



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 21 July 2024 – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Year B

Dear Parishioners

"The Lord is my Shepherd...". This beautiful song of King David is a funeral favourite, but despite having sung it many times over the years I still find it a moving and uplifting cry of praise and thankfulness to God, the Shepherd of His people. There is a deep comfort in the sentiment that we have Someone who cares so much that He will never abandon us. As the Psalm continues (in the King James translation, most frequently used):

"Yea, though I walk through the Valley of the shadow of death I shall fear no evil. For Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff They comfort me."

Leadership, in this context Kingship, is portrayed as a Shepherd's role, a man who will tend, protect and guide those in his charge. It is an ideal, and reading the pages of the Old Testament it is clear that most fell badly short, even King David himself in his dark periods. The prophet Jeremiah in our first reading condemns the bad shepherds who fail to do their jobs but are only concerned for themselves and their interests. Disaster will fall on the people he warns and disaster certainly did in the shape of the foreign armies who swept down, overpowered and destroyed Jerusalem, leading its citizens into captivity and exile.

Yet despite this constant disappointment, the promise is given of a leader who will rise and rule...a shoot of King David...a Messiah, who will at last fulfil the Shepherd's role.

Jesus said: "I am the Good Shepherd" and we can see the depth of His compassion for those who were following Him in the Greek word used to describe His feelings when they were "like sheep without a shepherd." He was "moved in his innermost being" or an older translation "yearned in his bowels"! This is the mark of the true Shepherd, one whose life revolves around the safety and welfare of the flock.

Let us pray for Shepherds of this stature, in Church and State, those who can rise above personal agendas and egos and inspire others to follow. We need men and women of such calibre in unstable and dangerous times.

God Bless Everyone

Father Clive

Parish Notices

Next week: Masses 09:15 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Holy Rosary for Peace Friday 9.15 am

Wednesday is another National Day for Life. Please remember all those charities who work to prevent abortions and to support young mothers. Saturday September 7th will be a March for Life, details to follow.

In July we pray with Pope Francis that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all

Proposed Joint Pilgrimage to Rome for Holy Year 2025 - Holy Trinity and St Teresa's - 2025 has been declared a Holy Year or Jubilee. These Holy Year's happen every 25 years and the theme for next year is to be Pilgrims of Hope. The Holy Father has asked us to pray for 1) the resolution of wars 2) the post COVID situation 3) the climate. To celebrate this Holy Year, we are seeking **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ONLY at this time** DETAILS Spiritual leaders - Fr Clive and Fr Tony (dv) 4-5 days in September 2025 - to be confirmed. Cost - as economically as possible. To gain the benefits of a Holy Year we will visit the 4 major basilicas in Rome - St Peter's, St Mary Major, St John Lateran and St Paul outside the walls and enter through the Holy Doors. Please contact Johnny Hulme 07770 433290 Johnnyhulme@me.com or Paul Branch 07771624578 pnmebranch@btinternet.com at Holy Trinity or Elizabeth Canning 07785 9714344 - emcanning1@btinternet.com at St Teresa's. For more information on the Holy Year and what it means please click on the following link; www.iubilaeum2025.va. Please also let Elizabeth Canning know if you would be interested in becoming involved in spiritual preparation for the Pilgrimage especially if you cannot travel.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes.
Please also pray for all who can no longer be with us at the Lord's Table: Lynette, Gerard, Paula, Serita, Catherine, Richard, Tom, Mary, Carol, Betty, Audrey and Peggy.

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.