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**LITURGY**

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

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

**Second reading:** 1 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

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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 I 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.

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



3rd Week of Lent (Year B)

Week commencing Sunday 3rd March 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 2 nd March	5.00pm	3 rd Sunday of Lent B	Eugene Whelan RIP
Sun 3 rd March	10.30am	3 rd Sunday of Lent B	Faith Wellsted RIP
Mon 4 th March			
Tues 5 th March			
Wed 6 th March			Private Intention
Thurs 7 th March			
Fri 8 th March			
Sat 9 th March	5.00pm	4 th Sunday of Lent B	Kathleen McLoughlin RIP
Sun 10 th March	10.30am	4 th Sunday of Lent B	People of the Parish

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 31st March (Easter Sunday).** 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.

Second Collection

The weekly second collection will normally be for help towards the payment of the diocesan levy and the upkeep of the house and church buildings. Both the church and the house are Grade II listed so any work done has to be to a high standard as set by the requisite authority.

The second collection next week will be for the Cathedral Maintenance Fund