

MASSES— 19th to 26th Mar 23

Sun	19	9.30am	Thi Maria Tran (3rd Anni), Evarest Obi (Anni)
		11.30am	Zewdi Demoze (RIP), Assumpta Ugwu (RIP) Catherine Gaturi (Spl nt)
Mon	20	12.00noon	Maria Drabik (Anni)
Tues	21	9.30am	Jim & Phil Dunleavy (RIP)
Wed	22	9.30am	Josephine McCrave (Spl int), Peter Mount (RIP)
Thurs	23	9.30am	Greg Jordan (RIP), Benny McAndrew (RIP).
Fri	24	6.30pm	Stations of the Cross
		7.00pm	Peace in the world
Sat	25	9.30am	Vera Dunnion (Good health)
Sun	26	9.30am	Osato Osagie (B'day), Jim Dunleavy (B'day remembrance) Adaobi Clarire Obi (B'day), Anthonia A. (Spl int)
		11.30am	Cicile & Charlie Ekobe (RIP)

Lectors

19/03/2023

9.30am	Anthonia A., Anthonia O. (R)
11.30am	Kayla, Valerie (R)
9.30am	Betty (E)
11.30am	Frank (E)

26/03/2023

Demisha, Noami (R)
Angela Ngozi, Perpetua (R)
Sophie (E)
Serso (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, Andrea, Chinasa Okosisi, John, Mr. Tran, Damian Curristan, Owen Darroch.

Anniversaries during the week : Rosalyn Muffitt, Margaret Ward, Micki Kijko, Patrick Flahive, Peter Doyle, Terry Fielding, Ludovic Carl Wysoeki, John J Burke, Thi Tran.

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

Dates for your diary: Confessions for FHC - Monday 20th March; Meeting of Eucharistic Ministers: at Christ the King on Saturday 25th March at 9.30am .

Holy Week Programme

Parish penitential service-	Monday 27th March at 7.00pm
Palm Sunday	2nd April 9.30am & 11.30am
Maundy Thursday -	6th April 7.00pm - The Lord's Supper
Good Friday	7th April 2.30pm - Stations of cross & Service
Easter vigil	8th April 8.30pm - Easter celebration
Easter Sunday	9th April 9.30am & 11.30am
Divine Mercy Sunday	16th April 2.00pm - Prayers 4.00pm - Mass

Let us come in time and receive the blessings from our Saviour Jesus Christ.



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

Parish Newsletter – Fourth Sunday of Lent—19th to 26th Mar 2023

GOD SEES WHAT HUMAN WISDOM DOES NOT

Lenten season awakens us to that sense of self worth, by reflecting on who we are and what God wants us to be. I remember as a young boy growing up, how my parents insisted that we behave in a way that kept us dignified, because we belonged to a family. We were also told that while there were many families in the village, ours was different because it was the one to which we belonged. There were other families, of course, but it was this we belonged to. For that reason we were to live according to the discipline in our family.

The three readings today, remind us not to interpret the realities of life basing ourselves on human standard, because when we do so, we easily get misled. Judging by human standard is exemplified in the first reading. The Prophet Samuel, took human beauty, height, physical complexion to be the qualities in the leader of Israel, but God was not interested in all that but in the inner qualities of heart. So, a small shabby son of Jesse David, who was faithful and in obedient to his father, was the best choice. When we do our duty well, God takes notice.

In the gospel, Jesus' healing powers are revealed by healing a man who was blind from birth. For us who by God's grace have the gift of sight, we cannot know what blindness means, but also we might not appreciate the gift of sight.

The Lenten season is a reminder that sin makes us blind and insensitive to the predicaments of others. For example, the rich blame poverty on the poor, accusing them of laziness and bad management, yet they get blinded to their exploitative policies against the poor, increased taxation and low wages he pays the poor. The Pharisees were blinded to the troubles of the blindman and to the good deed of Jesus who gave him sight.

Sin makes us not to see good in acts of others, to such extent that you can sometimes hear people say: *"It is better for both of us to lose it than one of us to have it"*. With sin in our hearts, we neither want to progress or let others do so who want.

Sin makes us fearful of the truth. The parents of the blindman knew that it was their son whose sight was restored but they were fearful of publicly admitting that it was Jesus who had done it. Whenever you feel fearful, know that sin is round the corner.

As you return home, let us open our eyes to the reality that faith is a journey like that of the blindman. We shall not always see things at the beginning. We might be persuaded to deny or even persecuted for telling what we know and what we believe about Jesus Christ. But, as St. Paul has told us in the Second reading *"Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, have nothing to do with the futile works of darkness"*.

