating Mothering Sunday, let's be full of gratitude for all mothers, those deceased and all still living in our midst who have enriched our lives and for those still with us. Where would we be without our mother's enduring presence? When Jesus was dying on the Cross his Mother was there too!

Happy Mother's Day to all mums. Children, I encourage you to show your love and appreciation to your mum by presenting them with a beautiful daffodil from the porch. Let this simple gesture serve as a token of gratitude for their endless love and support. And to the mums who may find themselves without their children nearby, please do not hesitate to help yourself.

UCM Cake Sale

The UCM will hold a cake sale on Easter Sunday so not to tempt you during Lent. They will also raffle off an Easter Cake so please keep an eye out for the raffle tickets.

St Patricks Day

On Sunday 17th March there will be a celebration in Hibberts Hall after the 10AM mass, there will be live music with unlimited tea, coffee, juice with rolls and cake to eat! Tickets will be sold at the back of Church, please see Helen Farmer or call Louise Mallot 07876 656398 so they have an idea of numbers to cater for, tickets will be £5. Let us all get together for the first event of the year.

RECENTLY DECEASED

John McDonald, Stan Ratajczyk, Michael Griffin, Georgina Nourse

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES FALL AROUND THIS TIME

Shaftoe Robson, Alexander Wilson, Mary Cahill, Andrew Rea, Agnes Diack-Evans, Elizabeth Doonan, Margaret Duffy, Lillian Batchelor, Desmond O'Farrell, John Melia, Helena Rudnicki, Janet Doyle, Andre Couloute, Gloria Barrett, Cynthia Hutchins, Eileen Deery, Molly Boulton, Mary Smyth, Roy Williams,

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

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Every weekday at 3pm, for this time, during the Hour of Jesus' Greatest Anguish, we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

We then put ourselves at the Foot of the Cross in silent prayer and intercession, consoling Jesus by our presence, praying for the conversion of sinners and the whole world, and for our own intentions.



In His revelations to St Faustina, Our Lord asked for a special prayer and meditation on His Passion each afternoon at the 3 o'clock hour, the hour that recalls His death on the cross. From these instructions, it's clear that Our Lord wants us to turn our attention to His Passion at this hour to whatever degree our duties allow, and he wants us to ask for His mercy. I know not all of you will be able to make it to church for this Chaplet, but we can all mentally pause for a "brief instant", think of His total abandonment at the hour of agony, and say a short prayer such as "Jesus, Mercy" or "Jesus, for the sake of Your Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." For those that can please join us.

Lent Penitential Service

Monday 25th March here in our Parish 6-7:30PM

Dementia Prayer Week

Since 2007 the prayer week runs annually from 12 -19 March with the aim to raise awareness and a deeper understanding of the spiritual needs of people living with dementia. We will be remembering those living with and supporting those with Dementia in our prayers.

There are prayer cards at the back of Church.

Prayer for Families and Caregivers of Those Living with Dementia

The Father's Love

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Lord, thank you for your presence this moment, holding us in your love.

Help us to share your love with those who live among us with dementia, that we may see your beauty in them. Amen.

Roof & Guttering

Just to update you that all the gutters have been cleaned out and we have had a minor repair done to some of the leadwork on the porch roof where water was able to get in. They replaced 12 roof tiles and removed 10 bags of debris. The North Aisleridge tiles now need to be removed and re tiled, however a temporary repair was undertaken on any open joints.

There is Eucharistic Adoration every

Monday 9AM - 7PM & on Fridays 6PM - 7PM

Maybe, you've seen that we have Adoration every week or heard someone say that they are going to Adoration, but maybe you don't really understand what it means. That's ok! The practice of Adoration has been a part of the Catholic faith since the very beginning, and when we are "going to Adoration," we are typically referring to Eucharistic Adoration. Which, in the most basic terms, is the worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass. The Eucharistic Host is displayed in a monstrance on the Altar so that all can see and pray in the presence of Christ.

