



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 4 May 2025 – Third Sunday of Easter

Readings: Year C

Dear Parishioners

This Sunday we reach the end of the "Novendiales" the nine days of mourning that begin with the funeral of a Pope. Across the world, Requiem Masses have been offered for the eternal soul of the Holy Father, and we celebrated our parishes' on this last Wednesday, the feast of St Pius V, another reforming Pope of blessed memory. The death of Pope Francis was a shock as he seemed to have overcome the serious illness that had hospitalised him but clearly the toll it had taken on his body was too much and he suffered a heart attack with a stroke.

The funeral in St Peter's demonstrated the enormous prestige and importance of the Papacy, in a world where religion is often downplayed as a determining factor. The leaders of the world were mainly present to pay their respects to the leader of over 1.4 billion believers. Interestingly, the number of receptions into the Church has risen markedly this year in our country with a particular surge in young men coming into the Faith. Hopefully all the prayer for vocations to the Priesthood is starting to reap a harvest!

In this period of "sede vacante" (empty chair) when there is no Pontiff, we must all pray that the right man is chosen as 267th successor to St Peter, the designated leader of the Apostles by Christ. What is the prime qualification for the next occupant of the Fisherman's chair? Let's look at today's Gospel; surely no more fitting or providential could there be. Jesus asks Simon Peter a simple question: "Do you love me?" That is the question. Not: how many languages can you speak? Are you a conservative or a liberal, a progressive or an orthodox believer... "Do you love me?" And may the chosen candidate be able to say... "Yes, Lord, you know everything; you know I love you."

At St Teresa's, four of our young people are making their First Communions: as they receive the Body and Blood, the Soul and Divinity of Our Lord, may they too say in their hearts: "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you." And may we all be able to say the same.

God bless everyone Fr Clive

Parish Notices

Next week: Masses as usual on Monday/ Thursday/Friday. No Mass on Tuesday at Holy Trinity or Wednesday at St Teresa's. Rosary Friday at usual time with

Masses this week:

Holy Trinity – 9:15am, Monday and Thursday. Holy Rosary for Peace 9:15am Friday.

St Teresa's – 9:15am, Friday

Holy Trinity First Communion class at usual time on Friday afternoon.

Adoration/ Benediction is suspended until to the end of the Easter season, and we will resume the Wednesday/ Thursday routines after Pentecost.

The pilgrimage party for Fatima will be leaving next Sunday 11th May, returning Friday 16th May.

This pilgrimage, along with our July Mission, is part of the parishes' response to this Jubilee Year, so actively promoted by Pope Francis, may God rest his soul.

In May we remember Pope Francis' intention is for Working Conditions: The intention is for the fulfilment of each person through work, the dignity of families and the humanisation of society.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes.

In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

