

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

5th January 2025, Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

"We have come from the East to worship the King."

The Pope's Prayer Intention: Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Fr Frank: *Today, with the holy Church of God throughout the world, we celebrate the great Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany means "manifestation" and it was made manifest to the Magi, who were led from afar by a bright star, that Jesus came, not just for the people of Israel but for everyone. This feast draws us away from the temptation to confine the mystery of the Christmas celebration to our own private world and interests. For the Church, Epiphany is a call and a challenge to never become narrow and inward-looking but to remember that, as the baptised, our vocation is to be a light for all people.*

Response to the Psalm: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Confession: 5.15-5.45pm Saturday at St Francis Church, Baddesley Clinton, or by arrangement.

Last week's Collection: Loose plate/Envelopes £96.85, Standing Orders £374, Total £470.85.

Weekday masses: There will be no weekday Masses this week as Fr Frank will be taking his post-Christmas break. Please see the Deanery website for weekday Masses in the area (a link to the Deanery website is at the end of this newsletter).

Christmas offerings for your Priest: As is customary, your offerings at Christmas went to your Parish Priest. Fr Frank would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity and ongoing support in this Parish. Thank you also for your cards and gifts. Hoping that you had a very blessed and peaceful Christmas season.

Coffee Morning: The next Parish Coffee Morning will take place in the Narthex on **Wednesday 8th January** at **10.30 am** - tea, coffee, scones, cake and conversation in abundance - everyone is welcome to join us.

Prayer Group: The next meeting of our regular prayer group will be on **Thursday 9th January at 3:00 pm**.

Sunday Mass Books: We are now using the new translations of the Lectionary. The Parish has purchased 100 new Mass books (parts 1 and 2) at a cost of £1000 for this year. In total there is a set of six books that we will purchase over the next three years. If you want to contribute to the cost by dedicating two books in memory of a loved one, or as a gift from a family, we suggest a donation of £10. Please complete one of the forms given out at Mass and hand to the wardens with a cash, a cheque or pay by bank transfer.

Parish Office: Sara's normal parish office hours (Wednesdays 10.30am – 2.30pm) will resume from Wednesday 15th January.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: The week of prayer is traditionally observed from the 18- 25 January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. At the heart of our reflections for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is the question posed by Jesus to Martha: 'Do you believe this?' (John 11:26). Please visit www.cbcew.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/ for resources and prayers for this week of prayer.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Every year, hundreds of pilgrims from across the Archdiocese of Birmingham join together for the Lourdes Pilgrimage. 2025 is the Year of Jubilee and Archbishop Bernard invites you to come with us on this very special occasion in the life of the Archdiocese: "It's a great experience to be together with upwards of 700 fellow pilgrims." The pilgrimage dates have been announced: **Saturday 24 – Friday 30 May 2025**, and you can now express your interest in a place or get more information by visiting www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes.

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock and County Mayo: 10th March 2025. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Anniversaries this week: Mary Foster, Michael Simpson, Joan Applin, John O'Reagan, Aidir Parizzi Snr, Lawrence O'Toole.

Your prayers are asked for those who are sick and their carers: Maggie Ellis, Maureen Carroll, Martin Sheehy and Joan McLean.

If you would like someone to be named on our list of those who are sick, please contact David Green (david.monica@btopenworld.com) or complete the online form (under Parish Life) on our web site.

Notices for the Bulletin: Please email all notices for the bulletin to Ellie Clarke by 7.00 pm on Thursday at iehclarke@btinternet.com.

This Weeks Rota Arrangements for Mass at BRG

Date & Time:	5 th January 9.30am	12 th January 9.30am
Day:	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Celebrant:		
Intention:	John Lucas (RIP)	
Wardens:	Nuala Fulham & Anne Stewart	Eileen Selby & Elizabeth Power
Readers:	Chris Lynn	Anisha Mattias
Tea & Coffee:	Louise Perry & Ann Dodd	Chris Mitchell & Selby family
Flowers:	Louise Perry	Louise Perry
Counting:	Aidir Parizzi & family	Monica Green & Liz Selby
Music:	Linda Chesshire	Björn Stinner
Church Cleaning:	Chris Mitchell & Eileen Selby	Christina Plater & Nuala Fulham
Altar Linen:	Nuala Fulham	Nuala Fulham
Children's Liturgy:	No children's liturgy	TBC

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Monica Green. They can be contacted at: sg.brg.balsallcommon@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Priest: Revd. Father Frank Smith. Tel: 07512 100908

Email: fr.frank.smith@rcaob.org.uk

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity No. 234216.

Parish website: www.brgparish.org.uk

Banbury & Warwick Catholic Deanery website: www.banburyandwarwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk