



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 3 November 2024 – Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Year B

Dear Parishioners

"Love is the fulfilment of the Law". In today's First reading and Gospel, the Prime Command is heard "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength." Known as the "Shema" from the first Hebrew word of the sentence, this prayer is repeated by Jews twice a day, is the first to be taught to children and is the last to be made before death. It states the fundamental relationship between the chosen people of Israel, and the Lord God Yahweh.

The question is: how can you command love? Surely, love must be given freely, voluntarily, without coercion and enforcement. Where does Law play a part in Love? Jesus, asked about which is the most important Commandment in an effort to trip Him up, quotes this " Shema" but then adds a second: "You must love your neighbour as yourself." You cannot command the emotion, but you can command the action. The connection is made again and again through the New Testament...you cannot love God if you do not love, care for your neighbour.

As St John writes: "If you say you love God but hate your brother...you are a liar!" Christians are called upon to put love into action through their interaction with others, be that giving money, time, attention, practical help...St Paul reinforces this by saying that at the end of all things even Faith and Hope will fade away as we face the Eternal God, but not Love.

Prayer is a form of love too and as the month of the Holy Souls in November approaches we can remember our own departed at Mass and in the quiet of our hearts. There are envelopes and a Book of the Dead at the back of both churches.

Thank you to Fr Paul/ Fr Martin for celebrating Holy Mass when I was in Glasgow trying to arrange a wedding...which looks like it is all on track!

God Bless Everyone, Father Clive

Parish Notices

Masses this week: Holy Trinity - 9:15am Monday (Saint Charles Borromeo), Tuesday and Thursday is a School Mass for All Saints. Friday Rosary for Peace at 9:15

St Teresa's – 9:15am Wednesday, Friday, Sunday

Holy Trinity First Communion Class Friday 4:15pm

Confirmation class after Sunday Mass Holy Trinity

Film Club will probably not begin until the New Year due to a hold- up with the license.

Funeral of Josephine Thompson, our former organist: Tuesday 19 November Holy Trinity – timing to follow

Important! The Catholic Bishops have asked all Catholics to write to their MP objecting to the proposed Bill of assisted suicide going through Parliament. This change in the law would bring great pressure onto the elderly and the disabled to " do the right thing" which is the wrong thing as it violates the sacredness of human life as much as abortion. There are notices at the back of church but it is possible to contact your MP direct.

In November we pray with Pope Francis that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

November is the month we remember those we have loved and lost. The book of Remembrance will be placed at the back of the Church for you to note the names of those you know who have died. There will also be envelopes for Mass Offerings.

Looking ahead...At the start of Advent the whole Church will adopt a new Lectionary, the four volumes that contain all the scripture readings for Sundays, Saints days, All the Feasts, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals etc. It is a major development and it means that all our Mass books will have to be replaced and new ones ordered for both parishes. New Missals will have to be bought too and details of where and how to do this will soon be published. Our new volumes are already with us as Father Clive took advantage of the 10% discount if ordered early!

Please continue to pray for our Ukrainian family. Hanna and baby Marc travelled back to the Ukraine recently and will be there for one month in order to apply for a passport for the baby. We pray for a safe journey and stay in the Ukraine. Also for Serhii, Nelli, Yanna and Emma as they await Hanna and Marc's return.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes.

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.

