



LITURGY

First reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Response to the Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel: John 11:1-45



Dear Parishioners

Being a good Christian means dying to self. This is a difficult challenge as we are part of a society that promotes self-interest and encourages us to be self-assertive.

The pressures encouraging selfishness are stronger than ever. We are plagued with advertisements persuading us to spoil ourselves, pamper our children and be self-indulgent. We aren't even shocked anymore when we read about mothers walking out on their family to pursue their own happiness. How often do we hear the remark: 'It's my life and I have to do what suits me best.' The perception is that this life is all that there is and that death is the end, so make the most of it. Today's Gospel questions such thinking, which is not the way Christ taught us to search for happiness. He states that without the Spirit there is a total absence of life and stresses the importance of genuinely getting to know oneself in order to die daily to sin and selfishness. Each time we overcome our selfishness we are sharing in the newness of life Christ has come to bring.

The Lord is standing at the door of our hearts, seeking an entrance and waiting for us to roll back those boulders which have kept us locked up in a shadowy existence. Christ wants to enter and bring his life-giving presence to those places of darkness, shame and even death. The good news is that he sets free those who are bound by sin and can bring back people to life no matter how long they have been dead to the things of the spirit. He is calling us to face the shadows, to come into the sunshine and walk in the fullness of life.

**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



5th Week of Lent Year(A)

Week commencing Sunday 26th March 2023

Parish Safeguarding: Mrs. Helen Woodhouse
Contact in confidence sg.stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk

Masses

Sat 25 th March	5.00pm	5 th Sunday of Lent (A)	Peter McGoldrick RIP
Sun 26 th March	10.30am	5 th Sunday of Lent (A)	Hedley Family (Living and Dead)
Mon 27 th March			
Tues 28 th March			Stonor Family (living and dead)
Wed 29 th March	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross & Benediction	People of the Parish
Thur 30 th March	2.00pm	Funeral Service	Lionel Quigley RIP
Fri 31 st March			
Sat 1 st April	5.00pm	Palm Sunday (A)	Peter McGoldrick RIP
Sun 2 nd April	10.30am	Palm Sunday (A)	Stanley and Hannah Williams RIP

Mass is celebrated privately daily except on Monday.

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, *please do not place it in the collection bag*. Thank you.

Those Who Have Asked for Prayers:

Derek Sollis, , Georgette Cowell, Dolores Flynn, Fred Chadfield. Alan Clatworthy, Chanel Mullings, Clive Rickhards,, Jill Spurrell, Stan Phipps, Judith Baylis, Rachel Severn.

Those who have recently died: ,

Doleen Evans, Jean Monica Tucker, Fr. John Fallon, Judy Husband Graham Janes, Elizabeth Watton, Maurice Andrews, Max Stoddart. Tony Lyons, Michael Russell, Mary Cross, Agnes McIlravey, Helen McCarthy, Patricia O'Brien, Pauline Burton, Mary Judith Smith (nee Hewitt), Wyn Varley, Raimondo Gemeli, Anthony Woodhouse, Barbara Woodhouse, Kathleen McLoughlin, Peter McGoldrick, Anthony Roache, Lionel Quigley.

Information

Unwanted Christmas Gifts

We will be collecting any new, unopened Christmas gifts and gift sets after Christmas for future fundraising sales. Please keep anything that you think might be saleable and check the bulletin for details of when we will be collecting these items. No alcohol. Thank you!

Sunday Coffee

Our next Coffee Morning following Sunday Mass **this weekend** and we look forward to as many of you as possible joining us for coffee cake and biscuits afterwards.

Wednesdays During Lent

At 7pm on Wednesdays during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross together with Exposition and Benediction. Do please come along and use the service as part of your Lenten preparations.

Pam Young Memorial Service

Pam was a very faithful supporter of our parish for many years and willing to help anyone who needed it. Unfortunately, she died during the pandemic and only six people were able to attend her funeral which was held at the graveside. On **Tuesday 4th April at 11.00am** her family have arranged a memorial service for her here in St. Mary's which will include some of Pam's favourite hymns and readings plus a eulogy. It will conclude with the blessing of her grave followed by tea, coffee and biscuits in the conservatory. If you can, do please come along and say prayers for Pam.

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