			MASSES—8th to 15th Jan 23
Sun	08	9.30am	Deceased members of Keeney family, Aston William (Good health)
			Mabel Braganza (B'day remembrance), George Obi (5th B'day)
		11.30am	Alice Wambui (Spl int), John Charles (Safe recovery)
Mon	09	9.30am	Mary Flanigan (RIP)
Tues	10	9.30am	Peggy Brady (Get well)
Wed	11	9.30am	Felix Miranda (Good health)
Thurs	12	9.30am	May McCrave (RIP)
Fri	13	9.30am	Pope Benedict VI (RIP)
Sat	14	9.30am	Sr. Silvana Rodrigues (RIP)
Sun	15	9.30am	Stephanie Osagie (B'day), Arthur J. Belson (Spl int)
			Kieran Lehane (RIP)
		11.30am	People of the parish
			<u>Lectors</u>

	<u>U8/U1/2U23</u>	15/01/2025
9.30am	Anthonia A., Nicholas (R)	Desma, Creshel (R)
11.30am	Tasha, Florence E. (R)	Bishop Ullathorne Students

00/01/2022

Eucharistic Ministers

15/01/2022

9.30am Betty O (E) 11.30am Patricia, Vera (E)

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

<u>Anniversaries during the week</u>: Thomas Patrick Joyce, Patrick Gannon, Nora Obrien, Michael Hogan, Jim Davis, Con O'Driscoll, Eileen Helen Teresa Coleman, Thomas Joyce, Mary Ellen Healy, Thomas Earley, Mark Brennan, Rev Fr Richard Placid Rea, Winifred Browne, Peter McCabe, Kathleen Kooghan, Isabel Carson, Thomas Shaughnessy, Margaret Cooke, Ethna Veronica Bannon, Isabel Read, Bridget Christine Barnes, Michael Edward Terence Thornburgh Hanbury, Neil Ferry, Andrew Doyle, Patrick Doyle, Daniel Lanaghan.

<u>Saint of week:</u> Angela of Foligno: People who live in the United States today can understand Saint Angela's temptation to increase her sense of self-worth by accumulating money, fame or power. Striving to possess more and more, she became more and more self-centered. When she realized she was priceless because she was created and loved by God, she became very penitential and very charitable to the poor. What had seemed foolish early in her life now became very important. The path of self-emptying she followed is the path all holy men and women must follow. The liturgical feast of Saint Angela of Foligno is celebrated on January 7.

GRATITUDE

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."

"Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds."









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

Parish Newsletter -Baptism of the Lord — 8th to 15th Jan 2023

BAPTISM A MARK OF OWNERSHIP

Livestock theft and disputes among African farmers were solved by the technique of branding, which was used so as to identify the owner of the animal. A heated branding iron was pressed against an animal with the intention of leaving an identifying mark. The mark showed who the right owner was. When the animal went missing, those who found it, new exactly where to return it.

The transatlantic slave trade, degraded the African people and robbed its perpetrators of their humanity. Families and communities were displaced that to find her children the African mother, made a painful ritual of branding her children. Using a red-hot heated rod, she marked them so that, if the slave hunter raided the village, she could identify them in case they were killed or went missing. If in case they were taken to unknown lands, by looking at their body markings, they would identify each other as brothers.

Today, we celebrate the baptism of the Lord. John the Baptist introduced it to mark out those who were ready to change their lives by renunciation of sins and welcome the Messiah. The baptism of John made those who received it to belong to the awaited Saviour. It made them a people of the new covenant. It was a mark that indicated which side someone belonged to.

The baptism of John, prepared the people to wait for the coming of the Saviour, but what happens when the Saviour himself joins the que for baptism? This is not for you, John told Jesus, who insisted that he too be baptised, not because he was a sinner, but to purify the waters in which you and I would be baptised and claimed children of God and members of his family the Church. By being baptised in the same waters in which all the people were being baptised, Jesus washed our sins away, shared his mission with us, we became prophets and kings like him, we are priests of God.

When we were baptised, we were marked out for Christ. Baptism implanted in our souls the seal of ownership which can never be taken away from us. Remember the analogy I started with of a farmer marking out his animals or a mother marking out her children in case they were kidnapped. In the same way, the baptism we received is a mark that we belong to Jesus Christ.

In the second reading, St. Peter has told us that God loves us all, he has no favourites, we are all his children. Baptism, made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people that belong to God.

We have just began a new year 2023. Let us remember that our baptism kept us together as a community, as a family as a parish. Jesus Christ has been at the centre of our life. Because he is the beloved Son, we too in him have become beloved children of God. Let us listen to him, believe in him and follow him. Let us constantly be conscious of who we are, that we are baptised, that we belong to Jesus, that we are a people on pilgrimage to God. Let us encourage each other to move on towards our eternal destination—God.

