

## **PARISH OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

Priest: Fr Frank Smith (07512 100 908)

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Parish Website: [www.sfchurch.org.uk](http://www.sfchurch.org.uk)

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

**Confession: 5.15-5.45pm Saturday at St Francis church or by arrangement**



### **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

*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.*

**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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year)

**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.

**2025 Year of Jubilee day pilgrimage to Walsingham** on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025. For further information please contact the pilgrim organizer, Fr Philip Griffin on 01384 395308 or email [olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk)

**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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs). If you think you have the skills, please do apply.

**Unlock an Extraordinary Opportunity with Kenelm Youth Trust's Mission Team!** Are you (or someone you know) aged 18–25 and ready to make a difference? KYT's Mission Team invites you to embark on a journey of impact and transformation! This is your chance to be part of something truly meaningful. Whether it's leading outdoor activities, empowering the next generation, or simply exploring your faith journey, there's a place for you on the Mission Team. Know a young person who might be interested? Please share this exciting opportunity with them and encourage them to apply today. Visit our website to learn more and apply now!

**Deanery day to Littlemore** on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:peter.rand@btinternet.com) 01926 852163. Bookings and deposits required by 9 March to guarantee flights. Online and hard copy booking options available.

**Second collection** next Sunday for CAFOD Lent Fast Day.

*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](mailto:butlinmoran@icloud.com) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.*

**Masses at St Francis this week**

Sat 8 Mar	6.00pm <b>Mass – First Sunday of Lent</b>
Sun 9	11.00am <b>Mass - First Sunday of Lent</b> Matthew McGrory & family (ints)
Wed 12	9.00am <b>Mass</b> <i>(followed by the Holy Rosary)</i>
Thurs 13	9.00am <b>Mass</b> <i>(followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction)</i>
Fri 14	9.00am <b>Mass</b> <i>(followed by Stations of the Cross)</i>
Sat 15	6.00pm <b>Mass – Second Sunday of Lent</b>
Sun 16	11.00am <b>Mass - Second Sunday of Lent</b>

**LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2025**

**At Blessed Robert Grissold, Balsall Common (BRG) and**  
**St Francis, Baddesley Clinton (SF)**

**Palm Sunday** Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April **SF** 6:00pm

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April **BRG** 9:30am

**SF** 11:00am

**Holy Thursday** **SF** 7:00pm (followed by Watch)

**BRG** 7:00pm

**Good Friday** **BRG** 3:00pm

**SF** 3:00pm

**Easter Vigil** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April **SF** 6:00pm

**BRG** 7:30pm

**Easter Sunday** 20<sup>th</sup> April **BRG** 9:30am

**SF** 11:00am

**Stations of the Cross** **BRG** Tuesdays after the 7:00pm Mass

**SF** Fridays after the 9:00am Mass

**Holy Rosary** **SF** Wednesdays after the 9:00am Mass

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction** **SF** Thursdays after the 9:00am Mass

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