



**OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

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The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Registered Charity No. 234216

“He sent me to bring the good news to the poor” Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Psalter Week 4

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time., 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Holy Father’s Prayer Intention for February 2025. For vocations to the priesthood and religious life:** Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Vigil for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.</b> <i>(Sunday of the Word of God)</i> <b>Voluntary Collection for Life</b>	5.30 pm Mass: Divine Healing on Maureen Walsh, Michael Walsh and Peggy Lennon.
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.</b> <i>(Sunday of the Word of God)</i> <b>Voluntary Collection for Life</b>	10.00 am Mass: Fr Damian and The People of the Parish
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Communion Service
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas, Priest Doctor of the Church.	No Mass
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Communion Service
Thur 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Feria in Ordinary Time	No Mass.
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Memorial of St John Bosco Priest.	9.30 am Communion Service
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>Vigil for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.</b> Parish Maintenance Collection <b>World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life</b>	5.30 pm Mass:
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.</b> <i>Parish Maintenance Collection</i> <b>World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life</b>	10.00 am Mass:

**Sunday of the Word of God:** The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time was instituted by Pope Francis as 'The Sunday of the Word of God'.

**The Annual Pro Life Charity Collection, this weekend:** This will take place in our parish this weekend. This is a local Charity doing important work both locally and nationally to preserve the dignity of life.

**Parish Maintenance Collection:** This Collection will be next Weekend, 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> of February.

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time:** This week our readings show us importance of listening to God’s word. This reflects Pope Francis’ s designation as this Sunday as “The Sunday of the Word of God”. Nehemiah showed the people that reading and understanding Scripture brings joy and strength. When we take time to listen to God’s word, we find guidance and comfort. It helps us grow in our faith and live better lives.

In the Gospel, we see that Jesus had studied and understood the Scriptures. Jesus knew God’s word well and used it to teach and help others. By following His example, we can also learn more about God and how to follow Him. Studying Scripture helps us know what God wants for us and how we can live in a way that pleases Him

**During this week, there will be a communion service on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.**

**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 our parish anniversaries, Bernard Green, Mavis Bailey, Bartley Morrisroe, Philip Dyer, Kathleen Hall, Julia Bradley, and James Gillespie. May they rest forever in the loving embrace of God.



**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.

**The Jubilee Year of Hope 2025:** 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>.

**First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation for Children not at Catholic Schools.** Our Programme for the preparation of the Children for these sacraments in 2025 starts this Wednesday. Please contact the parish email or Tessa Smallbone our parish catechist on [smallbonet22@gmail.com](mailto:smallbonet22@gmail.com). If parents have missed the earlier call, with the names, dates of birth of the child and the contact numbers and email of parents who wish to support their children on this sacramental journey.

**Fr Damian's holiday:** While Fr Damian is away, the deanery and the Columbans have arranged cover for our weekend masses. If anything urgent needs to be addressed, please contact either Fr Oliver at St Gregory's or the Dean, Fr David Hartley, at St Joseph's Whitnash. 01926 772712. This weekend, Mgr. Canon Daniel McHugh and Fr John Collins are covering for Fr Damian.

**An Invitation from The Birmingham Lourdes Hospitalité:** The Birmingham Lourdes Hospitalité warmly invites you to a special Mass celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on **Saturday 8 February**, at 4:30 pm, in St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. This celebration is a wonderful opportunity to come together in prayer, honour Our Lady, and seek her intercession for the sick and their carers. We extend a special invitation to:

- All who have served in Lourdes,
- Schools, students, and Pilgrims planning to join our Diocesan Pilgrimage in May 2025.

Refreshments will be served after Mass.

The Birmingham Lourdes Hospitalité is a religious confraternity affiliated with the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes. They are committed to supporting pilgrims, especially those staying in the Accueil, by providing meaningful experiences and financial assistance to those in need.

**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 Mayo at [pt.olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:pt.olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk). You can contact me for any queries at [netandsteve@gmail.com](mailto:netandsteve@gmail.com). Many thanks. Annette.

**Stratford Food Bank:** This is 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](http://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](mailto:sg.olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk) or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted at 0121 230 6240 [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Follow the Readings at Mass:** [www.universalis.com/mass](http://www.universalis.com/mass). or [www.alivepublishing.co.uk](http://www.alivepublishing.co.uk).

**Birmingham Archdiocese Link:** [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk) **Deanery Website:**

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