Today, we honour our mothers who gave us life through birth. But we honour the Church who through baptism conceives us and nurtures us so as to be given birth in God's heavenly presence. On this mothering Sunday let us pray that God may bless all mothers and protect the Church our mother here on earth.

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: stmaryandbenedictchurchcoventry

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

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 (Mar) : £ Gift Aid : £ 198.50 Non-Gift Aid: £ 494.52 Total: £ 693.02 Thank you for your generosity.

Readings: 1Sam 16:1,6-7,1013; Eph. 5:8-14; Jn. 9:1-41.

2nd Collection : 7th April– Holy places **Bonus Ball :**

Mass Attendance : 584

Church cleaning: 7.30am

Choir practice : Fri– 7.30pm

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.

Mass intentions : If you have requests for Mass for your intentions, envelopes are available at the back of the church please pick one, write your intention, with minimum £5 for each Mass .

'God is light, without God's light, nobody can see'.

Jesus was the Light Who came to dispel all darkness, and now He illustrates this fact by opening the eyes of the blind man. Indeed, Jesus comes to the world to heal our spiritual blindness so that we can recognize him as the way, the truth, and the life! Therefore, instead of focusing on the blindness of others, why don't we pay more attention to ourselves?

Our attitudes of arrogance, our prejudice, our discrimination and all of our bad dispositions, will eventually make us blind! The good news is that if we choose to follow Christ and His light, which will brighten our faith, hope, and love, and restore our spiritual vision, then we will be able to walk towards eternal life. Let us take heed, then, when St. Paul says: "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" Let us thank the Lord for His kindness and pray that He will continue to enhance our spiritual eyesight, so that we can see more clearly. May the holy light of Christ lead us all to everlasting life!

MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard: will be read out in parishes this weekend. The Letter will include an update on the Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan. Following our journey together on the Synodal Pathway the eleven deaneries across the Archdiocese have been tasked with developing an action plan outlining a clear sense of direction for each deanery and its parishes. Archbishop Bernard has asked parish priests to reflect on how, within deaneries, our parishes can share resources to advance the mission of the Church.

Mothering Sunday will be celebrated in the UK this Sunday, 19 March. "On this day, as we give thanks for our mothers, we remember the importance of mothers in our lives, the lives of our families and the life of the Church. Their devotion to God, to us and those around us and to the Church should be the subject of celebration and deep thanks. Mary model of mothers, intercede for them.

Love the Stranger is a new publication by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales' Department for International Affairs which articulates our Christian duty to look beyond labels and see the person who has left their homeland in search of a better life. In 2023, people making dangerous journeys across the Channel to reach the UK are called by various names: 'refugees', 'asylum seekers', 'migrants', and often by more derogatory terms. Love the Stranger places the human being at the heart of our pastoral outreach, looking beyond statistics and policies to the person – each with a name, a face and a story. The document offers 24 guiding principles and has been endorsed by the Holy See, COMECE, CAFOD, CSAN and Caritas Social Action Network members.

Exploring the Mass with Cardinal Vincent Nichols is a good resource for your children and family. The Mass is at the heart of all sacramental programmes. This DVD and Book is an invaluable resource for youth, catechists and parents. PLACE ORDER NOW: info@tere.org for the Exploring the Mass DVD rp@rebooks.co.uk for Exploring the Mass for Books The book costs £7.00 and the Video costs £20.00 plus VAT

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, gave a Loyal Address to King Charles III ahead of his coronation in May. Later he said: "Today, I was privileged to offer the Loyal Address to His Majesty King Charles III and to assure him of the support and prayers of the Catholic community of England and Wales. "May God bless His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen Consort, preserve them both in health of mind and body and grant them every grace and blessing now and for the years to come."

The Knights of St. Columba invite all parishioners to a Deanery parish quiz on Fri. 24th March at 8.00pm . We are asked to send a team of 5 members. If you are interested please contact Mr. Edward Wamala. **Venue:** Christ the King Parish, Entry fee for a team: £10. Refreshments will be made available.

Harvington Hall History Festival : The Festival will take place in the grounds of Harvington Hall, in Worcestershire from 25 - 30 July, featuring 16 talks from top historians, authors and broadcasters, as well as a concert by the Birmingham Oratory Consort. This year is an important one for Harvington as it is celebrating the centenary of its purchase, which rescued it from ruin 100 years ago. Tickets are now on sale for the first ever Harvington History Festival, taking place this July. *To book call 01562777555 with the reference Harvington History Festival.*

Gift Aid Envelops: 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.

Please Note: Easter programme and lectors Rota for Palm Sunday & Holy week is found on the notice board.