



Ss. Mary & Benedict RC Church, Coventry



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

**Parish Newsletter—5th Sunday in Ordinary time-Year B: 4th to 11th Feb 2024**

**MEANINGFUL LABOUR**

Experience shows that we are eager to start working on our first job to gain experience, grow our skills, contribute to other people's lives, and earn a salary to gain financial independence. After a few years of doing the same things, the original excitement disappears, and we are stuck in the monotonous routine of encountering similar situations. At some point, we may wonder if our work is still meaningful and adds value to other people's lives.

Today, we gain fresh insights into our work when we look at the Word of God. The author of Job, a wisdom book, commented on the human condition of his time and the labour-related experiences. He described daily labour as meaningless in terms of hard service, hired drudgery and a form of slavery. He noted that the short life a person spends on earth is characterised by meaningless labour. We pose a question if human labour should be defined like that.

Our Lord Jesus Christ provides a helpful answer to that question; he did not work for a salary, but his daily labour was very meaningful because it enriched other people's lives. He availed himself to heal the sick, cast out devils, preach the kingdom of God, and prayed daily. It is refreshing to read: 'In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went to a lonely place and prayed there' (Mk, 3:35).

Paul, emulating our Lord, embraced the preaching of the gospel as his daily duty. He got so committed to it that he clearly stated: 'I should be punished if I did not preach the Gospel' (1Cor. 9:16).

How about you and me, how do we see our daily labour? Is it meaningless service or some form of slavery, that we owe our supervisors?

God created us in his image; we share in his work of creation by our labours. When we render services of love to our neighbours we share in Christ's ministries of healing and teaching about the kingdom of God. Approaching our labour in this way, becomes an expression of our faith in God and a living sacrifice of praise. When we perform our daily labour with faith in God, it becomes meaningful and rewarding to us the labourers.

**MASSES— 4th to 11th Feb 2024**

|       |    |           |   |  |
|-------|----|-----------|---|--|
| Sun   | 04 | 9.30am    | Apostles of Jesus Missionaries                        | <b>5th Sunday<br/>in ordinary time</b> |
|       |    | 11.30am   | People of the parish                                  |  |
| Mon   | 05 | 12.00noon | Tom Ward (Spl int)                                    |  |
| Tues  | 06 | 9.30am    | Mary Mulroney (Good health)                           |  |
| Wed   | 07 | 9.30am    | Ada Wood (Good health)                                |  |
| Thurs | 08 | 9.30am    | Xianfeng Li (Spl int)                                 |  |
| Fri   | 09 | 9.30am    | Karsten Nduwimana (B'day), Li's family (Thanksgiving) |  |
| Sat   | 10 | 9.30am    | Bob Haddock (RIP)                                     |  |
| Sun   | 11 | 9.30am    | Apostles of Jesus Missionaries                        | <b>6th Sunday<br/>in ordinary time</b> |
|       |    | 11.30am   | Chantel Sharp (B'day)                                 |  |

**Lectors**

|                |                          |  |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
|                | <b><u>04/02/2024</u></b> |  | <b><u>11/02/2024</u></b> |
| <b>9.30am</b>  | Clinton, Demisha (R)     |  | Elizabeth, Cosmos (R)    |
| <b>11.30am</b> | Ortise, Sharon (R)       |  | Kenneth, Angela N. (R)   |

**Eucharistic Ministers**

|         |                          |  |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
|         | <b><u>04/02/2024</u></b> |  | <b><u>11/02/2024</u></b> |
| 9.30am  | Cath Slatter (E)         |  | Betty Osagie (E)         |
| 11.30am | Patricia (E)             |  | Loveness (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.** : Josephine Robertson, John Nash, Elizabeth Hoey, William, Antony Braganza, Peter Montague, Elizabeth Hugh , Frank & Maura Corrigan, William Mulroney, Leslie Burke, Bridget Agnes Clisham, Bridget Molloy, Teresa Langan.

**Reflect on...**

*Prayer is about our relationship with God. What we pray for may not always transform the situation we pray about, but more importantly, prayer will transform us. Through prayer, we are changed and the more we pray, the more it becomes a way of life, in which we are drawn closer to the heart of God and to each other. If we want to get to know God and build a relationship with Him, we need to spend time with Him in prayer.*

### 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: [www.mcmedia.tv/camer/st-mary-and-st-benedict](http://www.mcmedia.tv/camer/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

**28/01/24: Gift Aid : £183.50 Dona: £145.20 Non-Gift Aid: £236.71 Total: 565.41**

SO (Dec): £ Second collection : £ May God bless you all.

**2nd collections : 11th Feb– Pro Life ; 25th Feb—CAFOD**

**Bonus Ball :** No. ` **Mass Attendance : 319**

**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's prayer intention for February: for the terminally ill.**

*We pray that with a terminally illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.*

### CHURCH NOTICES

**2024 THE YEAR OF PRAYER** - In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the "Our Father", and this presents us with a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer. Each month there will be a video on "Pause for Prayer" launched Birmingham Diocesan Trust and you can use this link ([birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://birminghamdiocese.org.uk)) to watch and learn a little more about the importance of prayer and how to make time for prayer:

**ASH WEDNESDAY** 14th February Mass Times: 9.30am and 7.00pm and Stations of the cross every Friday at 6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm. Come and receive graces from the Lord.

#### **LOURDES ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE MONDAY 27 MAY TO SATURDAY 1 JUNE 2024**

Those who will need assistance with personal care, medication, or mobility are encouraged you to apply *as an Assisted Pilgrim*. It is important to note that you will be expected to pay for yourself to attend, though there are funding streams you can apply to for assistance. If you are interested in this, please contact the pilgrimage office on Tel: 0121 230 6288.

**MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES APRIL - OCT 2024:** 7 Nights Apartment B&B from €273 per person sharing. Airport transfer available on request. Contact us for details and book the dates that suit you. **Tel. 020 3239 8662 or website [www.med-irishcentre.com](http://www.med-irishcentre.com)**

**PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Thursday, 22nd February 2024, 6.30pm in the parish hall.

**A Day for Eucharistic Ministers:** Organised by the Coventry and Nuneaton Deanery at Christ the King Church - Coventry on **Saturday 9th March**, Mass, Holy Hour, talks from Fr Cecil Rogerson and Fr Stephen Fawcett. The day will start with mass at **9.30am** followed by Holy Hour and two talks. The day will finish with a light lunch at 1pm. All our parish Eucharistic ministers are encouraged to attend.

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.

**Feasts during the week:** 5th Feb. St. Agatha, Virgin, Martyr; 6th Feb. St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs; 10th Feb. St. Scholastica, Virgin.

**Next Sunday 11th February is world day for the sick.** The World Day of the Sick is an awareness day, or observance, in the Catholic Church intended for "prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church and of reminding everyone to see in his sick brother or sister the face of Christ". Let us remember in our prayers our parishioners who are ill.