

Matters of Importance

Induction of the New Parish Priest: I wish to let you know that Fr. Pontius Bandua will be inducted Parish Priest of St. Osburg on 22nd February 2018. Mass will start at 7:00pm followed by some social gathering in the parish hall to welcome our new pastor. On Wednesday 31st January I received from the Archbishop the official letter confirming his nomination and appointment to St. Osburgs as our parish priest. Please let us do our best to make the day a success.

Talk worth listening to with the theme: *Deaconesses and leadership roles for women in the Church- is anything changing?* Will be delivered by Dr Oonagh O'Brien of the Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge. On Sunday afternoon, **February 25th**, 1.30 for 2pm start, at St Mary's Parish Centre, Harborne B17 0DN. No charge, everyone welcome, an ACTA event. For more information email mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk

The Fourth Commandment "Honour your Father and Mother" it gives obligations to parents and duties to children in relation to their parents. But what happens when a child becomes naughty, and unruly? Well the Welsh Government is consulting on its controversial proposals to make it a criminal offence for parents to smack a naughty child. Although supporters of the proposed legislation invariably deny that it would make smacking a criminal offence and try to play down the consequences, the Children's Minister in Wales has admitted that the legislation, if passed, has the potential to lead to parents being prosecuted. Asked on BBC Breakfast whether parents would be prosecuted for smacking their children, Huw Irranca-Davies, the minister responsible for this area of policy, responded: 'We hope not, but you can't rule it out.' In the consultation paper itself, the Welsh Government anticipates that criminalising parents who smack would lead to an increase in prosecutions, at least in the short-term.

Rite of Election will take place on Sunday 18 February at 3pm in Saint Chad's Cathedral. Parish Priests from the diocese will present Catechumens and Candidates who are either to be baptised or to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church to the Archbishop and Bishops As we are nearing the end of our RCIA program I ask our catechumens to make it a point to attend our remaining lessons regularly.

Birmingham Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes 2018 is organised from Saturday 26th May to Friday 1st June 2018. This is the largest gathering of the Diocesan family outside of the diocese and Archbishop Bernard encourages us to participate in it. The pastoral theme for this event is "Do whatever He tells you". For more information contact via email at lourdesadmin@rc-birmingham.org.

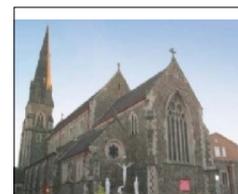
Enrolment Mass for FH communion takes place today 4th Feb. There is also a meeting about 1st reconciliation for parents on Thursday 15th Feb at 3.30pm in the school.

Reminders : First reconciliation Friday 9th March at 2.00pm. ; First Holy communion Sunday 20th May at 11.30am.

Mothers day Gift room: If anyone have unwanted X'mas gifts could you send them into school. We are looking for volunteers to help wrap presents and prepare our Mothers day gift room on Friday 9th March. Please see Mrs. Walsh in the office. This is very popular with pupils and raises a substantial amount of money for school resources



AJ Missions



St. Osburgs



St. Marys



St. Elizabeth

Parish Newsletter - 5th Sunday in ordinary time- 4th to 11th Feb 2018

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THESE MARKS REALLY MEAN?

On 8th February, we shall remember the victims of human trafficking. Since the end of slavery we had thought that treating human beings like commodities for sale was a thing of the past, but it is not the case, so many people are victims of human trafficking today. Let us be aware that the misery of others is my misery too. On 8th February, the church will present us with St. Josephine Bakhita a Sudanese girl born in Dafur. She was kidnapped when still very young and experienced the cruelty of slavery as she was sold several times in several slave markets in Africa. To protect her identity her parents cut distinctive marks on her body.

Some years ago when I was a small boy in Africa, I was fascinated by tourists. We liked seeing people from other parts of the country and other parts of the world coming to our villages befriending us and taking us pictures. That was the time when Kodak Cameras ruled the photograph industry. Our ears, noses teeth, faces and backs were all photographed. Unfortunately we never saw those pictures. The tourists were not interested in us but in the marks on our bodies, the more prominent ones' body marks were, the more photographs one was taken. We thought we were showing off our misery to sympathisers but we were deceived.

With education I left home and started to travel. I was surprised to discover how the Postcard industry boomed by using photographs of the so called indigenous people to make good money. I'm sure you have seen those postcards with pictures of people who still keep their cultural practices. Some African people continue to use crude methods to decorate their bodies leaving permanent body marks. A reporter making a documentary called it 'savagery' to subject oneself to such painful way of body marking!

The marks on the bodies of traditional African people were not a show of beauty, or courage but it was a painful pragmatic response of an African parent to the pain of losing a child or a member of the family to the slave hunters. Bands of marauding slave traders entered Africa and carried communities into slavery to lands they never knew and lost homes to which they never returned. Parents lost children they never saw again. It was the fear of losing a child, a brother or a spouse, that parents or community leaders took the painful decision and branded their children with a red hot iron putting marks on them just as we do for our animals. This was to help in identifying one's child in case the slave trader separated them. By these marks, a captured slave would also look at a fellow slave and tell whether he was his brother or not. As we showed our bodies full of scars to the camera trigger happy tourists we thought they were sharing in our misery, instead they were interested in taking a good picture which could make a good postcard and a good postcard makes good money. Let us be aware of human trafficking and work together to combat it.

