

MASSES—9th to 16th Jan 22

Sun	09	9.30am	Elizabeth Hancock (Spl int)
		11.30am	Florence Ekobe (Thanksgiving), Mr & Mrs. Nwaoko (2nd Wed Anni)
Mon	10	12.00noon	Dolly Harte (RIP), SSA (Thanksgiviing)
Tues	11	9.30am	Mary Delargey (RIP), Gibson (Spl int)
Wed	12	9.30am	Josephine McCrave (Spl int), Hailey DeSouza (1st B'day)
Thurs	13	9.30am	Cora Lanigan & Jane Burman (Spl int), Tony Smith (Thanksgiving) Srs. Leena & Leera (Safe journey)
Fri	14	10.00am	Requiem Mass—Michael Thornburgh-Hanbury
Sat	15	9.30am	Sr. Sybil (RIP), Kay Delaney (1st Anni) Stephnie Osagie (B'day)
Sun	16	9.30am	Emma Clear (Good health)
		11.30am	Deceased members of O'Neil family (RIP) Charles Oibe (RIP)

Lectors

09/01/2022

16/01/2022

9.30am	Cath Slater, Anthonia A. (R)	Nicholas, Anthonia O. (R)
11.30am	Altar servers (R)	Angela K., Emmanuel (R)

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

Anniversaries during the week : Michael Hogan, Jim Davis, Con O'Driscoll, Eileen Helen Teresa Coleman, Thomas Joyce, Mary Ellen Healy, Thomas Earley, Mark Brennan, Rev Fr Richard Placid Rea, Winifred Browne, Peter McCabe, Kathleen Kooghan, Isabel Carson, Thomas Shaughnessy, Margaret Cooke, Ethna Veronica Bannon, Isabel Read, Bridget Christine Barnes, Michael Edward Terence Thornburgh Hanbury, Neil Ferry, Andrew Doyle, Patrick Doyle, Daniel Lanaghan, Baby Vanessa Ferkova,

SPIRITUAL QUOTES :

"Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself and know that everything in this life has a purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences. All events are blessings given to us to learn from."

"Accept—then act. Whatever the present moment contains, accept it as if you had chosen it. This will miraculously transform your whole life."

"Everything that has a beginning has an ending. Make your peace with that and all will be well."



A.J. Missions

St. Osburg

Ss. Mary & Benedict

St. Elizabeth

Parish Newsletter—Baptism of the Lord—9th to 16th Jan 22

YOU ARE SEALED WITH THE MARK OF GOD'S OWNERSHIP

In many pastoral communities, fights can easily erupt over the ownership of an animal, a cow or a goat which goes missing could be picked up by anybody who could claim it as its rightful owner. To solve this problem, our forefathers came up with marks of ownership imbedded on the skin of the animal. By that mark the animal could be claimed by its owner.

Western tourists are found everywhere in Africa taking pictures of people who have distinctive marks on their bodies. You might have seen postcards of indigenous tribes with such distinctive marks. The marks tell the pain of the African parent caused by slave trade. When free labour was in demand for people to work on European sugar plantations in their colonies, slave hunters descended on Africa and carried human cargo from across the continent never to return. Communities were destroyed by slave hunters. Men, women and children found themselves on ships destined for Europe or to America on which not a single person spoke a word that the other could understand! For the African mother, the African father or for the African elder to identify children in case they were kidnapped, he put a metallic rod in the fire and marked their bodies, so that wherever they may be, looking at a similar mark on their body resembling that of the other, they may recognise that he is a brother.

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, a mark of ownership of God the Father of his Son the beloved. In the gospel we have heard that after Jesus had been baptised, God claimed him by throwing the heavens open, the Spirit descending on him in a form of a dove and a voice sounding from heaven "*You are my Son the Beloved, my favour rests on you.*" Jesus was publicly singled out as the Beloved Son of God.

Today we are not only celebrating the Baptism of the Lord, but we are also celebrating our own baptism. By baptism all of us were individually claimed as God's beloved children we became members of his family the Church, we were made holy by the Spirit of God who dwells in us, we became a holy nation, a royal priesthood a people set apart.

The dignity that baptism raised us to, requires that each baptised lives a life worthy of his calling. Remember the examples I started this homily with, the marks of ownership that a shepherd put on his animal, or the mark of identification that a parent imbedded in the skin of his child. In the same way, baptism has associated us with God, that we are all his children. Baptism is necessary for salvation because without it, we cannot be identified as children of God or identified as members of his family the Church. God has no favourites!

