



LITURGY

First reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Response to the Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Second reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel Acclamation: **Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.** I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Everyone who believes in me shall never die. **Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.**

Gospel: John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-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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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 22nd March 2026

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 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Masses

Sat 21 st March	5.00pm	5 th Sunday of Lent A	Donald Newell RIP
Sun 22 nd March	10.30am	5 th Sunday of Lent A	Private Intention
Mon 23 rd March			
Tues 24 th March			
Wed 25 th March	9.45pm	School Mass All Welcome	People of the Parish
Thurs 26 th March			
Fri 27 th March			
Sat 28 th March	5.00pm	Palm Sunday	Philomena Green RIP
Sun 29 th March	10.30am	Palm Sunday	Kathleen O'Toole 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, Chanel Mullings, Clive Rickhards,, Jill Spurrell, Judith Baylis, Jackie Gannon, Mick Sollis, Agnes Wilkins, Alma Finnerty, Bud Sollis, Agnes Finn, Ken Faulkner, John Butler.

Those who have recently died:

Keith John Francis Cotterell, Anna Rose McGoldrick, Mary Baker, Georgette Cowell, Anthony Mathew, John Knox, Bill McCarthy, Bernadette Mary Parker, Mary Phipps, Alan Clatworthy, Abbot Finbar Kealy OSB, Katherine McCallion, Fr. Boniface Moran OSB, Richard Thornton-Pett, Mary Scally, Fr. Anthony Rohan, James Joseph Flynn, Stan Phipps, Sheila Eastham, Michael Howell and all those for whom we have been asked to pray.

INFORMATION

Sunday Coffee

Please come and join us for coffee and biscuits.

The next coffee morning will be on Sunday the 15th March. Thank you to Anna and Rob.

A new list, for volunteers to sign up, is now available at the back of church. Please do help and try to sign up for a couple of times a year. Thank you.

Second Collection.

The second weekly collection will normally be for help towards 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.

Because of the age of the buildings the work is continuous and ongoing.

On occasion there will be other second collections and these will be noted above.

Unwanted Gifts

So that we can keep the bric-a-brac table stocked, we are appealing for any unwanted gifts and any contemporary paperback fiction please.

Thank you to everyone who has donated items for the Bring & Buy table, your support is really appreciated.

Please leave any donations for the table in the black box at the back of the church and not directly on the table in the conservatory.

Thank you for your help.

Missio

If you have one of the red Missio boxes please could you bring them to church asap and leave them on the front row of the benches, so that they can be collected and the money counted. Thank you.