

MASSES— 16th to 23rd Jul 23

Sun	16	9.30am	John Gallagher (Good health)
		11.30am	Jinky Jane De Guzman (Good health), Marion Nyambyra Nwabgi (RIP) Luz Alba de Taylor (B'day remembrance)
Mon	17	10.00am	Requiem Mass—Catherine Ward
Tues	18	9.15am	Michael John Patrick Woods (RIP), Ben & Esther (Spl int) John Gallagher (Good health)
Wed	19	9.30am	Ben & Esther (Spl int), John Gallagher (Good health)
		7.00pm	Reception—John Anthony Doyle
Thurs	20	10.30am	Requiem Mass - John Anthony Doyle
Fri	21	9.30am	Ben & Esther, Ann Marie McFeely (Spl int), Laetitia & family (Int)
Sat	22	9.30am	Ben & Esther (Spl int)
Sun	23	9.30am	Oliver Clear (RIP), Esperanca Costa (RIP)
		11.30am	Ben & Esther (Spl int)

Lectors

16/07/2023

9.30am Noami, Nicholas (R)
11.30am Mary Ann, Florence K. (R)

23/07/2023

Elizabeth H., Anthonia A. (R)
Chidema, Florence E. (R)

Eucharistic Ministers

16/07/2023

9.30am Cath Slatter (E)
11.30am Patricia (E)

23/07/2023

Anne M. (E)
Lilian (E)

The sick of the Parish: Rose Hogan, Norah Griffith, Mary Mulrone, Gerard Griffith, Maria Clear, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Jarek, Bridie McAndrew, Teresa McAffer, Chinasa Okosisi, John Crowford, Mr. Tran, Damian Curristan, Owen Darroch., Lucia Drabik.

Anniversaries during the week : Luz Alba Florez de Taylor, Mary Reid, Clive Omatseyin Ede , Josephine Shanley, Nora Nugent, Elizabeth Call, Patrick Michael McNicholas , Kevin Byrne, Michael O'Brien, Michael James Murphy, Joe Ryan, James Swan, Noel Dyas, Robert Dunham, Nancy Notaro, Harold Shepherd, Betty Griffiths, Maureen Patterson, James Daniel Farrel.

To Reflect on...

There once was a farmer who grew award-winning corn. Each year he entered his corn in the state fair where it won a blue ribbon. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked. "Why sir," said the farmer, "didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn."



A.J. Missions

St. Osburg

Ss. Mary & Benedict

St. Elizabeth

Parish Newsletter – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 16th to 23rd Jul 2023



FOR SOME PEOPLE, HOMILIES ARE JUST STORIES:

The Parable of the Sower, is one of the stories that Jesus used to demonstrate the privilege God had given to those he called to follow Christ. While the parable of the Prodigal Son demonstrated God's Mercy, and the parable of a Treasure hidden in the land, shown the supreme advantage of following Jesus, the Parable of the Sower, teaches us how easily we can ignore the grace of God at work in us due to many cares of life.

The Parable of the Sower is essentially talking about the generosity of God. Jesus begins by appealing to the imagination of the listeners: “*imagine a Sower going out to sow*”. In the imagery, Jesus tells how God “the Sower” distributes his graces in places that sound minded farmer would not dare to. Can you imagine scattering the precious seed on rocks or among thorns or on the edge of the path! These places would not favour crop germination, but to demonstrate God's generosity towards every person, he sometimes acts without counting the cost. Hardened hearts like a rock, competitive hearts like thorny bushes and unmindful hearts like seeds on the edge of the path are all touched by the grace of God.

The Parable is talking about me, it is talking about you, or it is talking about us. God is so generous to us irrespective of our attitude or of our standing before him. He expects us to bear fruits.

The fact that not every seed fell in rich soil from the start, reminds us that some of us will have to struggle in life before we reach the goal. Surely the seed that falls among thorns, has to struggle competing with them for light and for moisture. The seeds that falls on rocks, has to struggle to take root, and the seed that falls on the edge of the path, has to endure being trampled on by passers-by. Each one of us will have one thing or the other to struggle with before we bear fruits.

When Jesus used parables in his teaching, to some people, he simply sounded as a good story teller. There must have been people who waited for entertaining talk, just as some people on a Sunday morning Mass might think that a homily is an entertaining talk by the priest, yet most of us know that a priest is not a just a story teller, a political analyst or a football commentator but a teacher. If he gives a story as Jesus usually did, there is something he wants to teach. It might not be difficult to find some Christians who listen to homilies as stories.

