



# OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Damian Nwankwo

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The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Registered Charity No. 234216

"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. Give them eternal life, and they shall never perish."

John 10:27-28 *Psalter Week 4*

**Fourth Sunday of Easter 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Holy Father's Prayer Intention May, For working conditions:** Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanised.

Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Vigil for Fourth Sunday of Easter World Day of Prayer for Vocations	5.30 Mass <b>Second Collection for the Clergy Training Fund</b>
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Fourth Sunday of Easter World Day of Prayer for Vocations.	10.00 Mass <b>Second Collection for the Clergy Training Fund</b>
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Easter feria	9.30 am Mass
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Easter feria	6.30 pm mass
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Feast of St Matthias, Apostle.	9.30 am mass
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Easter feria	No Mass
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Easter feria	9.30 am Mass
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Easter feria	<b>1.00 pm First Holy Communion Mass</b>
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Vigil for Fifth Sunday of Easter	<b>5.30 Mass</b>
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	<b>10.00 Mass</b>

**World Day of Prayer for Vocations: Clergy Training Fund Collection 10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> May 2025:** This weekend is the Good Shepherd Sunday, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. There will also be a collection for the Diocesan Clergy Training Fund. We pray for our own personal vocations and an increase in Vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. Please remember in your prayers all those in training for the Archdiocese at Oscott and the other seminaries.

**May Devotions:** During this special month, dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God and Queen of Heaven, we will reverence her by saying together the Regina Caeli (Queen of Heaven) after our weekend masses.

**The Rosary** will be prayed before our Sunday morning mass from 9.40 am.

Can I encourage you all to make your own devotions to our Blessed Lady by praying the Rosary at home this month?

**Message from Fr Damian. Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday:** The Mass readings this weekend highlight the themes of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the importance of listening to God's voice, the inclusivity of God's love for all nations, the significance of interfaith relationships, and how we worship God. The readings demonstrate that Jesus calls people from all backgrounds to follow him, emphasising the unity and diversity of God's flock.

**Margaret Walker RIP.** Margaret, one of our regular parishioners on a Saturday Night, after a long illness, passed away last Saturday. Our condolences to her husband, Keith and her daughters and son, who supported her so much in her illness

**Prayer Intentions:** We pray for all on our parish sick list and for those who care for them. May Christ be near them to bless them. We pray for the repose of the soul of the lately dead, and our parish anniversaries, Helen O'Malley, Alistair Murray, Betty Cromie, James Hallahan, Catherine Middleton, Mary Ackroyd and Norah Burke. May the loving Shepherd gather them all to the glory of heaven.

**First Holy Communion: Next Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> May @ 1.00 pm.** We will welcome the children next Saturday who are making their First Holy Communion. Thanks to all their Parents, Teachers and our parish catechist for preparing the children for this special day. All parishioners are welcome to come along and share and support them at this mass.

**Church Cleaning Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May @ 10.00:** To prepare for the First Holy Communion, the cleaning team is doing a deep Clean on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May. They would welcome any extra volunteers.

**Our Lady and St. Benedict's Summer Afternoon Tea - June 7th, 2 PM to 4 PM:** The Committee is delighted to invite you to our Summer Afternoon Tea! Join us for an afternoon filled with delicious sweet and savoury treats. Feel free to bring your friends and family and enjoy your table for a lovely gathering. Ticket prices are as follows: £5.00 per adult and £2.50 per child.

To help us cater appropriately, please text 07930147799 with the number of adults and children attending. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Gift Aid Planned Giving Boxes:** The boxes for the new year are available at the church.

If you are a taxpayer and would like to gift aid your donations to our Church, please contact Mary Mayo @ [pt.olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:pt.olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk).

**Oscott College:** This is our Diocesan Seminary in Sutton Coldfield. They are trying to spread the news about the work they do by getting people to sign up for their newsletter at [www.oscott.org](http://www.oscott.org). Their recent newsletter includes an update from the Rector, some answers to frequently asked questions about discernment, a report on some of the 'Hidden Treasures in the Oscott museum, and details of how to book a college tour. During May, there are several Open days and college tours to which all are welcome. They have a regular monthly magazine and early access to the annual "Oscotian Magazine" and events hosted at the college. For more details and to sign up, please visit. <https://www.oscott.org/>

**Assisted suicide Bill.** The next debate in the House of Commons for the Report Stage of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is on Friday, 16th May. If this Bill passes, assisted suicide will become legal in the UK, having devastating consequences for disabled people. The Catholic Bishops are asking for your help to stop this. For time to pause, consult and consider this bill. Please collect a red and white postcard, fill out your details and post it to your MP, Manuela Perteghella, today! In our online newsletter, there are words to write or email your MP.

**100 Club May 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:** There was an incredibly busy April for the foodbank, feeding 507 people. They haven't fed this number of people since Jan 2024!), so their warehouse is looking particularly empty at the moment. This month's most needed items are Chocolate, Snacks, Honey, Instant Mash, Instant Whip, Savoury snacks, Squash, Tinned meat meals, and UHT fruit juice. 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 Archdiocese's 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.

**Birmingham Archdiocese Link:** [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

**Warwick Deanery Website:** [www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk](http://www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk)

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

**Message from Archbishop Bernard Longley on the Election of Pope Leo XIV**

*I welcome the wonderful news of the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. As he prepared to give us his first blessing as Pope in St Peter's Square he also gave us a message of joyful encouragement, calling us to be bridge-builders who are the light of Christ in the world. As the first Pope from the United States of America he also remembered the people of Chiclayo in Peru where he had served as bishop until 2023.*

*I have just spent the last few days at Buckfast Abbey with all the Bishops of England and Wales as we prayed for the Cardinals in Conclave and as we waited to hear whom the Holy Spirit would identify as the Successor of Peter. It will be a great joy to serve the Church's mission inspired by the guidance of Pope Leo. All the lay faithful, the Religious and clergy of our Archdiocese are praying for our new Holy Father that he may serve the Church for many years and be richly blessed in his apostolate.*

With my prayers and kindest wishes.

Yours devotedly in Christ

XBernard Longley  
Archbishop of Birmingham