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**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

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Dear Parishioners

Often our young people sense a tedium, a staleness about our religion and our practices. "Mass is so boring," a young person recently 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 wrongheaded?

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
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 (Year B)

Week commencing Sunday 4th February 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 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
Mon 5 th Feb			
Tues 6 th Feb		St. Paul Miki and Comp. (mem)	Private Intention
Wed 7 th Feb			
Thurs 8 th Feb			People of the Parish
Fri 9 th Feb			
Sat 10 th Feb	5.00pm	6 th Sunday Year B	Peter Crozier RIP
Sun 11 th Feb	10.30am	6 th Sunday Year B	Steve Sollis 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 on Sunday 25th February.** 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.