



Ss. Mary & Benedict RC Church, Coventry



The Parish is in the Care of the Apostles of Jesus Missionaries

**Parish Newsletter– 1st Sunday of Lent - 18th to 25th Feb 2024**

**LENT AND OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE**

On Wednesday, with the imposition of ashes on our heads, we started the holy Season of Lent. Let us briefly reflect on the significance of this season of grace. This season binds us spiritually with our Lord who, according to the Gospels, spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting and praying. At that time, he was tempted by the devil intending to divert him from doing the will of his Father. The fact that our Lord could be tempted points to his human nature and serves as our role model. We contemplate his responses to the temptations, and we learn important lessons for ourselves. We are faced with various temptations to divert our attention from the ultimate goals of our spiritual life: union with God and respectful charity with our fellow humans.

The season of Lent invites every Christian to undertake a personal 40-day retreat with the sole purpose to make an examination of conscience and check where each one stands in their spiritual journey. The fact that we live as people of the Family of God, in the nuclear family and as the wider body of Christ - the Church: no two people live the same life. Each individual lives alone and each person must enter the recesses of his or her spirit to see where each one stands in their relationship with the self, with their neighbour and with God.

The season of Lent invites us to enter the wilderness of our lives and not to fear the truth about ourselves that those moments of silence may uncover. The truth that liberates may be uncomfortable, as we encounter embarrassing weaknesses and sins vis-à-vis the Lord God who invites us to a life of holiness. It is in those moments that the Word of the Lord will address the reality of our lives and the Lord invites us to repent and believe the Gospel.

The Christian spiritual journey is a personal journey; everyone must encounter the Lord and make a personal decision to follow him. His invitation is open to everyone: “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mt. 16:24). It is also a communal journey that we undertake as a community of believers. The Church provides us with the necessary support to enable us to strive for that holiness to which our Lord invites us.

I wish you a fruitful season of Lent, and as your pastor, I am available to accompany you in your search for a deeper union with God. I ask you to support me with your prayers that I may receive the tools I need to enable me to do my work with fervour.

**MASSES— 18th to 25th Feb 2024**

Sun	18	9.30am	Frank Healy (B’day remembrance) , William Mara (RIP) Henry McCafferty (Get well)
		11.30am	George Dunnion, Donna Boyle (RIP) <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> Catherine Ezinma Obageli Okafor (RIP)
Mon	19	12.00noon	Catherine Ezinma Obageli Okafor (RIP)
Tues	20	9.30am	Catherine Ezinma Obageli Okafor (RIP)
Wed	21	9.30am	Catherine Ezinma Obageli Okafor (RIP)
Thurs	22	9.30am	Catherine Ezinma Obageli Okafor (RIP)
Fri	23	1.00pm	Requiem Mass—Robert Haddock
		6.30pm	Stations of the cross
		7.00pm	Catherine Ezinma Obageli Okafor (RIP)
Sat	24	9.30am	Catherine Ezinma Obageli Okafor (RIP)
Sun	25	9.30am	Edith Hunter, James Ferry (RIP), Kathleen Breen (Get well)
		11.30am	Catherine Ezinma Obageli Okafor (RIP)

**Lectors**

	<b><u>18/02/2024</u></b>	<b><u>25/02/2024</u></b>
<b>9.30am</b>	Anthonia A., Joe (R)	Filomena, Nicholas (R)
<b>11.30am</b>	Joseph, Maame (R)	Ivan, Angela N. (R)

**Eucharistic Ministers**

	<b><u>18/02/2024</u></b>	<b><u>25/02/2024</u></b>
9.30am	Sophie D (E)	Felix (E)
11.30am	Patricia K. (E)	Marcel (E)

**LET US PRAY TO THE LORD**

**The sick of the Parish:** Rose Hogan, Norah Griffith, Mary Mulroney, Gerard Griffith, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Bridie McAndrew, Teresa McAffer, Chinasa Okosi, John Crowford, Mr. Tran, Owen Darroch, Lucia Drabik.

**Anniversaries during the week :** George Dunnion, Christopher Doyle, James Crone, Paddy Kelly, John Floyd, William Mara, John Callaghan, Francis Quilter, Jimmy Allen, Joseph Corcoran, James Gerard Hearty, Cardelina Pinto, Hannah Crone, William Busby .

