



**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Exodus 20:1-17

**Response to the Psalm:** You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

**Second reading:** Corinthians 1:22-25

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

**Gospel:** John 2:13-25



**Dear Parishioners**

In the Western world, many people are litigious. In the United States for example there's one lawyer for every 600 people, compared to Japan, where there's one lawyer for 12,000 people and where people prefer other methods like family compromise to settle disputes. But all associations of people need laws: for recourse, to bind people together, and to put into words and action what the group sees as not only putting forth their wisdom and their priorities, but also showing a certain spirit. That's what the Ten Commandments did, but, over time, like all people everywhere certain Jews distorted elements in order to benefit personally. That's how The Temple was being desecrated. It's no wonder that Jesus swung into action, this desecration was worse than people who talk to loudly in our churches, or unresponsive welcoming groups, or irreverential ministers of communion.

For Jesus, the whole business was degrading to true religion.

Jesus' enemies quietly asked him for a sign of his authority. The fact that they asked showed that they understood the deeper meaning of what was going on:

Jesus had laid claim to an authority greater than the Temple and the religious officials charged with its functioning. Jesus would neither trust himself to the people, because he knew what they were thinking, he knew them all. He knew that to many of them he was a wonder worker, or magician. If he spoke to them of service, or sacrifice, or surrender to God's will, they wouldn't have understood. Those attitudes haven't essentially changed. Even today, many prefer to believe in the kind of Jesus *they choose*, instead of looking at the Jesus *God sent*. Most of us are attached to old habits, but God doesn't work in our ways, but according to His own will, and that includes the mysterious message of the cross. The cross is a sign (though not a miraculous spectacle) and a wisdom though considered foolishness by the world. To understand all of that leads to living not only in the letter of God's law but, more importantly, in its spirit, which is love, and in an awareness of the presence of God, which gives an entirely new orientation to law.

God Bless,  
Fr. Benedict OSB

# 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**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent Year (B)  
Week commencing Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 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 <sup>th</sup> March	5pm	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	Andrew Foster RIP
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> March		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	Fr. John Fallon RIP
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> March			
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> March			Paul Bunn RIP
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> March			Private Intention
Thur 11 <sup>th</sup> March			Pamela Parry RIP
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> March			
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> March	5pm	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	Kathleen O'Brien RIP
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> March		<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</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, Jean Monica Tucker, Fr. John Fallon.

**Parish Safeguarding Representative:- Gemma Holdsworth**

### **Information and Prayers**

Altar servers across the Archdiocese are invited to join the live streaming of the Guild of St Stephen Mass in March, and submit a photo of themselves.

**The Mass will be celebrated at St Chad's Cathedral at 10am on Saturday 6 March.**

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/annual-guild-of-st-stephen-mass-2021>



### **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**