



**OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

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The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Registered Charity No. 234216

'Jesus was led by the Spirit in the wilderness and tempted by the devil.'

Luke 4:1-13 Psalter Week 1.

**First Sunday in Lent. 8<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> 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 8 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Vigil for the First Sunday in Lent</b> <i>Cathedral Maintenance fund collection</i>	5.30 pm Mass: Divine Healing on Colin Sills
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>First Sunday in Lent</b> <i>Cathedral Maintenance fund collection</i>	10.00 am Mass: Gerry Larkin RIP Enrolment Mass for the Children making their sacraments this year.
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Lent Feria	9.30 am Mass
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Lent Feria	9.30 am Mass
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Lent Feria Cannon Hanlon RIP Aniv Dementia prayer week begins	6.30 pm Stations of the Cross 7.00 pm Mass
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Lent Feria 12 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Election of Pope Francis	11.00 Funeral Mass for Victor Goodwin
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Lent Feria Lent Fast Day	9.00. KS2 Mass in Church 10.30: Lenten Study Group 6.30 pm Stations of the Cross 7.00 pm Mass
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Vigil for the Second Sunday in Lent</b> <b>CAFOD Lent Fast Day collection</b>	5.30 pm Mass:
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>First Second in Lent</b> <b>CAFOD Lent Fast Day collection</b>	10.00 am Mass: <b>Children's Liturgy</b>

**Readings for the First Sunday in Lent:** This weekend, our readings emphasize the importance of trust in God. The readings remind us to rely on God in every situation. Trust is a key aspect of our faith journey, especially during Lent.

In Deuteronomy, the Israelites offer their first fruits to God, showing their trust and gratitude. They recognize that everything they have comes from Him. This act of trust is a powerful example for us.

In Romans, Paul encourages us to trust in Jesus for our salvation. Believing in our hearts and confessing with our mouths shows our faith. This trust in God's promise is essential for our spiritual journey.

In the Gospel from Luke, Jesus' time in the desert teaches us about trusting God in times of trial. Jesus resists the devil's temptations by relying on God's word. His trust in God helps Him stay focused on His mission.

Trusting God means believing that He will guide and support us. It means turning to Him in prayer and relying on His strength.

During Lent, we are called to deepen our trust in God through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. Let's use this Lenten season to strengthen our trust in God. By relying on Him, we can face any challenge and grow in our faith. Trust in God is the foundation of our spiritual journey.

**Lent 2025:** 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, continuing on 14<sup>th</sup> March @ 10:30 am in the parish rooms. "Journeying Lent with the Psalms" All are welcome.**

**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.

**St Mary's School Masses:** This Friday KS2 are coming up to the church to celebrate mass at 9.00. Parishoners welcome to join them for their worship.

**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>

**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, Fr Gerard Hanlon, John Gamble, Dorothy Bartholomew, Michael Coleman, Margaret Possart, Joan Harvey, Bernard Duffy, Margaret Miller, Joan Fitzmaurice, David Marks, and Martin Corrigan. May the Lord free them from death and give them a place at his banquet in heaven.

**Dementia Prayer Week 12 – 19<sup>th</sup> March:** Everyone is invited to participate in this national event, now in its Seventeenth year. The aim is to raise awareness and a deeper understanding of the spiritual needs of people living with dementia. <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/dementia-prayer-week>

**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 14<sup>th</sup> March, envelopes are available in church.**

**St Gregory's Lenten Talks Stratford on Avon, "At the Foot of the Cross. Starts Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March:** All are welcome, please see the Flyers.

**Easter Raffle:** We are now collecting donations for the Easter Raffle to raise funds for our Parish. Any chocolate or Easter-related items would be very much appreciated. Please leave any Donations in the Sacristy, with Fr Damian or contact Louise

**100 Club March Draw:** 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](mailto:pt.olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk). You can contact me for any queries at [netandsteve@gmail.com](mailto:netandsteve@gmail.com). Many thanks. Annette

**Parish AGM 24<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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 Coffee, Hand Wash, Instant Mas, Shaving Foam, Tinned meat meals, UHT Milk, UHT Fruit Juice, Washing up liquid, 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](mailto:sg.olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk) or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted at 0121 230 6240 [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk) Find out more here: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

**Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo from Birmingham: 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

**Follow the Readings at Mass:** [www.universalis.com/mass](http://www.universalis.com/mass). or [www.alivepublishing.co.uk](http://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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)