

PARISH OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Priest: Fr Frank Smith (07512 100 908)

Email: fr.frank.smith@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Website: www.sfachurch.org.uk

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

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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Praying the Rosary in May, the Month of Our Blessed Lady - The Holy Rosary is both Trinitarian and Christ-centred but it is also a Marian prayer. In the Rosary, we are happy to praise the mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the words of the Archangel Gabriel and her cousin Elizabeth: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women." And in the Rosary, we meditate and reflect on the important events in Our Lord's life through the eyes of Mary. Another prayer that makes the Rosary Marian is the concluding prayer - the "Hail Holy Queen." But the two most important prayers of the Rosary are the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary. As St. Louis de Montfort said: "How could there possibly be any more pleasing prayers to Almighty God and the Blessed Virgin, or any that are easier, more precious or more helpful than these two prayers?"

Devotions in the Month of May May is the month of Our Blessed Lady and we can honour her, pray for the Church and for the world by saying the Rosary every day - especially in her month of May.

A Message from Archbishop Bernard Longley *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.*

No Mass on Wednesday 21st May – Fr Frank has to attend a training day arranged by the Archdiocese. Please see the Deanery website for alternative Masses: <https://banburyandwarwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk/>

Line dancing evening on Saturday 24th May 2025 at Lapworth Village Hall, Old Warwick Road, Kingswood, B94 6LD. 7.00-10.30pm. Learn to line dance! Set to be a great evening and fundraiser for St Francis Church. Bring your own drinks and snacks. Tickets: Adults £10, children £5 and available from Pat Holliday 0777 941 9994 Email: pat.holliday@outlook.com and Sandra Smith 0772 531 2831 Email: sundial26uk@aol.com

Day for Life, 15 June 2025 This year's Day for Life will take place on 15 June. In preparation for this, we are inviting the faithful to pray the Novena for Life from **23 May to the Feast of the Visitation on 31 May**. Information will be available on the Bishops' Conference website as well as at: <https://prayforlife.ie/> The Bishops' Conference Secretariat has also prepared a wide range of resources to mark Day for Life, which will be soon be uploaded to the website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life/>.

2025 Year of Jubilee day pilgrimage to Walsingham on 10th May 2025. For further information please contact the pilgrim organizer, Fr Philip Griffin on 01384 395308 or email 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. If you think you have the skills, please do apply.

Vacancy The Trustees of the Birmingham Diocesan Trust are looking to recruit a skilled, Catholic volunteer with professional experience of safeguarding to join the Board of Trustees and chair the Safeguarding Sub-Committee. We'd welcome discussion with anyone interested in this important role - Further details available here [Safeguarding | Birmingham Diocesan Trust](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/safeguarding) or copy and paste this link www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/safeguarding

Wedding We pray for Campbell and Alice as they celebrate their wedding on Saturday 17th May here at St Francis.

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

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 Bulfin-Moran. They can be contacted at: bulfinmoran@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 17 May	12.30pm Wedding of Campbell McDiarmid & Alice Sharpe 6.00pm Mass – Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sun 18	11.00am Mass – Fifth Sunday of Easter
Thur 22	9.00am Mass (<i>followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction</i>)
Fri 23	9.00am Mass (Private intention)
Sat 24	6.00pm Mass – Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sun 25	11.00am Mass – Sixth Sunday of Easter