

PARISH OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Priest: Fr Frank Smith (07512 100 908)

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Parish Website: www.sfachurch.org.uk

Deanery website: <https://warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk/>

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

Weekday Masses and Devotions this week:

- **Stations of the Cross at BRG** will follow the 7.00pm Mass every Tuesday in Lent. All welcome.
- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Saint Francis** will follow the 9.00am Mass on Thursday each week. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be followed by Benediction at 10.00am. All welcome.
- **Stations of the Cross at Saint Francis** will follow the 9.00am Mass every Friday in Lent. All welcome.

Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope To find out more about how your parish, family or school can celebrate the Jubilee Year in our Archdiocese, and how you can participate in events nationally and internationally, visit our Diocesan website: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year

Second Collection this Sunday for Cathedral Maintenance.

Prayer for Vocations Throughout March prayers will be offered up for vocations during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and at the Holy Rosary. This will take place at St Francis after the 9.00am Masses on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lent begins on Wednesday 5th March (**Ash Wednesday**) when there will be a Mass at St Francis at 6.00pm together with the Imposition of Ashes. Let us make every effort to make a good start to the season of Lent and to use this time to renew and deepen our life in Christ. To help us, every Friday in Lent, after the 9.00am Mass, there will be an opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome to join in these devotions.

Deanery day to Littlemore on Saturday 22nd March. A pilgrimage 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. Arrival and Mass, coffee and a talk, guided visit to the College, BYO packed lunch, Exposition with Indulgence prayers and ending with tea at 3pm. Ample car parking at church. No charge but a collection will be taken for the Sisters and the Parish. To assist the Sisters, please confirm attendance to peter.rand@btinternet.com as soon as you know or by 17 March latest. Thank you.

Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Kenilworth Parish are organising a pilgrimage to Lourdes and welcome parishioners, family and friends from local parishes. Tues 24 – Sat 28 June. Convenient midday flights from Birmingham. Price is £747.50p in a twin/double. Including flights, 4 star central hotel, all meals and comprehensive travel insurance. Limited single rooms available. For further details and a booking form, contact Peter Rand, pilgrimage organiser. peter.rand@btinternet.com 01926 852163. Bookings and deposits required by 9 March to guarantee flights. Online and hard copy booking options available.

Road Closure from Monday 24th February Rising Lane will be completely closed for 11 days from Netherwood lane (Baddesley Clinton Hall NT) to the canal. Parishioners from Lapworth and Hockley Heath will need to take a detour: If you travel along Chessets Wood Road (From the Punch Bowl) towards Darley Green, turn right into Chapel Lane and continue to the "T" junction. Turn right into Bakers Lane and continue to the "T" junction with the Warwick Road. Turn right and continue to Chadwick End. After passing through the village turn right into Rising Lane, St Francis of Assisi church is on the right after approximately a quarter of a mile.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Iain Butlin-Moran. They can be contacted at: butlinmoran@icloud.com or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.



Masses at St Francis this week

Sat 1 March	6.00pm Mass – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time John Curry (RIP)
Sun 2	11.00am Mass - Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wed 5	6.00pm Mass – Ash Wednesday
Thurs 6	9.00am Mass – Thursday after Ash Wednesday <i>(followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction)</i>
Fri 7	9.00am Mass – Friday after Ash Wednesday <i>(followed by Stations of the Cross)</i>
Sat 8	6.00pm Mass – First Sunday of Lent
Sun 9	11.00am Mass - First Sunday of Lent