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

52a, Raglan Street Coventry, CV1 5QF. Tel 02476258901, 07906124756

Parish email: stmarvandbenedictch@vahoo.com Website: www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk

Web cam: www. mcnmedia.tv/camer/st-mary-and-st-benedict Youtube: st mary and benedicct church coventry

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

Parish Priest. Fr. Jimmy Lutwama, AJ

E-mail: lutwajim@vahoo.com

Parish Sisters: Srs. of St. Ann of Providence Leena, and Leera 02477045457

Safeguarding Rep: Perpetua Sam & Asipita Iroko

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

Gift Aid: 190.50 SO (Dec): £ 984.00 Non-Gift Aid: 975.78 Total: £. 2150.28

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings: Is. 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts. 10:34-38; Mt. 3: 13-17

2nd Collection :

Bonus Ball:

Mass Attendance: 259

Pious Devotions

Prayer for priests

Divine mercy prayers

Parish Rosary group

Choir practice: Fri- 7.30pm

Church cleaning:

Confessions: Saturday-10.10-11.00am.

Gospel Reflection

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29

Today, as we ponder John's words, we are able to see them more clearly. Jesus is the One Who gave His life on the Cross for the remission of sins. He is the One Whom we now receive sacramentally in Holy Communion as the "Lamb of God." It is His flesh and His blood, poured out for us, that we now consume with the deepest reverence and love.

At Mass, these are the final words spoken by the priest after the consecration and prior to Holy Communion. Every time we participate in the Holy Mass, we relive this moment in which John saw our Lord coming to Him.

Reflect upon the suffering and death of the Lamb of God and the way in which He has transmitted His Saving Sacrifice to us in Holy Communion. Behold the Lamb of God within your heart, mind and soul, and prayerfully seek to know Him more fully this day.

Mass intentions:

If you wish to offer a Mass for your intentions please use the Mass intention envelopes found at the piety stall. Write down the intentions with donation £5.

MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

Death in the deanery: It is with great sadness that I write to inform you that Deacon Joe Patterson passed yesterday Saturday morning at 6am. He was one of the deacons at Christ the King and a very devout man. He was a devotee to Mary and to Divine Mercy. May he rest in peace.

Baptismal sessions for parents with children to be baptized will take place on Monday 9th January at 6.00pm in the Lady's Chapel. Parents and God parents are requested to attend the sessions.

Volunteers are needed at St. Mary's Church: to assist in different ministries and services. The time they give enables the parish to carry on with minimum expenses. There is a lot of good things parishioners do and go unnoticed. I therefore invite you to come forward to render your service in different areas during this new year.

- 1. Church cleaners to clean the church. 2. Counters to count the Sunday collections .
- 3. Lectors to proclaim the Word of God at 9.30am & 11.30am Mass. 4. Ushers 5. Choir members. It is not because you have nothing to do that you want to offer your time, but it is because you have too little time that you want to share it on the activities that build the kingdom of God in the hearts of people. If you are interested in any of these services kindly speak to me or to the sisters.

Gathering of Altar servers both old and new: I extend my invitation to all the altar servers who served at the altar at St. Mary & St. Benedict since 1962 for a thanksgiving Mass on Saturday 28th January at 10.00am. Therefore, I consider it is an honour to have you in our midst as we celebrate 60 years of ministry at the altar and the establishment of St. Stephen's Guild in our parish.

Monday Club: The weekly Monday gathering of the senior members of our parish and others will resume on Monday the 16th January with a Mass at 12.00noon. Please join this group to socialize and support one another. God bless you all.

The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help in our parish, bringing people together to help build a better world or by visiting local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the diocese? Could you support local volunteers or share your office skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with birmingham@cafod.org.uk

Visit by Bishop Ullathorne Secondary School will take place on Sunday 15th January 2023. The students will provide us with a lead in the choir and reading the word of God. Bishop Ullathorne is a catchment senior school for the children attending St. Mary's primary School. Please come and support them as we shall be praying together for peace in the world.

A Young Adults Group, is being formed to take care of young Catholics in Coventry and Nuneaton deanery. The group is open to those aged 18 to 35 and will meet at Christ the King on the last Tuesday of each month (7-9pm), starting from Tuesday 28th February. If a young person would like to join the group please contact the Parish priest.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was laid to rest on Thurs 05/01/2023, we pray for the repose of his soul. He served as Supreme Pontiff from April 2005 to Feb 2013, he died aged 95 on Sat 31 Dec 2022. Archbishop Bernard Longley issued a statement following his death, recalling "with gratitude the warmth and impact of his presence during his State Visit in 2010 and especially during his visit to Birmingham for the Beatification of Cardinal Newman".