We can show our adoration to God in many ways, but in Eucharistic Adoration, we spend time adoring the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. When attending Adoration, as a form of respect, you should always genuflect when you see the Lord in the Host. Maintain an attitude of respect, and if others are present, silence. Always keep in mind that you are in the presence of God! Kneeling, sitting or standing, before the Blessed Sacrament are all appropriate forms of prayer. Let your posture reflect your worship and do what is comfortable for you. You really don't have to "do" anything during Adoration. You can just sit there and look at Jesus. Take the time to be with Him. If you are the only person in the church, don't be afraid to pray or sing aloud. This is your personal time with Christ.



Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Mt 11:28

"Know also that you will probably gain more by praying fifteen minutes before the Blessed Sacrament than by all the other spiritual exercises of the day. True, Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, for He has made the promise, 'Ask, and you shall receive,' but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament will obtain a more abundant measure of grace."— St. Alphonsus Liguori

Telephone & Live Streaming

Apologies to anyone who could not get an answer on the parish phone this week, there was a fault on the line meaning we were not receiving the calls nor were you able to leave a message, we had a temporary number which we posted on Facebook and the website, however, the parish number is now working again. Live streaming also went down mid week, this is due to the internet speeds which will be upgraded this week so if we lose signal again, we are aware and thank you for your patience.

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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 / safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

**Invitation to our Deanery Vocations Evening in our Parish
Thursday 14th March**

Adoration 6-7PM followed by Mass at 7PM

You are most welcome to join us as we all come together from parishes and schools from around the Deanery to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest.

Inspire, in the hearts of your people, vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those whom you call have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



RIGHT TO LIFE

Right to Life are asking for your support to an amendment to reduce the abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in the abortion law. You can go to the link below to support Right to Life and the unborn child by writing a letter to your local MP, there are some postcards at the back of Church for you to use if you wish.

<https://righttolife.org.uk/littlefighters>

Gift Aid

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions that they have given to the parish through the weekly donations, be it gift aided or not, be it in cash or online transfers, your contributions are greatly appreciated and support the Church tremendously, thank you!

For those who use the Gift Aid Envelopes, the envelopes for the next tax year are now at the back of Church for you to collect. Can all existing Gift Aid contributors please pick up their own respective envelopes for use from Sunday 7th April onwards, your name will be on your box.

Anyone who does not already Gift Aid and are a taxpayer please consider joining the Gift Aid system, as the Parish will benefit by receiving 25% extra in relief from the Government AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU! Please either pick up a Gift Aid form from the back of church, fill it in and pop it in the Collections Box or contact Mike Borg either via phone, his number is on the front page or by speaking with him personally or Leslin at the back of Church. Please be careful when you pick up your envelopes as the packaging isn't very sturdy. Thank you.

Life

Life is a national pregnancy support charity. Their vision is to create a world where no one faces pregnancy or pregnancy loss alone. Through Life's services, they help 45,000 people each year meet pregnancy or pregnancy loss with courage and dignity so they can flourish.

Life also currently delivers NCFE CACHE Level 2 in Counselling Skills and NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Counselling Skills and Theory available for enrolment on <https://learn.lifecharity.org.uk/> Together these courses provide a firm foundation to progress to the Level 4 Diploma for those wishing to pursue a career as a fully qualified and registered counsellor without going to university. Life's courses are completely online allowing you to study at your own pace. Learners receive 1:1 support from practicing, highly skilled and experienced counsellors for the duration of their studies. For more information visit the Life Charity website or email [ncfe@lifecharity.org.uk](mailto:nfce@lifecharity.org.uk)

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

Divine Mercy Sunday

Leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday 7th April, we will have the 9 day Divine Mercy Novena in preparation for this Feast Day known as the Feast of the Divine Mercy

Repository

We have had a delivery of gifts for First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates along with a selection of cards. A wider variety of Rosaries were requested by a number of people so we now have a wider variety of Rosaries.

We have a small number of Bibles available for both adults and children.

We have had requests for statues which have been ordered and on their way. If we do not have something which you would like then please do let us know and we will do our best to help.



Tea & Coffee Sundays

Just a gentle reminder that after every Sunday morning Mass we have refreshments in Hibberts Hall, you are all welcome in for a warm drink and a chat. This is a great way if you are new to the parish to meet new friends and socialise together as a parish or to help out by serving.