The Most Holy Sacrament and St. Osburgs

Barras Lane, Coventry, CV1 4AQ. Tel 024 76220402

Fr. Jimmy Mobile. 07906124756 Home 02476258901

Fr. Pontius 07424553529 and Fr. Sunday 07448029184

Parish Sisters: Sr. Philomena and Sr. Theresa (PBVM)

(St. Osburgs Primary School, Upper Hill Street Coventry CV1 4AP. Tel 02476227165

Headteacher Mrs Nicola Rynott.

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Ann Collins 02476670304

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

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

www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk

Parish Priest. Fr. Jimmy Lutwama AJ

Mobile: 07906124756.

E-mail lutwajim@yahoo.com

The Parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg. Charity No. 234216

Parish development

Gift Aid.... £116.00 **Loose.....**£ 302.07 **Total.....**£418.07

Sat. lunches....£ **Restoration.**£7.60 **Heating.....**£65.00 **Hall Hire** £

Second collection :

Thank you for your generosity.

RCIA Program continues on Monday 5th Feb at 6:00pm in the Lady's chapel. All those concerned are asked to attend.

WINNERS of 300 CLUB JANUARY 2018 DRAW

1st Prize 739 A. Walker 2nd prize 737 L. Logan

3rd prize 102 P. Cross 4th prize 008 N. McGrane

Congratulations to the winners!

Thought on marriage: Neither man nor woman is perfect or complete without the other. Thus, no marriage or family, no ward or stake is likely to reach its full potential until husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, men and women work together in unity of purpose, respecting and relying upon each other's strengths. To keep your marriage brimming, With love in the loving cup, Whenever you're wrong, admit it; Whenever you're right, shut up.

Diocesan Directories are available in the sacristy at £2.75 each. Only 4 copies are remaining. Please buy them since they provide useful information about the whereabouts of your priests.

Life in the Spirit Deanery prayer group (GIFT) will meet on Thursday 8th February at 7.30pm at Christ the King. All are welcome.

Medjugorje Youth Festival: are you interested to make a pilgrimage to Medjugorje? A youth festival is organised from 31st July to 7th August 2018. Please contact Justine on 07551096269 as soon as possible to know more if you are interested.

Hearing Aid Users—Please switch your hearing aid to 'T'

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEKS from – 3rd—11th February 2018

Sat	3	11.45am	Mary McEvoy (RIP birthday)
		5.30pm	Michael & Marie Fallon (RIP Anniv)
Sun	4	11.30am	People of the Parish
Mon	5	12.10pm	Bridget & Pat Finnegan (RIP)
			Anne Janeway (Sp Int)
Tues	6	12.10pm	Mary Caines (RIP)
Wed	7	12.10pm	Peter & Maureen Jones (Sp Int)
			Robert Goverderica (RIP)
Thurs	8	12.10pm	Josie Haynes (Birthday)
Fri	9	12.10pm	Ann Cullane (RIP)
			Carmel Mallon (RIP)
Sat	10	11.45am	Theresa Gilder (Get Well)
		5.30pm	Bridie Griffin (Anniversary)
Sun	11	11.30am	Coia Family (Sp Int)

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers

3rd Feb weekend

4th Feb Weekend

5.30pm	Bernadette, Ann E (R)	11.30am	School Readers (R)
	Maggie (E)		Charles, June (E)

Please pray for the sick of the parish: Eileen McHugh, Laurence Gallen, Garry Hobbs, Teresa Ryne, Cameron Reilly, Carla Lawrence, Terence Harris, Patrick Connolly, Mark Correvisgandis Anne, Bacia, Colin Hipperson, Kathleen Tierney, Diane Cunningham, Kieran Connell, Ahmed Musa, Carol Sparks, Ruth Clithero, Jan Carusso, Nadia Faruk Hannah, Tom McDermott, Winnie McDermott, Gerald Douglas, Shirley Hartnett, Stephen Bayliss, Jackie Buckley, Dave Riliott, Alan Davis, David Horley, Margaret Ghen, Bridie & Benny McAndrew. Christine Strong, Hilda Gibson, Sheila Biggs.

Anniversaries that occur about this time : Butler Pierce Joseph, Hainey Damian, Roache Margaret, Ward Sidney, Gregson Margaret, Chambers Eva, Sharrey Bridget, O'Brien Elizabeth, Collins Patrick Joseph, Cath Malone, Josephine Teresa Kennedy.

Marriage preparation course: will take place on 17th February 2017 at St. Marys Parish hall starting from 5:00pm. To qualify you must be a member of St. Mary's or of St. Osburgs Parishes. You should also be planning to get married this year 2018. Please remember 5:00pm is 5:00pm.

St. Thomas More Parish is celebrating their 75th anniversary of the founding of the parish. As a part of their celebration they are organising a Parish Mission from 17th Feb to 4th March led by the Sion Community. All are welcome.