***Reflect on...***

*“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

*“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12*

**St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church**

52a, Raglan Street Coventry, CV1 5QF. Tel 02476258901

Parish email: [stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com](mailto:stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk](http://www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk)

Web cam: [mcn.live/camera/st-mary-and-st-benedict](http://mcn.live/camera/st-mary-and-st-benedict)

Youtube: [st mary and benedict church coventry](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1)

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

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Aloysius L. Bukenya, AJ

E-mail : [fr.aloysius.bukenya@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.aloysius.bukenya@rcaob.org.uk)

Parish Sisters: Srs. of St. Ann of Providence

Leena and Leera

Sunday School: Perpetua Sam & Emmanuella

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 by everyone to build up and sustain our faith community.

**Parish Development**

**11/02/24: Gift Aid : £135.60** Dona: £.199.00 **Non-Gift Aid: £417.71** **Total: 752.31**

**SO (Jan) : £** **Second collection : £ 74.14** **May God bless you all.**

**2nd collections :** **25th Feb—CAFOD; 3rd March: Cathedral maintenance**

**Bonus Ball :** No. `

**Mass Attendance : 327**

**Choir practice :** Fri— 7.30pm\_

**Church cleaning:** 7.30am

**Confessions:** Saturday— 10.10—11.00am (& by appointment)

**Pious Devotions :** **Divine Mercy - Last Thursday of every month at 6pm**

**Legion of Mary: Meet every Sunday after 11.30am Mass**

**SAFEGUARDING**

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

**Pope Francis:** *Like pilgrims on the path to peace, let us make prayer the foundation for the message of hope that the 2025 Jubilee seeks to proclaim in our troubled times. We can count especially on the help of all consecrated people.*

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**Finance Committee Meeting:** Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, at 6.30pm, in the Parish Hall.

**CAFOD:** We encourage you fast in view of supporting the Catholic Agency for overseas Development (CAFOD) this year CAFOD aims to reach out to the hard working people in the Global world to get home safely and feed their families for good. Every contribution you make helps in improving other people's lives.

**Stations of the cross** every Friday at 6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm. Come and receive graces from the Lord.

**Confirmation Catechism Classes** will commence in June. Year five Children in non Catholic schools should register with the Sisters.

**Day for Eucharistic Ministers – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024** at Christ the King, **starting at 9.30am** with Holy Mass, followed by Adoration and two talks, a tea break and ending at 12.45 with soup and sandwiches. We need to confirm names of participants before 29th February. New Eucharistic ministers are welcome.

**The Chapel of Unity at the Coventry Cathedral** is hosting an online 20-minute Poem Reflection at 6.00pm each Monday evening during Lent.  
Zoom Meeting ID: 813 1041 7352; Passcode: 181962

**Retrouvaille Lifeline for Married Couples.** If you want to reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for information about their 2024 programmes. The next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**COVENTRY COMHALTAS St PATRICKS DAY CEILI**, Friday 15th March 2024 7.30-11.30pm,, Christ the King Club, Westhill Rd, Coventry CV6 - 2AA, Dancing to Innisfail Ceili Band (with Caller), Celtica Irish Dancers, Adults £5.00 Children £2.50. For details contact 07876 013590

**MARRIAGE BANNES:** Ugonna Elvis Uzoukwu son of Late Fidelis M.O. Uzoukwu and Stella N. Uzoukwu of St. Michael's Catholic Parish, Uumudiagba, Abajah, Imo State, Nigeria, would like to marry Chisom Frances Anochie daughter of Late Ikechukwu N. Anochie and Chinelo Agatha Anochie of St. Gabriel's Catholic parish, Umunachi, Anambra State, Nigeria.. If there is anybody who knows that they should not get married to each other, kindly come and inform the parish priest.

**MEANINGFUL FASTING IN LENT**

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words; Fast from sadness to joy in the Spirit of God; Fast from anger and be filled with compassion; Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and have trust in God; Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity Fast from pressure and relax in God; Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with serenity; Fast from selfishness and be generous to others; Fast from grudges and be reconciled; Fast from empty talking and cultivate a spirit of contemplation: Fast and pray.*