



**OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER**  
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 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.  
 Registered Charity No. 234216  
 "Your brother was dead, and is alive."  
 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 Psalter Week 3

**Third Sunday in Lent, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March.**

**Holy Father's Prayer Intention for April. For the use of the new technologies.** Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Vigil for the Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>	5.30 pm Mass: Carmel O'Looney RIP
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Fourth in Lent</b> Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments. <b>Mothering Sunday</b>	10.00 am Mass: For all the Mothers and Ladies of our Parish. Charlie Mander RIP
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Lent Feria	9.30 am Mass
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Lent Feria	9.30 am Mass
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Lent Feria	6.30 pm Stations of the Cross 7.00 pm Mass
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Lent Feria	No Mass
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Lent Feria	10.30: Lenten Study Group 6.30 pm Stations of the Cross and Mass
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Vigil for the Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>	5.30 pm Mass:
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments.	10.00 am Mass:

**Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent:** The readings for this Sunday remind us of God's mercy. They show us the

importance of seeking forgiveness and offering it to others. They encourage us to embrace God's love and to live as new creations in Christ.

In the Gospel we have the parable of the prodigal Son. This parable encourages us to reflect on our own lives. Are we seeking freedom without responsibility, or are we dutiful without love? Let us strive to find balance, motivated by love, as we follow God's example of mercy and forgiveness.

**This Sunday is Mothering Sunday "Laetare Sunday".** The Church celebrates this Sunday in the middle of Lent as Hope and Joy Sunday. It is Mothering Sunday, and Catholics are encouraged to visit both their mothers and their spiritual mother

church. We pray for all Mothers and Grandmothers and thank God for the part played by all the ladies of our parish. We thank God for our mothers, both living and departed and for our Spiritual Mother Mary and for our Church

**Prayer Intentions:** We pray that our Holy Father Pope Francis makes a full recovery from his illness. We pray for all on our parish sick list and those who care for them, and on this Mother's Day, we pray for all those mothers who have suffered the premature loss of a child, may the Lord guide them and strengthen them all. We pray for all those who have died, including those mothers who are no longer with us and whose memory we cherish, for our parish anniversaries, Peter Jefferies, Charlie Mander, Alan Ross, Patrick Barrett, Bridget Cziok and Michael Sargeant. May they be held eternally in the Father's loving embrace.

**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. **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. The Group meets on Fridays in the parish rooms. "Journeying Lent with the Psalms" All are welcome.**

**St Gregory's Lenten Talks Stratford on Avon, "At the Foot of the Cross." Next talk is this Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March @ 10.30 am. All are welcome, please see the Flyers.**



**Parish Easter Raffle.** We have at least two Easter Hampers of chocolate goodies to raffle to raise badly needed funds to support the church. ***The tickets will go on sale this weekend @ £2.00 a strip or 3 strips for £5.00. Please remember your change to support this fundraising effort.*** We are still collecting any donations for the Easter Raffle. Any chocolate or Easter-related items would be very much appreciated. Please leave any Donations in the Sacristy, with Fr Damian or contact Louise.

**Our Lady and St. Benedict's Parish, Easter Lilies;** If you would like to donate to the floral displays in our Church at Easter in memory of a loved one or as a celebration, please complete the form/ envelopes in church. All those to be remembered will be placed on a Prayer Board. Donations can be made by Cash, Cheque or BACS, please mark your payment 'Easter Lilies', drop your envelope in the flower box by Palm Sunday. For more information, please get in touch with Lesley on WhatsApp at +44 7912 623990 or email, [lesleyharvey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lesleyharvey@yahoo.co.uk). Please return your envelope by Palm Sunday.

**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 through Lent. <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/lent-calendar>

**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

**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."*

**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>

**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)

**Safeguarding Information from The Archdiocese Office:** Our Lady and St. Benedict's parish always operates following Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan 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.

**Vacancy Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Our Lady of the Magnificat Multi-Academy Company & CEO Designate of a Future Large and Flourishing Catholic Multi-Academy Trust for more details**  
<https://www.magnificat.org.uk/join-us/vacancies>

### **Our Lady and St Benedict's . Holy Week and Easter Services**

**Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 6.30 pm Stations of the Cross and Service of Reconciliation.** Anyone wanting to do their Easter duty by going to confession, we will have a visiting priest to offer confessions after our usual Friday Stations.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April.** Palm Sunday and Passion of the Lord Blessing of Palms

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April Ecumenical Stations of the Cross** 7.00 pm

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper** 6.30 pm

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April Good Friday: Prayers at Market Cross and Walk of Witness in Henley 10.00 am\***

Celebration of the Passion of the lord. 3.00 pm

Station of the Cross 7.00 pm

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass, Blessing of the Fire and Holy Water 7.30 pm**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord** 08.30 am and 10.00 am.

All are welcome to come and share these services. All our services will be at Our Lady and St Benedict Church, Alcester Road B95 6BQ

**Church Cleaning Easter Deep Clean 12<sup>th</sup> April,** The Cleaning team are having a big push on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April to get the church sparkling for Easter. Please come along if you can help any assistance would be appreciated.

**BRITISH SUMMER TIME STARTS THIS SUNDAY CLOCKS GO FORWARD**