In today's gospel, Jesus has a message for us to take home with. It is this: ask yourself “*if Jesus is the Sower, what kind of ground have I prepared of myself or of my family to receive his seed*”?

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

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Parish email: stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com

Website: www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk

Web cam: www.mcmedia.tv/camer/st-mary-and-st-benedict

Youtube: [st mary and benedict church coventry](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m)

Donations to the parish : <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-online>.

Parish Priest. Fr. Jimmy Lutwama, AJ

E-mail : lutwajim@yahoo.com

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

<https://donate.myдона.com/ss-mary-benedict-church>



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 (July) : £ Gift Aid : 464.10 Dona: £362.46 Non-Gift Aid: £ 625.80.Total: £ 1452.36

Apostleship of the sea: £148.00 Thank you for your generosity. May God bless you all.

Readings: Is. 55:10-11; Rom. 8:18-23; Mt. 13:1-23

2nd collection :

Bonus Ball :

Mass Attendance :

Choir practice : Fri- 7.30pm_

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

Church cleaning: 7.30am

Confessions: Saturday- 10.10-11.00am.

Gospel Reflection

Today the Word of God is compared to seed that sprouts and brings forth new life. All of our life, entire creation is groaning in anticipation of being all we can become. God's spirit is infused within human beings where it brings forth divine fruits. The farmer is aware that he has to prepare the ground, weed it and water it to produce good fruit. We are invited to sow the seed of the Gospel with our lives. In the Gospel of today we have the parable of the Sower. The farmer goes out to sow the seed and it is placed in varying types of soil. A person who hears the word of God and understands it reaps a rich and fruitful harvest.

When you look back at your life as a practicing Catholic, what do you see from year to year? Was there a time when you were strong in faith but have slowly closed your ears to the Gospel and have drifted away from a deep and prayerful interior engagement with our Lord? Or when you look back do you see that the Lord has continuously given you more and more, leading you to a life of true spiritual riches? Has the Gospel entered not only your ears, but also your mind and your understanding? Have you lost interest and zeal and now find yourself slowly drifting away from the fruitful practice of your faith?

MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

Catholic Safeguarding Agency (CSSA) The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Perpetua Sam & Asipita Iroko. They can be contacted at: sg.stmary-stbenedict.covty@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Synod appointments announced: The Revd Dr Jan Nowotnik, a priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham working at the Catholic Bishops' Conference, has been nominated by the Holy Father as an adviser at the Synod this October.

Funeral announcement of Catherine Theresa Ward, who died at UHCW, aged 62 years, will on Monday 17th July at 10.00am followed by burial at Canley Garden Cemetery at 11.30am.

Funeral announcement of Mr. John Anthony Doyle of 34 Enfield Rd Coventry, who died on Friday 28th June 2023, aged 56. His body will be received at St. Mary's Church on Wednesday 19th July at 7.00pm. Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday 20th at 10.30am followed by burial at London Rd Cemetery at 12.00noon.

Movie Night with Sunday school children: I am glad to announce that parish Sunday school both 9.30am & 11.30am Mass are organizing a **Movie Night** on Saturday 22nd July from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. Parents are requested to inform Perpetua Sam & Emmanuella of their food allergies. For more information please contact the Sunday school teachers. Come & support the children with your presence.

3rd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly: The Church is preparing to celebrate the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on Sunday, 23 July, announced the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. The Church observes the World Day each year on the fourth Sunday in July, close to the feast of Jesus' grandparents, Saints Joachim and Anne. "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50) is the theme and it presents to us the joyful meeting of the young Mary and her older relative, Elizabeth. Pope Francis invites parishes to make the Sunday Mass a focal point of generational encounter. Let us respect and pray for our grand parents.

A word of thanks: At the end of term two members of St. Mary & Benedict's staff who have served us in our school community for many years - Miss Marie McFeely for 17 years, and Mrs Collin Grant for an amazing 39 years! We are grateful for their valuable service to the children specially in building the life of faith. We wish them every happiness in their well-earned retirement.

End of school term: There will be a leavers Mass on Friday 21st July at 1.30pm at St. Mary's School. All are welcome.

Marriage Banns: Mr. Augustine Chukwemeka Nwosu of 57 Cardiff Close, son of late Godwin Uchenna Nwosu and Charity Akuezi Nwosu, of Imo State, Nigeria, would like to marry Ms. N'maulh Appy Anais Emily Angoua of 57 Cardiff Close. She is daughter of Kouadio Jean-Marie Angoua and Eleonore Deroux, of 33 Hurley House Kennington London but originally from Ivory Coast. If any one knows why they should not get married to each other, please come and inform the parish priest.