

PARISH OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Priest: Fr Frank Smith (07512 100 908)

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Parish Website: www.sfchurch.org.uk

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

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



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Praying the Rosary in May, the Month of Our Blessed Lady - The Holy Rosary is a rich and powerful prayer. Firstly, the Rosary is vocal prayer in that, the fixed words can be prayed aloud, but it also lends itself to meditative prayer as we reflect on each of the mysteries. This enables personal insights that can change our lives and meditation can lead to loving contemplation when our mind is seized by the depth of the mystery we are praying. That's why Pope St John Paul II wrote: "The Rosary belongs among the finest and most praiseworthy traditions of Christian contemplation." The words of the Rosary also contain prayers of praise and petition and the faithful often offer up each decade of the Rosary for a special intention. Countless believers, down through the ages have borne witness to the fruitful results of praying the Rosary. How could it be otherwise when, as Pope St John Paul II says: "To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ."

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.

Second collection next Sunday for Catholic Communications.

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord will be celebrated at St Francis at 9.00am on Thursday 29th May. All Welcome.

Line dancing evening Thank you to Pat and Sandra for organising such a wonderful fundraising event on Saturday! We really appreciate everyone's support and hope that a great time was had by all!

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/>.

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](https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/safeguarding) or copy and paste this link www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/safeguarding

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 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

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| Sat 24 May | 6.00pm Mass – Sixth Sunday of Easter |
| Sun 25 | 11.00am Mass – Sixth Sunday of Easter |
| Wed 28 | 9.00am Mass <i>(followed by Holy Rosary)</i> |
| Thur 29 | 9.00am Mass – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord <i>(followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction)</i> |
| Fri 30 | 9.00am Mass – The Solemnity of Dedication |
| Sat 31 | 6.00pm Mass – Seventh Sunday of Easter |
| Sun 1 Jun | 11.00am Mass – Seventh Sunday of Easter |