



OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER
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 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.
 Registered Charity No. 234216
 'Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.'
 Luke 6:39-45 Psalter Week 4.

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. 1st–2nd March.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for March For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Sat 1 st March	Vigil for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Parish Maintenance fund collection</i>	5.30 pm Mass: Divine Healing on Maureen Walsh, Michael Walsh, Peggy Lennon
Sun 2 nd March	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. <i>Parish Maintenance fund collection</i>	10.00 am Mass:
Mon 3 rd March	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Mass
Tues 4 th March	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am Mass
Wed 5 th March	Ash Wednesday (Day of Fasting and Abstinence)	9.30 am Mass 10.45 am mass in St Mary's School 7.00 pm Mass
Thurs 6 th March	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	No Mass.
Fri 7 th March	Friday After Ash Wednesday First Friday. World Day of Prayer.	10.30: Lenten Study Group 6.30 pm Stations of the Cross 7.00 pm Mass
Sat 8 th March	Vigil for the First Sunday in Lent <i>Cathedral Maintenance fund collection</i>	5.30 pm Mass:
Sun 9 th March	First Sunday in Lent <i>Cathedral Maintenance fund collection7</i>	10.00 am Mass:

Readings for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time: This week's readings focus on the power of our words. Sirach 27:4-7 tells us that our words show who we really are. Good words come from a good heart, while hurtful words reflect inner problems. Our speech can either lift others up or bring them down. In Luke 6:43-45, Jesus explains the link between our hearts and actions. He says that good trees bear good fruit, meaning our actions and words show our true character. If our hearts are good, we will naturally say and do good things. It's important to be careful with our words. Speaking kindly and truthfully shows our faith and love for others. Harsh or dishonest words can hurt people and weaken our witness as Christians. By thinking about how we speak, we can grow in holiness.

In the reading from Corinthians, Paul reminds us that Jesus has defeated death. This victory gives us hope and courage to stay strong in our faith. Death is not the end; through Christ, we have eternal life.

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. There will be Mass in our School, St Mary's in Henley in Arden. At 10.45. Parishioners are welcome to come and join the school as they start lent. 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 Stations of the Cross and Mass on Wednesdays and Fridays Evenings. There will be morning Masses on Monday and Tuesday during Lent. Cafod will have its appeal, and the foodbank always needs help.

If Anyone wants Confessions during Lent, please ask Fr Damian

"Walk with Me" booklets and calendars are now available in the church.

Parish Lenten Study Group. Fridays beginning on 7th March @ 10:30 am in the parish rooms. "Journeying Lent with the Psalms" All are welcome.

CAFOD's online Lent Prayer calendar 2025: Their daily Lent emails of prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we all prepare for Easter. Join in as we journey through Lent with our global family. <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/lent-calendar>

The Second Collection over this weekend will be for our Parish Maintenance fund.

The Second Collection over the weekend 8th–9th March will be for the Maintenance of our Diocesan Cathedral of St Chad,

The Family Fast Day for CAFOD Fundraising note: The decision by the government to reduce overseas development assistance from 0.5% to 0.3% means that, in some of the most vulnerable places on earth, more people will die and many more will lose their livelihoods. But with your donation to our Lent Fast Day Appeal you can share hope with these communities and stand with them in solidarity against the impact of this cut. We have partners making a difference right now across the world, committed to working wherever the need is greatest. Follow the link. <https://cafod.org.uk/give>. **The Collection will be on 14th March, envelopes are available in church.**

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 anniversaries, Angela Roberts, Mary Connell, Cecylia Pawinska, and Sidney John Smith. May the Lord greet them with compassion and grant them the happiness of his kingdom.
St Gregory's Lenten Talks Stratford on Avon, " At the Foot of the Cross. Starts Saturday 15th March: All are welcome, Please see Flyers.

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: Our first winner of £120 was no 14 Chris Neale, Margaret Bright no 34 won the second prize of £80, and no 37, Nora Larkin was drawn as the 3rd prize and won £40. 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

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.

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.

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/>

For all the Archdiocese news, please go to Birmingham Archdiocese Link: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk