

MASSES 14th to 21st Mar 2021

Sun	14	9.30am	Osagie family (Thanksgiving)
		11.30am	Bridie McAndrew (Good health), Robert Hancock (RIP)
Mon	15	9.30am	Maria Hilda Vaz (RIP)
Tues	16	9.30am	Chimaobi Nwadenchi Augustine (Spl int)
Wed	17	9.30am	William (Get well)
Thurs	18	9.30am	Robert Hancock (RIP)
Fri	19	6.30pm	Stations of the cross— ONLINE
		7.00pm	Mrs. Tran (RIP) - ONLINE
Sat	20	9.30am	Angela Cook, Robert Hancock (RIP)
			Benny McAndrew , Mary Ainsley (B'day)
Sun	21	9.30am	I. Fernandes (Thanksgiving)
			Josie Axworthy, Janie Patalong Anni)
		11.30am	Florinda Dias (RIP), Elvidia Galban (5th Anni)

Lectors

14/03/2021

21/03/2021

9.30am	Bakitha, Neetha (R)	Sr. Leera, Creshel (R)
11.30am	Maame, Perpetua (R)	Florence K., Georgina (R)

Please pray for the sick of the Parish: Norah Griffith, Tony Groogan, Mary Mulroney, Gerard Griffith, Maria Drabik, Kath Muldoon, Michael Clear, Maria Clear, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Jarek , Benny MacAndrew, Patsy Lesley, Gabriel Gwatorisa.

Anniversaries during the week: Rosalyn Muffitt , Margaret Ward, Micki Kijko, Patrick Flahive, Peter Doyle, Terry Fielding, Ludovic Carl Wysoeki, John J Burke, Thi Tran , Marie Murtagh , Maureen Doyle, Janie Patalong , John McHugh, Fr Eugene Mooney, OFM. Cap, Frank Keobhan, Alice Benson, Philomena Harris, Marian Christina Harte, Jane Plunkett, Mary Alice Canterbury.

Holy Week Readers Rota

Palm Sunday	9.30am	Alex & Naomi
	11.30am	Florence K. & Mary
Maundy Thursday	7.00pm	Pilomena & Kisaneth
Good Friday	9.30am	Bakitha & Anthonia Obanore
	3.00pm	Frank K. & Laetitia Wamala
Easter Vigil	7.00pm	Ashley, Florence E., Nicole & Desma
Easter Sunday	9.30am	Anthonia A., Nicholas O.
	11.30am	Perpetua & Maame

Please prepare yourself to proclaim the Word of God. Readings will be sent to you in advance.



A.J. Missions



St. Osburg



Ss. Mary & Benedict



St. Elizabeth

Parish Newsletter - 4th Sunday of Lent - 14th to 21st Mar 2021

PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS GRACE BERNARD LONGLEY 13/14th MARCH 2021

It is a great joy to greet you today as we reach the mid-point of Lent. Our journey together to Easter is well on its way and the Church wishes to raise our spirits by calling this Laetare Sunday – a day to share the happiness of our faith in Christ.

The season of Lent this year has taken on an extra significance. Our annual penitential journey is mirrored by our struggle to overcome the coronavirus. We share with the rest of the world the hopeful journey from the worries and losses and restrictions of the pandemic towards the relative freedom that restored health and the guarantee of vaccination can bring.

Looking ahead, the ceremonies of Holy Week will be simpler and shorter than usual, but it is a blessing that we can come together to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord's death and Resurrection. This represents the very core of our faith. St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians points us to what is really important: God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy. The love of God is merciful – it brings forgiveness. The cross of Christ is the most powerful instrument and symbol of God's mercy and forgiveness. This gift is needed more than ever in a world that is inclined to withhold forgiveness and the healing that it brings.

Last weekend Pope Francis was in Iraq. Last Sunday he visited Mosul and met with the Christians who are still there after so much persecution. They gathered to greet him in Church Square, surrounded by the ruins of their churches, yet joyful that the Holy Father had come as a sign of hope for the future. At the heart of his message was the Lord's gift of forgiveness

Jesus not only cleanses us of our sins, but gives us a share in his own power and wisdom. He strengthens us to resist the temptation to seek revenge, which only plunges us into a spiral of endless retaliation. It can be a struggle for us to love those who oppose our faith and reject its message but there can be no evangelisation without love.

A priest friend of mine – in another diocese - taught me an important lesson about acceptance and forgiveness. He had a particularly difficult parishioner who – for several complex reasons – found fault with everything he did. I asked the priest whether he resented this criticism but he replied: No – this parishioner has become my Guardian Angel – he stops me making mistakes and he makes me think twice.

In the remaining weeks of Lent we can try to be forgiving. We may not be able to kiss the wood of the cross this Good Friday but we can each bring a personal act of forgiveness to the crucified Lord, lifted up for our salvation, and ask to be forgiven ourselves. This coming Wednesday we celebrate the feast of St Patrick, who in the fifth-century brought the same Gospel of repentance and forgiveness to the people of Ireland. Despite having been held there in captivity as a slave for six years he didn't go back to seek revenge. Instead, in a spirit of forgiveness he went to preach the Gospel and to share the gift of faith.

Friday of this week will be an important feast day for the universal Church. We are celebrating the Year of St Joseph, proclaimed by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*. The Holy Father writes: In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him". St Joseph quietly witnessed to the power of forgiveness in the life of the Holy Family, leaving an impression that lay deep within the Sacred Heart. With such witnesses to encourage us there can be nothing to hold us back from the forgiveness of God. When we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ. May we all catch a glimpse of the joy and the new life of Easter today, lightening our burdens and lifting our hearts in thankful praise.

