



LITURGY

First reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Response to the Psalm: Praise the Lord who heals the broken hearted.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39



Dear Parishioners

While disaster and depression may be rare for us on a personal level, a lack of focus may not be. The causes can be many, yet often enough it is just simply a 'managerial' attitude toward our lives, a 'maintenance' frame of mind, that makes our feelings and faith go flat. We seriously misunderstand our faith if we see it in terms of getting by and getting through. If that is what it is all about, it has to become a frightful bore.

Perhaps at times our young people catch this. They sense a tedium, a staleness about our religion and our practices. "Mass is so boring," a young person told me.

Well, I agree, that compared to all the TV channels that are available and the razzmatazz of pop culture there isn't as much diversity. But why would one expect novelty and slickness from a sacred communal practice, the hallmarks of which are great tradition, universality, and stability of form?

However, my young friend is on to something. There is not much intensity or urgency in a community whose primary concerns are managing its relationship to God and maintaining its existence. Is the Church really about the powerful message of Christ, or is it just concerned with itself?

We are often hounded by doubt. Is it really such a big deal that people believe in Jesus? Does it matter very much to us if our children drift away from the faith we love? Isn't one religion as good as another? And don't theologians themselves suggest that conversions, and proselytism are passe, if not wrong headed?

If our faith is something that really does not make a very big difference, if it is actually not crucial that we or others believe, no wonder it seems boring to some of our young people. The things we do care about, however, we inevitably talk about.

As another, very wise, young man put it: "If you love someone or something deeply enough, you want to tell others, you want to share it with others."

If faith is real it seeks expression. It will communicate and profess. It will have the energy of passion. Our practice of faith, our discipleship, cannot be otherwise. Jesus not only transforms our secluded moments and our intimacies but our social compassion. He lives there.

God Bless

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

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Registered Charity Number 1063237

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and served by the Benedictine Monks of Douai Abbey

Parish Priest: Fr. Benedict Thompson O.S.B

Rev. Deacon Peter Griffiths



5th Sunday of Year (B)

Week commencing Sunday 7th February 2021

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is responsible for our Parish and is committed to ensuring high standards of information security, privacy and transparency. Check our website, address above, for full details

Masses

Sat 6 th Feb	5pm	Week 5 Year B	Jill & Tony Smith RIP
Sun 7 th Feb		Week 5 Year B	Douglas Thompson RIP
Mon 8 th Feb.			
Tue 9 th Feb			Dom Bernard Wassall RIP
Wed 10 th Feb		St. Scholastica(F)	Michael Russell
Thur 11 th Feb			
Fri 12 th Feb			Mary & Don Gardner RIP
Sat 13 th Feb	5pm	Week 6 Year B	Robert McCarthy RIP
Sun 14 th Feb		Week 6 Year B	People of the Parish

Mass is celebrated daily except on Mondays.

If you would like a mass offered for a particular intention, please email the parish or put a note through the door of the presbytery.

Those Who Have Asked for Prayers: Faith Lyons, Steve Smith, Jane-Christina Thomson, Joan Smith, Derek Sollis, Michael Hall, Christopher Hurd, Edward O'Neill, Michael Smith, Barbara Wall, Mick Sollis, Margaret Birkett, Annie McHugh, Georgette Cowell, Dolores Flynn, Carol Shuck, Tony Lyons, Jackie Ingrams, Brian Arthur, Michelle Norton, Melvin Probyn, Peter Sollis, Fred Chadfield. Mary Cross, Alan Clatworthy.

Those who have recently died:

Jennifer Harvey, Anne Nora Finnegan, Mary Hadley, Barbara Flowers, Gerald Clarke, Alma Clarke, Eric George Dunton, Jill Smith, Paula Brookes, Jean McCarthy, Joe Brennan, Paul Bunn, Richard Flynn, Denis Charlton, Mary Gardner, Charles Maries, Sheila Hall, Donald Newell, Helen Meaney, Bridget Clarke, Sylvia Flanagan, Robert McCarthy, Pamela Young, Norah O'Neill-Thomas, Susanna Westmeath, Nell Bridge. Doleen Evans.

Parish Safeguarding Representative:- Gemma Holdsworth

Information and Prayers

Ash Wednesday is 17th February and Mass will be at 7pm. Ashes will be sprinkled on the head, so there will be no actual contact. Of course you do not have to receive the ashes if you feel unsafe doing so. If you would like to attend the Mass then please book your place on Monday 8th February by ringing Lin Rea on 01527 545460.



PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love You above all things

and I passionately desire

to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul

so that I may unite myself wholly to You now and forever. Amen

Based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori

How to support your Parish

At this present time, the Parish is only receiving a small amount of income via standing orders and has lost the valuable weekly collection that helps to keep our Church afloat. We still have bills to pay whilst we are closed.

It would help greatly if you are able to donate directly to St Mary's R C Parish in any of the following ways:

- downloading & completing the 'Standing Order' form from this website & sending it to the Parish
- posting cheques made payable to **St Mary's R C Parish** through the presbytery door. Please put your name & address on the reverse of the cheque
- posting cash in an envelope through the presbytery door. Please include your name & address
- posting your planned giving envelopes through the door

Please let us know if you are Gift Aid registered for any donations you make & please consider completing the Gift Aid form if you are not already registered and can be found on our website & include it with your donation. Thank you!

A big 'Thank You' to all those people who have sent cheques and cash over the last week. Please let us keep each other in our prayers