



Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

9th March 2025, First Sunday of Lent

"Jesus was led by the Spirit in the wilderness and tempted by the devil"

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: *Holy Week and Easter are the climax of the Christian liturgical year. The time of the Passion and Resurrection is preceded by Lent, a lengthy period of preparation for these saving and illuminating mysteries. Lent is a time of penitence. It is a time for us to examine our conscience and seek reconciliation with the Lord. Lent is also a time for spiritual growth and enlightenment. In Lent we are invited to listen, and respond, ever more faithfully to the voice of God. Lent also commemorates Israel's liberation from slavery in Egypt and their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Lent relates this to our own spiritual journey, to our liberation, our pilgrimage, our feeding on divine manna and of our meeting with God. And, as we see from today's Gospel, Lent also recalls the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert during which he contended with Satan, the tempter. And our Lent must be a period of fighting against temptation. From this one can see that Lent is a very rich, a very deep mixture of elements which serve to purify and enlighten us. During the time of Lent the Church leads us towards the radiant glory of the Paschal feast. The more serious our Lenten preparation has been, the deeper we shall enter into the mystery of Easter and gather its fruits.*

Today's Readings and responses: Today's readings and responses are on Pages 153-156 of the Parish Mass Book.

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

Last week's Collections: Loose plate/Envelopes £59.02, Standing Orders £374, Total £433.02. Second collection for Cathedral Maintenance £52.88.

CAFOD Second Collection next week: Lent Family Fast Day is on Fri 14th March and there will be a second collection next week for this. Please support communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change. You can also donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope, by phone 0303 303 3030 or donate £10 by Text to 70085 ref: CAFODLENT.

Weekday mass this week at Blessed Robert Grissold is at 7pm, and will be followed by Stations of the Cross.

Stations of the Cross: Each week during lent there will be an opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross after the 7pm Tuesday Mass at Blessed Robert Grissold and after the 9am Friday Mass at St Francis. All welcome.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Lent: Each week during Lent this will follow the 9am Mass at St Francis on Thursdays each week. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be followed by Benediction. All welcome.

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.

Advance Notice of Easter Services 2025: Please see notice board for full list of this years Easter services.

Coffee Morning: The next parish coffee morning will take place at 10.30 am this Wed 12th March, in the Parish Room. Join us for tea, coffee, scones, cakes and good conversation in abundance! All welcome.

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.

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.

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. Next date is Saturday 15th March, hosted by St Peters community. Donations welcome.

Spring Fayre in aid of Save the Children: Saturday 29th March: St Francis Church Hall, Kenilworth. 10 am to 2pm.

Deanery Day Pilgrimage to Littlemore: 22nd March 2025: For further information please contact Peter Rand at peter.rand@btinternet.com by 17th March.

Diocese Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham: 10th May 2025: For further information please contact the pilgrim organizer, Fr Philip Griffin on 01384 395308 or email olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk

Kenilworth Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 24th-28th June 2025: For further details and booking contact Peter Rand 01926 852163 or peter.rand@btinternet.com Bookings and deposits required by **9 March** to guarantee flights.

Job vacancies: The Archdiocese is recruiting for the following four positions, which will all be closing for applications shortly: Operations Director, IT Manager, Finance Manager and Gift Aid Officer. Full details and closing dates can be found at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs.

Kenelm Youth Trust's Mission Team: is recruiting young people aged 18–25 to help lead outdoor activities, empowering the next generation, or simply exploring their own faith journey. For more information visit <https://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/youthministryteam.html>

Anniversaries this week: Margaret Smith, Joan North, Fr. Christopher Thornton, Thelma Beck, John Perry (Snr.), Jack Utteridge, Mary Brady and Peter Doyle.

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:	9 th March 9.30am	16 th March 9.30am
Day:	First Sunday of Lent	Second Sunday of Lent
Celebrant:	Fr. Frank	Fr. Frank
Intention:	Patrick Flynn (RIP)	Joe & Maureen Martin (RIP)
Wardens:	Nuala Fulham & Anne Stewart	Eileen Selby & Elizabeth Power
Reader:	Ian Clarke	Chris Blewitt
Tea & Coffee:	Selby Family & Chris Mitchell	Cheshire Family
Flowers:	Bridget Harrison	None in Lent
Counting:	Chris Mitchell and Anne Stewart	Aidir Parizzi & Family
Music:	Björn Stinner	Linda Cheshire
Church Cleaning:	Chris Lynn & Helen Woods	Chris Mitchell & Eileen Selby
Altar Linen:	Chris Mitchell	Chris Mitchell
Children's Liturgy:	Grainne & Anthony Breen	Lynda Leigh and Louise Perry

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