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**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Jeremiah 31: 31-34

**Response to the Psalm:** A pure heart create for me, O God

**Second reading:** Hebrews 5:7-9

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

**Gospel:** John 12: 20-30

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Dear Parishioners

Jesus is aware that he is *not only* the promised Messiah, not only the saviour of the Jews. Jesus knows that when the other nations begin to come to him, that is the sign that his mission on earth draws rapidly to completion. Now *all* the nations are coming to him. The *whole world* must come to Jesus, and thus the eternal plan of his Father is coming to a head. The 'hour' is at hand. His saving death is imminent. His death is for the entire human race. "What shall I say?" said Jesus, "Father, save me from this hour? But it is for this purpose that I came to this hour." Obedient to his Father's will Jesus goes right ahead. He is obedient unto death, and with his death, the New Covenant referred to in today's first reading, is established. Jeremiah put it this way in that first reading: "All, from the least to the greatest, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their evildoing, and remember their sins no more."

This refers to you and me. To all of us. Gentiles and outsiders from every place and every race. You and I are the Greeks in the Gospel, the outsiders invited in to a special position to profit from the Passover Feast and to rejoice in it. And we are one week away from Passion Sunday and the holiest week of the year. Sinners that we are, we've been baptised into God's eternal plan.

If we come closer to finding our higher selves through our Lenten prayer, fasting and charity, we shall also discover Jesus' law of life: that in dying to self we live a divine life that goes beyond a wish for mere self-preservation.

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 B)

Week commencing Sunday 17th 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 16 th March	5.00pm	5 th Sunday of Lent B	Harold Sollis RIP
Sun 17 th March	10.30am	5 th Sunday of Lent B	Robert and Sarah Lamb RIP
Mon 18 th March			
Tues 19 th March		St. Joseph (Sol)	
Wed 20 th March			Private Intention
Thurs 21 st March			
Fri 22 nd March			
Sat 23 rd March	5.00pm	Palm Sunday	Bernard Bird RIP
Sun 24 th March	10.30am	Palm Sunday	Kathleen O'Brien 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, Tim Harrison

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 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.

Holy Week Services

7.00pm Maundy Thursday
3.00pm Good Friday
Holy Saturday NO MASS
Easter Vigil at Mt. Carmel.
10.30am Easter Sunday
Followed by Coffee in the Conservatory.

Missio

The 'Red Box' has been around for over 100 years. Whether you still have one at home, or remember having one growing up, we would love to hear from you as we plan for the future. Would you be happy to speak with us? If so, please complete a short form to show your interest and to find out more at: missio.org.uk/research or scan the QR code. If you cannot access the form online you can call 020 7821 9755. Thank you!

Please could you bring in your red boxes asap and leave them on the front bench of the church after Mass. Thank you.