



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

'Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Luke 3:15-16,21-22 Psalter Week 1

The Baptism of the Lord 18th–19th January.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January 2025: For the right to an education. 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.

Sat 11 th January	Vigil of the Baptism of the Lord	5.30 pm Mass: Ann-Marie Freeth RIP
Sun 12 th January	The Baptism of the Lord	10.00 am Mass:

Ordinary Time Begins

Mon 13 th January	Feria in Ordinary Time	No Mass
Tues 14 th January	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Communion Service
Wed 15 th January	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Communion Service
Thurs 16 January	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Communion Service
Fri 17 th January	Memorial of St Anthony, Abbott.	No Mass.
Sat 18 th January	Vigil for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Second collection for Pax Christi.	5.30 pm Mass:
Sun 19 th January	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Second collection for Pax Christi	10.00 am Mass:

Readings for the Baptism of the Lord: This week we reflect on the special event of Jesus' baptism. Jesus, though sinless, chose to be baptised by John the Baptist, in the lowest place on Earth the river Jordan.

Jesus wanted to show his support and understanding for us. He wanted to share in our humanity and weaknesses. By being baptized, Jesus stood with those who were seeking forgiveness and a new start. He showed that he was not distant from us, but close, sharing in our struggles.

Jesus' baptism was a way to begin his mission. It was a public sign that he was ready to do God's work. The heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit came down like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased." This showed that God chose Jesus for a special purpose.

Fr Damian's Holiday and Jubilee Celebration in Nigeria. Last Sunday Fr Damian was celebrating his silver jubilee, in his home parish, a special mass with his family, parishioners, his local bishop and fellow priests, unfortunately, the church did not have Wi-fi.

While Fr Damian is away weekend mass cover has been arranged by the deanery and the Columbans. If there is anything urgent, please contact either Fr Oliver at St Gregory's or the Dean Fr David Hartley at St Joseph's Whitnash. 01926 772712.

This weekend we have Cannon Stewart and Mgr. Daniel McHugh covering for Fr Damian.

During this week, there will be a communion service on Tuesday and Thursday.

Pax Christi: Next Sunday 19th January is Peace Sunday There will be a second collection for this Pax Christi the Catholic Charity working for peace in the world.

Prayer Intentions: We pray for all on our parish sick list and those who care for them, that the Lord may guide them and strengthen them through their illness. We pray for the souls of our departed loved ones, especially Ann-Marie Freeth, and our parish anniversaries, Bridget Gamble James Leon, Arthur McNulty, Edward Ward, John Lawton and Karen Hughes, may they be blessed with God's favour.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Henley in Arden. Our parish primary School has been ranked among Warwickshire's top 13 state Primary schools! With 100% of pupils meeting expected standards in reading, writing, and maths in 2023/24, they've set an incredible example of educational excellence. Well done to all the staff and students!

The Jubilee Year of Hope 2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope was started by Pope Francis on Christmas Eve. Our own Archbishop Bernard celebrated a Mass at St Chad's last Sunday for the Opening of the Jubilee Year. In His Pastoral letter earlier in the month Archbishop Bernard reminded us that we are all 'Pilgrims of Hope.'. Please visit the diocese webpage for more details

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Listing/Category/the-year-of-prayer-2024-and-the-jubilee-year-2025>.

Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever. Amen

Booklets to accompany the Jubilee Year are available to help us make the most of the Jubilee Year. You can pick up your copy in the Church. Please make a donation to the piety stall box if you can but take a copy.

CAFOD World Gifts, making a world of difference one gift at a time. It is still not too late to buy a Cafod World Gift. By buying a gift, you can make a world of difference to families fleeing conflict, farmers battling the climate crisis and a community protecting the Amazon. There are gift brochures at the back of the church or go online at cafod.org.uk/world_gifts.

100 Club January Draw: If you want to increase your chances of a win, we still have some numbers left. It is not too late to sign up! There are some "sign-up envelopes" at the back of the church for new subscribers. For BACS payments, please get in touch with Mary at

pt.olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk. You can contact me for any queries at netandsteve@gmail.com. Many thanks. Annette.

Stratford Food Bank: The Foodbank made 530 Christmas food hampers for over 1200 people. These are this month's most needed: UHT fruit juice, UHT Milk, Tinned Chicken Meals, tinned vegetable meals, Pie, instant Mashed, Pasta, rice, Soup, and any other items you can spare. Please drop off any donations in the box at the back of the church.

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."*

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Saturday 24 – Friday 30 May 2025. You can now register your interest in joining the Pilgrimage by visiting www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes.

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.

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

Birmingham Archdiocese Link: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk Deanery Website:

<https://banburyandwarwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk/>