MASSES—12th to 19th Mar 23

		<u></u>
Sun 12	2 9.30am	Fr. Harkin, Nora Woods (Anni)
	11.30am	People of the parish
Mon 1	3 12.00noon	Weston DeSouza (B'day), Vera Dunnion Good health)
		Thomas Gallagher (Anni)
Tues 1-	4 9.30am	Ann Malize and Family. (Spl. Intentions)
Wed 1	5 9.30am	Patrick Cosgrove (RIP)
Thurs 16	6 9.30am	Thomas Joseph Cosgrove (RIP)
Fri 1'	7 6.30pm	Stations of the cross
	7.00pm	Greg Jordan (RIP)
Sat 18	9.30am	Thi Tran (Anni)
Sun 19	9.30am	Thi Maria Tran (3rd Anni)
	11.30am	Zewdi Demoze (RIP)
Lectors		
	<u>12/03/2023</u>	<u>19/03/2023</u>
9.30am	n Filomena, Cos	Emmanuella, Nicholas, (R)
11.30am	n Morgan, Shar	on (R) Kayla, Valerie (R)
		<u>Eucharistic Ministers</u>

<u>9.30am</u> Sophie (E)

11.30am Lilian (E)

<u>The sick of the Parish</u>: Rose Hogan, Norah Griffith, Mary Mulroney, Gerard Griffith, Maria Clear, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Jarek, Bridie McAndrew, Teresa McAffer, Andrea, Chinasa Okosisi, John, Mr. Tran, Damian Curristan, Owen Darroch.

<u>Anniversaries during the week</u>: Edward Brennan, Fr. Harkin, Nora Woods, Margaret Dunne, Ivy Elsie Lucas, Jim (James) Crean, Rosalyn Muffitt, Margaret Ward, Micki Kijko, Patrick Flahive, Peter Doyle, Terry Fielding, Ludovic Carl Wysoeki, John J Burke, Thi Tran.

Stations of the cross at 6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm.

DONA CONTACTLESS: You can now give your Sunday collection, donation, buy articles of piety etc. using your credit or debit card.

Todays Second collection is for CAFOD. Thank you for your generosity.

I Thought for Lent:

"Lenten practices of giving up pleasures are a good reminder that the purpose of life is not pleasure. The purpose of life is to attain a perfect life, all truth and undying ecstatic love which is the definition of God. In pursuing that happiness, we find happiness."

"It is not just about giving up our favorite food but it's about going further and giving up things like hatred and unforgiveness. You need to clean your heart and prepare yourself for purity."

"Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy, if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself."



St. Elizabeth

A.J. Missions St. Osburg Ss. Mary & Benedict

Parish Newsletter – Third Sunday of Lent—12th to 19th Mar 2023

IS GOD WITH US OR NOT?

May be the question should be reversed: *are human creatures with God or not*? Last Sunday the Gospel about the transfiguration of Jesus was proclaimed. The disciples were left wondering what kind of man Jesus was. The event was not a miracle, but a certification of who Jesus is and what we shall be at the end of our pilgrimage with him. We shall all be transfigured in him.

While last Sunday the disciples saw his divinity, today we are given a glimpse into his humanity. Jesus, tired and thirsty, asked a Samaritan woman for a drink of water. She was surprised; because the least that a Jewish Rabi would do was to have anything to do with the Samaritans. Their religious practices were semi-idolatrous, they spoke broken Hebrew language, they did not observe ritual purity. They were looked down upon. For a Rabbi to engage in a conversation with such a person would almost render him unclean! Jesus put aside every prejudice and engaged in what seemed to appear an intimate conversation. He saw goodness and honesty in the woman, he knew that her situation was not her choice or personal making (she had been married to five men). He noticed her preparedness to welcome the Messiah she said: "I know that the Messiah is coming, and when he comes, he will tell us everything. For Jesus, these were indeed essential qualities of discipleship.

During Lent, we are encouraged to look deeper into ourselves. One of the obstacles to conversion is to think that our sin is so great, that we are beyond redemption. Yet Jesus shows us that we are beloved children of God, that he wants to establish a personal relationship with each one, a relationship that makes us to discover exactly who we ought to be.

Last Sunday I assured you that God has a plan for each one of us because he knows what we are capable of doing. The Samaritan woman was capable of evangelising people, that is to bring them to Jesus. Once she discovered that Jesus was the Messiah, her faith was not a private matter, she shared it with the people of her town. They followed her to Jesus. We have lessons to draw from today's gospel, but I wish to mention two:

First we are sinners, yes, but we are not beyond redemption. Let us continually walk the path of conversion to Jesus.

Second: Let us share what we believe as Christians with others. The obstacle to evangelisation is to think that it is for others to do, while in actual fact, to bring people to encounter with Jesus is a duty of every baptised.

As you return home, go and be men and women full of hope; God is with us, but we must try our best to be with God by keeping his laws. The responsorial Psalm has reminded us that we do not have much time. "Oh that today you would listen to his voice, harden not your hearts".

Our hope is not deceptive, even when the cross becomes too heavy to bear or when we are faced with problems, we are not wasting time remaining faithful to Christ. May our Lenten journey bring us closer to the glory of the resurrection.

