



OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER
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 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.
 Registered Charity No. 234216
 'Be merciful, even as your father is merciful.'
 Luke 6:27-38 Psalter Week 3.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. 22nd–23rd 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 22 nd February	Vigil for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.30 pm Mass: Divine Healing on Maureen Walsh, Michael Walsh, and Peggy Lennon
Sun 23 rd February	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.	10.00 am Mass: Marion Fletcher RIP
Mon 24 th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Mass
Tues 25 th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	6.30 pm Mass
Wed 26 th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Mass
Thurs 27 th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	No Mass.
Fri 28 th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Mass
Sat 1 st March	Feast of St David, Bishop Patron of Wales	
Sat 1 st March	Vigil for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Parish Maintenance fund collection</i>	5.30 pm Mass:
Sun 2 nd March	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. <i>Parish Maintenance fund collection</i>	10.00 am Mass:

Readings for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. This week, our readings urge us to be faithful to Jesus' call. Jesus tells us to love our enemies, which goes against the way our world usually works. Today, we often see competition, especially in politics and on social media, where getting ahead seems most important. Imagine how different things could be if we genuinely loved our enemies and showed forgiveness and mercy to everyone.

Jesus' message is simple, he calls us to a life of mercy, just like David showed mercy to Saul. Mercy means choosing kindness over revenge. It means forgiving others, even when it is hard, and the path is difficult. It brings us closer to living like Jesus.

We all need forgiveness. We might think it is just for those who have wronged us, but we also need it for ourselves. Holding grudges can harm us and prevent us from finding peace. Jesus reminds us we should forgive to be forgiven.

By avoiding judgment, showing compassion, we can make a positive impact on those around us. These lessons encourage us to grow in love, forgiveness, and mercy, bringing us closer to the heart of Jesus.

Prayer Intentions: We pray for our Holy Father Pope Francis, may he make a speedy recovery from his illness, 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 faithful departed for Victor Goodwin and Peter Hernshaw, and for our parish anniversary Marion Fletcher, may they rest in peace through the eternal compassion of God.

Lent 2025: Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent is on Wednesday 5th March. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. We will have mass with Imposition of Ashes, at 9.30 am and 7.00 pm. In this Jubilee year, this is a chance to review your spiritual life. Maybe picking up again something you have lapsed from or taking on a new form of worship. It is not all about "giving up" something. We will have Evening stations of the cross and mid-week masses during Lent. Cafod will have its appeal, and the foodbank always needs help.

St Gregory's Bible Study Group, Stratford on Avon, starts Tuesday 4th March: All are welcome, Please see Flyers.

The Second Collection 1st -2nd March over this weekend will be for our parish maintenance fund.
The Second Collection weekend 8th–9th March will be for the Maintenance of our Diocesan Cathedral of St Chad,

Parish AGM 24th March. This is our event for March. We would love some more parishioners to come along and show your support for the parish.



Deanery Pilgrimage to Littlemore Oxfordshire Saturday 22nd March

A pilgrimage is being arranged to one of our Diocesan Jubilee churches in Oxford, the College of St John Henry Newman, and Blessed Dominic Barberi Church, OX4 4JX. 10.30 am Arrival and Mass, coffee and a talk, guided visit of the College, own packed lunch, Exposition with Indulgence prayers and ending with tea at 3.00 pm.

There is ample car parking at the church. No charge but a collection will be taken for the sisters and the Parish. To assist Sisters, please confirm attendance to peter.rand@btinternet.com as soon as you know or by 17 March latest. Thank you.

Victor Goodwin RIP. The family of Victor would like to invite you to join them in celebrating his Life at his funeral at 11.00 on Thursday 13th March 2025. He will be buried at our cemetery (Family only). His wake will be at The Kings Head in Aston Cantlow.

World Day of Prayer Friday 7th March, St John the Baptist Church, Aston Cantlow. at 2 pm. The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement, which celebrates a different country each year, focusing on the customs, way of life and challenges that the country faces. This year the focus will be on the Cook Islands. Afterwards, tea and homemade cakes will be served.

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: 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."*

Safeguarding Information from The Archdiocese Office: Our Lady and St. Benedict's parish always operates following Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures. 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 is available. 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.

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

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

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