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

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Parish email: stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com

Website: www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk

Web cam: www.mcmedia.tv

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/EHEpr5IMocce>

Donations to the parish : <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-online>.

Parish Priest. Fr. Jimmy Lutwama, AJ

E-mail : lutwajim@yahoo.com

Parish Sisters: Srs. of St. Ann of Providence

Leena, and Leera 02477045457

Safeguarding Rep: Perpetua Sam & Asipita Iroko

Parish School: St Mary & St Benedict's, Leigh Street CV1 5HG

Tel: 02476 229486 Head teacher - Mrs Pauline McDonald

The Parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg. Charity No. 234216

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME to our Parish Church. If it is your first time here or probably you have been here before, your presence with us at this moment at our community worship is greatly appreciated. Our Parish Church is the second to be built in Coventry after the Protestant Reformation. It was built in 1893, the pews have never moved since then! Our Musical Pipe Organ was inaugurated in 1898, it was the best of its kind at the time. Our Parish has had eleven Parish priests since 1889, the present one being a Religious Missionary from the Institute of Apostles of Jesus in Uganda. Our Parish welcomes and promotes the initiatives taken by everyone for the building up and sustenance of our faith community.

Parish Development

Collection: Gift Aid : £ 124.90 SO (Feb) : £ Non-Gift Aid: 276.10 Total : £401.00

Thank you for your generous contribution during this pandemic. I'm particularly thankful to those who have set up Standing Orders with your banks which has enabled your parish church to continue receiving your support. May God Bless you.

Hall Hire: Bonus Ball: Counters : 2nd Collection Mass Attendance for the week :

Pious Devotions

Prayer for priests

Divine mercy prayers

Rosa Mystica

Parish Rosary group

Choir practice

Church cleaning:

Church Cleaning:

Confessions:By appointment only

Lenten Prayer:

Lord God, With all our hearts we beseech you: have mercy on your people; spare your people; strengthen all people in the struggle against the havoc of this pandemic. Lord our God, without you we are so weak and our courage so limited. Give us your strength; give us your love; give us wisdom and skill to continue this fight. Spare your people, O Lord we pray. Comfort those who mourn and gather into your kingdom all who have died. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, who died and rose to life, who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.

Mass Intentions

Please if you have requests for Mass for your intentions envelopes are available at the back of the church please pick one, write your intention, place it in the box provided with minimum £5 for each Mass or request by calling Tel. 07547242375. The Masses you request will be celebrated on the day or as much close to the day as possible.

MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

Easter programme 2021

In order to continue fighting the Corona Virus pandemic, there are changes to our Easter Programme which you need to observe. Some prayer services will be accessed by booking only. Unlike last year when Churches were closed, this time they will be open but physical attendance will be strictly monitored. You are encouraged to observe all the Standard Operating Procedures to control the spread of the virus. I encourage you to follow the services via You Tube Channel or through MCN Media.

28/03/2021 - Palm Sunday 9.30am/11.30am

01/04/2021 - Maundy Thursday 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Booking)

02/04/2021 - Good Friday 10.00am - Stations of the cross in the morning
3.00pm the Passion of the Lord (Booking)

03/04/2021 - Easter Vigil 7.00pm (Booking)

04/04/2021 - Easter Sunday 9.30am & 11.30am (Booking at both Masses)

11/04/2021 - Divine Mercy Sunday 3.00pm Prayers ; 4.00pm—Holy Mass

Note: Please observe those services whereby entry will be by booking only. Kindly call the office number 024 76258901 or you can send an email at stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com or give your name to the Stewards at the back of the church to book you a place. It is recommended that you give the number of persons who will be in attendance with you when you come to church. Stay Safe and thank you for your cooperation.

Annual St. Patrick's Mass : The Annual Mass in honour of St Patrick will be on Monday 15th March in Christ the King Church, at 7.00pm. You are welcome to join the celebration as Irish celebrate their patron Saints day.

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated on 11th April at St. Mary and Benedict's Church. Novena's will begin on Good Friday in preparation for this feast. On the day, prayers will begin at 3.00pm followed by Holy Mass at 4.00pm. If you intend to participate in the celebration please let us know by calling 02476258901.

Birmingham Walsingham Pilgrimage 2021 is Cancelled due to Covid 19 pandemic. The safety of all pilgrims is our primary concern, and after consultation with Archbishop Bernard, the ongoing uncertainties surrounding the continuing Covid 19 pandemic make it difficult to plan. We look forward to gathering, once more, in 2022.

Gift Aid envelopes: As the financial year coming to an end your new Gift Aid envelopes are ready to be picked up at the back of the church. Kindly remember your envelope number to reduce the congestion at the counter. *Note: only those who use the envelopes.*

Children of our school who missed the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on 30th June at 7.00pm and First Holy Communion on 10th July at 10.30am at St. Mary and Benedict's church.

Baptisms of infants: families with babies to be baptised are advised to contact the office to arrange catechetical instructions and fixing of the date for baptisms. Baptisms will be held from July onwards.

Offertory collections: put your offerings in the Basket provided at the entrance. Thank you.

Food for thought: *Paint the house of your soul with modesty and lowliness and make it splendid with the light of justice, adorn it with the beaten gold of good works, for walls and stones embellish assiduously with faith and generosity.' St. John Chrysostom.*