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church 52a, Raglan Street Coventry, CV1 5QF. Tel 02476258901, 07906124756 Parish email: <u>stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com</u> <u>Website</u>: www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk <u>Web cam</u>: www. mcnmedia.tv/camer/st-mary-and-st-benedict <u>Youtube: st mary and benedicct church coventry</u> <u>Donations to the parish :</u> <u>https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-online</u>. Parish Priest. Fr. Jimmy Lutwama, AJ <u>E-mail : lutwajim@yahoo.com</u> Parish Sisters: Srs. of St. Ann of Providence Leena, and Leera 02477045457 Safeguarding Rep: Perpetua Sam & Asipita Iroko Sunday School: Perpetua Sam & Ernest Parish School: St Mary & St Benedict's, Leigh Street CV1 5HG Tel: 02476 229486 Head teacher - Mrs Pauline McDonald

The Parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg. Charity No. 234216

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME to our Parish Church. If it is your first time here or probably you have been here before, your presence with us at this moment at our community worship is greatly appreciated. Our Parish Church is the second to be built in Coventry after the Protestant Reformation. It was built in 1893, the pews have never moved since then! Our Musical Pipe Organ was inaugurated in 1898, it was the best of its kind at the time. Our Parish has had eleven Parish priests since 1889, the present one being a Religious Missionary from the Institute of Apostles of Jesus in Uganda. Our Parish welcomes and promotes the initiatives taken by everyone for the building up and sustenance of our faith community.

Parish Development

SO (Feb) : £ 2296.80 Gift Aid : £ 121.60 Non-Gift Aid: £ 440.76 Total: £ 562.36 Thank you for your generosity.

Readings: Ex. 17:3-7; Rom. 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn. 4:5-42.

2nd Collection :

Mass Attendance : 443

Choir practice : Fri- 7.30pm

Bonus Ball : Church cleaning: 7.30am

Confessions: Saturday- 10.10-11.00am.

Pious Devotions : Divine Mercy - Last Thursday of every month at 6.00pm

(RCIA): sessions : every Sunday after 11.30am Mass in the Lady's Chapel.

Gospel Reflection

In todays Gospel a Samaritan woman encounters Jesus at the well. Jesus speaks with her for a while and she is deeply touched by this casual but transforming conversation. The first thing to note is that the very fact of Jesus speaking to her touched her. But there was something more that Jesus said that deeply affected her. As the woman herself tells us, He "told me everything I have done." But here was Jesus. He knew all about her but wanted to give her Living Water nonetheless. He wanted to satiate the thirst that she was feeling in her soul. As He spoke to her, and as she experienced His gentleness and acceptance, that thirst began to be quenched.

It began to be quenched because what she really needed, what we all need, is this perfect love and acceptance that Jesus offers. He offered it to her, and He offers it to us.

Reflect, today, upon the undeniable thirst that is within you. Once you are aware of it, make the conscious choice to let Jesus satiate it with Living Water. If you do this, you too will leave the many "jars" behind that never satisfy for very long.

MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

Fr. Cornell Harkin: today it is exactly 38 years since our beloved former parish priest was tragically killed in a gas explosion with his loyal housekeeper Mrs Norah Woods on Tuesday 12th March 1985. Fr. Harkin was a true pastor, while Norah was a loyal servant. Both advanced the welfare of our parish. Kindly remember them in your prayers.

<u>Gift Aid Envelops:</u> are ready for collection at the piety stall. New GAD members are welcome to join the Gift Aid scheme to give your Sunday donations. Please talk to Sr. Leera today. **Donating through Gift Aid means charities and communities can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you any extra.**

Pope Francis will make an Apostolic Journey to Hungary in April. In a statement from Director of the Holy See Press Office, Matteo Bruni announced on Monday: "Accepting the invitation of the civil and ecclesial Authorities, His Holiness Pope Francis will make an Apostolic Journey to Hungary from 28 to 30 April 2023, visiting the city of Budapest." The papal visit will mark Pope Francis' 41st Apostolic Journey abroad.

<u>Mass for Married Couples</u> are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2023? Are you engaged to be married this year? Or would you simply like to give thanks to God for your marriage, and ask for His ongoing blessings? If so, we would like to invite you to attend this year's thanksgiving Mass for Marriage. Saturday 12noon, April 29 at Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, followed by light refreshments in the Grimshaw Room. For more information, contact Paul Northam by emailing: *marriage.mass@rcaob.org.uk* or call him on (0121) 321 5148

<u>We are half way to Easter:</u> Lent is a 40-day fast — a reference to the time Jesus spent being tempted in the desert. It's a time when we can prepare our hearts for the remembrance of Christ's death. Our observance of Lent culminates in the solemn celebrations of Holy Week when on Palm Sunday we follow Christ from his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem to the foot of the Cross as sorrowful bystanders to His Passion, before rolling back the stone of the empty tomb and the joy of the Resurrection.

Vacancy Estates Manager working for Father Hudson's Care across multiple sites in Coleshill. The role is full time (37 hours) with a salary of £35086-40152 and an on call allowance of £110 per week (usually on call 2 out of every 4 weeks). If you would like to discuss the Estate Manager position please call our CEO Andy Quinn on 07966 935533 (direct applicants only, no agencies), or see vacancy details and download an application form here https://www.fatherhudsons.org.uk/vacancies/facilities-manager/337.htm

<u>Anniversary of the Election</u> of Pope Francis will be celebrated on 13th March. It will be a public holiday in Vatican city. Let us pray for his continued good health and ask God to guide him in all of his decisions.

<u>St. Patrick's day</u> will be celebrated on 16th March at 7.00pm at Christ the King parish. You are all welcome. After the Mass you are invited for a light dinner.

Sacrament of Confession: Fr. Jimmy is available during Lent at any time for anybody who wants to have the Sacrament of Confession. Please give him a call on 07906124756. to arrange the time. Confessions take place also every Saturday from 10:00-10:50am.

Dates for your diary:

Parish Penitential service will take place on 27th March at 7.00pm. Meeting of Eucharistic Ministers: at Christ the King on Saturday 25th March at 9.30am