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LITURGY

First reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Response to the Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blesses are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28



Dear Parishioners

In today's gospel Jesus rebukes an unclean spirit. He has two reasons to be angry with this demon. First, the man possessed is clearly suffering. Secondly, the demon is being a nuisance. He is making a noise and disturbing Jesus' teaching. With their superior intellect the demons have guessed from Jesus' behaviour that they are dealing with the power of God. And so they are fearful because the mere presence of God in Jesus causes them pain, a reminder of their eternal loss. Unlike us they cannot repent. And so they accuse Jesus of wanting to destroy them. In fact, God has no intention of destroying them – He cannot stop loving any of his creatures, even the fallen angels that have become demons. Jesus simply wants to end this demon's malign activity and so with a few words he sets the man free.

The real authority of Christ is shown in this act of liberation. Jesus's words are authoritative. They don't just sound authoritative, they are effective – like the sacraments we receive. The crowd is impressed. But the gospel leaves us with an unsettling thought. The crowd may be impressed but like so many people they are still 'making up their minds'. They start asking each other what it all means as though it's not obvious that the power of God is at work! Asking what it's all about is a favourite pastime of human beings who don't want to commit, 'What's it all about?' The demon who has just been put to flight is in no doubt at all.

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



4th Week (Year B)

Week commencing Sunday 28th January 2024

Parish Safeguarding: Mrs. Helen Woodhouse

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Helen Woodhouse. She can be contacted at: sg.stmarys.studley@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern

Masses

Sat 27 th Jan	5.00pm	4 th Sunday Year B	Tom McAloor RIP
Sun 28 th Jan	10.30am	4 th Sunday Year B	Paul Bunn RIP
Mon 29 th Jan			
Tues 30 th Jan			
Wed 31 st Jan	9.45am	School Mass	All are welcome
Thurs 1 st Feb			People of the Parish
Fri 2 nd Feb		Presentation of the Lord (Feast)	
Sat 3 rd Feb	5.00pm	5 th Sunday Year B	Jill & Tony Smith RIP
Sun 4 th Feb	10.30am	5 th Sunday Year B	Douglas & Millie Thompson 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, Dolores Flynn, Fred Chadfield, Alan Clatworthy, Chanel Mullings, Clive Rickhards,, Jill Spurrell, Stan Phipps, Judith Baylis, Jackie Gannon, Mick Sollis.

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, Keith John Francis Cotterell, Anna Rose McGoldrick, Mary Baker, Georgette Cowell, Anthony Mathew and all those we have been asked to pray for.

INFORMATION

Sunday Coffee

Do please come and join us after Mass near the end of each month. **The next coffee morning will be Sunday 28th January.** Please come and enjoy a coffee, cake, some shopping and a chat.

Coffee Rota

We hope to continue coffee mornings and sales once a month but need volunteers so that this can happen. **The rota sheet for 2024 is at the back of the church for you to sign if you can help.** We will also need new gift sets and other saleable items so please put aside any unwanted gifts you receive at Christmas. We are always happy to receive contemporary paperback fiction that is in good condition. We are unable to accept general bric-a-brac.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Please note that Ash Wednesday is on 14th February. The parish Mass will be celebrated at 10.30am.