



OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Registered Charity No. 234216

'My eyes have seen your salvation. 'Luke 2:22-32, Psalter Week 1.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, 1st – 2nd February

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for February. 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 1 st February	Vigil for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Parish Maintenance Collection World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life	5.30 pm Mass: Divine Healing on Maureen Walsh, Michael Walsh and Peggy Lennon.
Sun 2 nd February	The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Parish Maintenance Collection World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life	10.00 am Mass: People of the Parish
Mon 3 rd February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Communion Service
Tues 4 th February	Memorial of St Agatha, Virgin Martyr.	No Mass
Wed 5 th February	Memorial of St Paul Mika and Companions Martyrs	9.30 am Communion Service
Thurs 6 th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	No Mass.
Fri 7 th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Communion Service
Sat 8 th February	Vigil for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.30 pm Mass:
Sun 9 th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.	10.00 am Mass:

Parish Maintenance Collection: This Collection will be this Weekend, 1st -2nd of February.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas): This is an ancient celebration in the Church, also called Candlemas because, on this day, candles are blessed in many parishes. These candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. The feast is celebrated on February 2, forty days after Christmas. It recalls the day when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Him to God.

This event is rooted in Jewish tradition. According to the Law of Moses, every firstborn son belonged to God. Jewish parents were to bring their son to the Temple and offer a small sacrifice in thanksgiving. By bringing Jesus to the Temple, Mary and Joseph followed God's law faithfully. This act shows their humility and obedience to God.

The feast celebrates three main ideas. First, Jesus is recognised as the Light of the World, a light for all people. Second, it shows that Jesus came to fulfil the law, not to destroy it. He and His family obeyed the customs of their people. Third, it honours the deep faith of Mary and Joseph, who followed God's will at every step.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read about two holy people, Simeon and Anna, who meet Jesus at the Temple. Both Simeon and Anna see that Jesus is special. They have waited their whole lives for this moment. Simeon praises God and calls Jesus a "light for revelation to the Gentiles." This points to Jesus' mission to save not only Israel but also all nations.

On Candlemas, the Church invites us to remember that Jesus brings light to our lives. We are called like Simeon and Anna to recognise Jesus in our world. We also look to Mary and Joseph as examples of faith and obedience.

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, Peter Dryhurst, Maureen Dyer, Marjorie Sandford, Pierce Bradley, Zoe White, Tom McVeigh, Frances Maypothor, Mary Dyer, and Margaret Chapman. May they rest forever in the loving embrace of God.

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



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 donate 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>.

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 arise, please contact either Fr Oliver at St Gregory's or the Dean, Fr David Hartley, at St Joseph's Whitnash. 01926 772712.

This weekend, Cannon Edward Stewart, and Mgr. Daniel McHugh 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.

There will be Refreshments 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: The First prize drawn was £120, 63 Adriano Fernandes (Arthur). The Second prize of £80 was won by no 53 Beth Lawton, John, and Cath Treacy. No 26 won the third prize of £40. Well done, all. The Cheques will be issued when Fr Damian returns.

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 "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. You can contact me for any queries at netandsteve@gmail.com. Many thanks. Annette.

Stratford Food Bank: The foodbank reports a 25% drop in donations for the month the number of users is on the rise so they need help. This month's most needed are, Instant Mash, Instant Whip, Jelly, Pasta Sauce, Shampoo, Squash, Tinned Chicken Meals, UHT fruit juice, tinned custard, or 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.

Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo from Birmingham: 10th – 14th March, 4 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport are included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, and the Quiet Man Museum. Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

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/>