



Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

2nd March 2025, Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”

The Pope’s Prayer Intention: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other’s gifts, even in their differences.

Fr Frank: *In today’s Gospel Jesus says: “A man’s words flow out of what fills his heart.” Lent begins on Wednesday - Ash Wednesday - with the Blessing and Imposition of the Ashes. The Church’s season of Lent is an opportunity for us to go deeper into what is at the heart of our lives and what should be first in our hearts. It’s a season in which we are invited to grow in our awareness of those things that blind us to the truth about ourselves and the truth about Christ. Lent is an opportunity to notice the “plank” in our own eye that prevents us seeing clearly how to love God and how to love our neighbour as our self. And it is only by seeing clearly that we can act and speak lovingly. On Ash Wednesday, a day of penance, abstinence and fasting, we enter into the joyful season of Lent - joyful because it is a time established for the purification of our souls and the renewal of our hearts.*

Todays Readings and responses: Today’s readings and responses are on Pages 144-146 of the Parish Mass Book. Today’s Responsorial Psalm: *It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord.*

Confession: 5.15-5.45pm Saturday at St Francis Church, Baddesley Clinton, or by arrangement.

Last week’s Collections: Loose plate/Envelopes £117.05, Standing Orders £374, Total £491.05.

Second Collection this Sunday for Cathedral Maintenance. Today the Solemnity of St Chad will be celebrated in the Cathedral. St Chad was born in the 7th century and was educated in Lindisfarne. As a bishop he established his See at Lichfield. His reputation spread quickly and favourably as a kind pastor who sought out the lost and cared for the sick. He died in 672 and his shrine is located in St Chad’s Cathedral, Birmingham. He is the patron saint of the Archdiocese.

Weekday masses this week at Blessed Robert Grissold are at 10am on Tuesday 4th March, followed by followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, and 7:30pm on Wednesday 5th March (Ash Wednesday).

Lent and Stations of the Cross Lent begins this Wednesday 5th March (**Ash Wednesday**) when there will be a Masses at BRG at 7.30pm and St Francis at 6pm together with the Imposition of Ashes. Let us make every effort to make a good start to the season and use this time to renew and deepen our life in Christ. To help us, after the 7pm Tuesday Mass during Lent there will be an opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross. All welcome to join in these devotions.

Prayer for Vocations: Throughout March prayers will be offered up for vocations during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and at the Holy Rosary, at St Francis after the 9am Masses on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Petitions for Knock: Chris Mitchell and Anne Stewart are going to Knock on 10th March. If you would like them to take a petition or light a candle for you please make contact with them. Suggested offering is £2 per candle.

Piety Stall: This has been re-stocked, please take a look, help yourselves and put the money into the box in the wall. There are some new St Patrick Day cards and Easter cards.

Parish Events Committee: We are looking for volunteers to help organise fund raising and social events in the coming year. If you are willing to help please give your name to Joe Martin after Mass.

Prayer Group: A Parish Prayer Group is now meeting **every Thursday** in the Parish Hall from **4-5pm**. All welcome.

Easter Raffle: We are collecting donations for the Easter Raffle to raise Parish funds. Any chocolate or Easter related items very much appreciated. Donations may be left in the labelled container in the hall or given to Teresa Green.

Baptism of Otilie Blewitt, Saturday 29th March at Midday: Chris and Roz invite parishioners to join them to celebrate Otilie’s baptism. Please pray for Otilie, her parents, godparents, family and friends.

World Day of Prayer 7th March: This year’s World Day of Prayer Churches Together service will be held at St Peter’s at 7:30pm this Friday, 7th March. The theme is “I made you Wonderful”. If you require more information please ask John & Louise Perry jlgperry@btinternet.com All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Churches Together Lenten Talks 2025: Saturdays during Lent from 8:45-10am, with refreshments. Venue: Methodist Church, Station Road. This year’s subject is the Council of Nicaea. All welcome. First date is next Saturday, 8th March, hosted by the Methodist Church community. Donations welcome.

Churches Together Coffee Mornings: Churches Together are running Coffee Mornings on the first Saturday of each month from 10:30am-Midday at the Jubilee Centre on Station Road. Each month a different congregation acts as host. The next dates is 5th April, hosted by St John the Baptist, Berkswell. All welcome.

Deanery Day Pilgrimage to Littlemore: 22nd March 2025: We are invited to join a day pilgrimage to one of the Diocesan Jubilee Churches at the College of St John Henry Newman and Blessed Dominic Barberi, Oxford, OX4 4JX. The day comprises Mass at 10:30 am followed by coffee and talk, guided tour of the College, self provided lunch, exposition and prayers, finishing at 3pm. If you would like to attend please contact Peter Rand at peter.rand@btinternet.com by 17th March who is collecting numbers.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 24th 30th May 2025: In this Year of Jubilee, Archbishop Bernard invites all to join in the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. It's a great experience to be together with upwards of 700 fellow pilgrims. To lodge and expression of interest or obtain more information visit www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes

Anniversaries this week: Bunty Coxon, Judith Whitmarsh, Charlotte Lowey, Betty Burleigh, Arthur Innes, Winnie White, Tom Carolan, Mary Webb, Kay Jay, Patrick Kinsella, Honor Kenny, Patrick Manion and Mary Britt.

Parish Office: Sara's normal parish office hours are Wednesdays 10.30am – 2.30pm.

Your prayers are asked for those who are sick and their carers: Maggie Ellis, Maureen Carroll and Joan McLean.

If you would like someone to be named on our list of those who are sick, please contact David Green (david.monica@btopenworld.com) or complete the online form (under Parish Life) on our web site.

Notices for the Bulletin: Please **email** all notices for the bulletin to **David Green** by **7.00 pm on Thursday** at david.monica@btopenworld.com

This Week's Sunday Mass and Rota Arrangements at Blessed Robert Grissold

Date & Time:	2 nd March 9.30am	9 th March 9.30am
Day:	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	First Sunday of Lent
Celebrant:	Fr. Frank	Fr. Frank
Intention:		
Wardens:	Monica Green & Madeline Peat	Nuala Fulham & Anne Stewart
Reader:	Andrew Chesshire-Ramon	Ian Clarke
Tea & Coffee:	Christine Horner & Ann Stewart	Selby Family & Chris Mitchell
Flowers:	Bridget Harrison	Bridget Harrison
Counting:	Bob & Kathy Jones	Chris Mitchell and Anne Stewart
Music:	Instrumental Group	Björn Stinner
Church Cleaning:	Louise Perry & Monica Green	Chris Lynn & Helen Woods
Altar Linen:	Chris Mitchell	Chris Mitchell
Children's Liturgy:	Lynda Leigh and Louise Perry	Grainne & Anthony Breen

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Monica Green. She can be contacted at: or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Priest: Revd. Father Frank Smith. Tel: 07512 100908 Email: fr.frank.smith@rcaob.org.uk

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity No. 234216.

Parish website: www.brgparish.org.uk

Banbury & Warwick Catholic Deanery website: www.banburyandwarwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk