



OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER
 Alcester Road, Wootton Wawen, B95 6BQ Tel: 01564 792647
 Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Damian Nwankwo
fr.damian.nwankwo@rcaob.org.uk
 Parish Email: olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk
 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.
 Registered Charity No. 234216
 'They left everything and followed him.' Luke 5:1-11.
 Psalter Week 1.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. 8th-9th 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 8th February	Vigil for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.30 pm Mass: People of the Parish
Sun 9th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.	10.00 am Mass: Victor Goodwin RIP
Mon 10 th February	Memorial of St Scholastica, Virgin	9.30 am Communion Service
Tues 11 th February	Feria in Ordinary Time. Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. Day of Prayer for the Sick.	No Mass
Wed 12 th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Communion Service
Thurs 13 th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	No Mass.
Fri 14 th February	Feast of St Cyril, Monk, and St Methodius Bishop Patron of Europe. Day of Prayer for Europe.	9.30 am Communion Service
Sat 15 th February	Vigil for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Collection for Racial Justice	5.30 pm Mass:
Sun 16 th February	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Collection for Racial Justice	10.00 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

Readings for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time. This weekend, our readings highlight key themes such as God's holiness, our unworthiness, sharing our faith, and following Jesus through the stories of Isaiah, Paul, and Peter. In the first reading, Isaiah has a vision of God on a throne, surrounded by praising angels. He feels unworthy and exclaims, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips," showing his need for God's forgiveness.

In the Gospel, Peter, after witnessing a miraculous catch of fish, falls to Jesus' knees and says, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Both men show that encountering God reveals our flaws. Despite feeling inadequate, God calls us. Like Isaiah and Peter, we should respond with humility, repentance, and a willingness to serve, knowing He empowers those He chooses.

Victor Goodwin RIP. Vic passed away last weekend after having a fall. Although for a period he had been in a care home, this was always his parish. Vic and his wife Vera were staunch supporters of our parish. For many years, Vic was involved in the maintenance of both the church and cemetery grounds. Every Sunday for around 40 years, Vic acted as steward and sidesman at our Sunday masses. The family donated many of the beautiful embroidered lectern covers and tabernacle veils we use today. We pray for the repose of his soul and offer our sympathy to Vera and to all his family. May he rest in eternal peace with the lord. His funeral will be in March.

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 all those who have died; for Victor Goodwin, who died last Sunday, and Peter Hernshaw who passed away on Friday and for our parish anniversaries, Margaret Colley, Barbara O'Brien, Charlie Mander, George Hodge, Bill Jones, and Helen Clarke, may the Lord gather them into his nets in the great harvest of heaven.

Racial Justice Sunday: This year, Racial Justice Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday 16 February. The theme, Pilgrims of Hope: Our Journey Together Towards Racial Justice, invites Catholics across England and Wales to reflect on the collective journey towards racial justice in our schools, parishes and our wider society.

Parish Fundraising Quiz: We will be hosting a quiz night next month to raise funds for the parish. More details to follow.

Soup and Roll Lunch: The next lunch is Wednesday 19th February.



Booklets to accompany the Jubilee Year. These 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: Fr Damian has sent some pictures from his celebrations in Nigeria. They are on a board at the Church entrance. 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.

100 Club February 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 "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: I dropped the contributions of around 96 kg valued at over £237.00 from our food boxes at the foodbank this week. They were very grateful for this fabulous donation, and want to thank you all. 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.

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 next **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. There will be Refreshments after Mass.

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."*

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.

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Saturday 24 – Friday 30 May 2025. Lourdes Pilgrimage Booking is now open for this year's Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage You are most welcome to join in this Jubilee Year as we journey to Lourdes in May. The pilgrimage runs from Saturday 24 - Friday 30 May 2025 with the theme: "With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope". If you would like to travel to Lourdes but need assistance help will be given. You will participate fully in the pilgrimage and experience the love of God through the care, love and friendship of volunteers. Please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office to discuss assistance requirements: 0121 230 6288 / admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk Find out more here: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>
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.

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Birmingham Archdiocese Link: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk **Deanery Website:** <https://banburyandwarwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk/>