As you return home today, go and reclaim your dignity as a Christian by living a holy life. Are you married, then be loyal to each other. Are you a Catholic, be loyal to the teaching of the Church. Do you have parents, then be obedient to them. Are you employed by someone, then work diligently. In whatever you do remember that you belong to God, that Jesus Christ is the Master you serve, it is to him that you will one day give an account of your life because you are sealed with a mark of God's ownership.

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

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Parish email: stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com

Website: www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk

Web cam: www.mcnmedia.tv

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/EHEpr5IMocc>

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

Gift Aid : 292.00 SO (Dec) : £ Non-Gift Aid: 643.33 Total: £935.33

Thank you for your generous contribution May God Bless you.

2nd Collection :

Bonus Ball : No.

Mass Attendance : 297

Pious Devotions

Prayer for priests

Divine mercy prayers

Parish Rosary group

Choir practice : Fri- 7.30pm

Church cleaning:

Confessions: Saturday- 10.10-11.00am.

Baptism of the Lord

Today's Feast marks the conclusion of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. It's a feast of transition from Jesus' hidden life to that of his public ministry. It also echoes the theme of the Epiphany, since the Baptism of Jesus is another manifestation announcing his divinity.

As we prepare to begin Ordinary Time, reflect, today, upon the words of the Father at the Baptism of Jesus 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.' . Hear the Father speaking to You about the divinity of His Son. Turn your eyes to Jesus and prepare yourself to follow Him and to heed every word He speaks. He was sent into this world to draw us to the Father, allow Him to fulfill that mission in your own life.

Mass Intentions

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. It is recommended to give a donation for your intention from £5.00. You can call Tel. 07547242375.

MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

Peace Sunday: Coming Sunday 16th January we observe the 55th World Day of Peace in England & Wales the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary time. We are invited to make today a day of prayer for peace and to reflect on the theme Pope Francis has chosen for the annual World Day of Peace: '*Education, work and Dialogue between Generations: Tools for Building Lasting Peace*'. Let us pray: "Lord make me a channel of your peace".

Renewal of promises: twenty four altar servers who serve at the altar 9.30am and 11.30am Mass renew their promises to serve at the altar fervently today. Thanks to the parents for supporting them to do such a holy ministry in the Church. Please remember them in your prayers.

Week of prayer for Christian unity starts Jan 18-25, 2022: The theme is '*We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship Him.*' (Matt 2:2) . It was selected by the Middle East Council of Churches and originates from the churches in Lebanon where life is extremely difficult exasperated by Covid19 pandemic. Let us all unite in prayer to work for peace and for unity that all people may realize that we are all children of God.

Further revisions to Covid-19 testing and self isolation rules: Under the new guidance, anyone from next Tuesday (11th January) in England who receives a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result should report their result to NHS Test and Trace and must self-isolate immediately, but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test. After reporting a positive LFD test result, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced. Anyone who tests positive will be able to leave self-isolation seven days after the date of their initial positive test if they receive two negative lateral flow test results, 24 hours apart, on days six and seven.

Safeguarding vacancy is available at the Diocese of Lancaster. Hours of Work Part Time - 25 Hours per week Salary IRO £27K - (subject to qualifications and experience) Office Base Lancaster - some home working is possible. Travel Car User essential as some travel within the Diocese is required. The post holder will have a minimum of 3 years safeguarding experience and hold a professional qualification gained in social work, public protection, health or education. The post holder will be expected to promote a culture of safeguarding in the diocese through support, advice and training initiatives. Closing Date for Applications 9am Monday 17th January 2022. Interviews will be held on 24 January 2022 at The Pastoral Centre, Balmoral Road. Lancaster LA1 3BT. Application packs are available from the safeguarding office. Please email: safeguarding@lancasterrcdiocese.org.uk

Monday Club : Our parish socialising group will resume their gathering on Monday 10th January with Mass at 12.00noon.

RCIA sessions will resume on Monday 10th January at 6.00pm in the Lady's chapel. Candidates are requested to be present.

We wish Srs. Leena & Leera a safe and comfortable journey and enjoyable holiday in India. In their absence I request you parishners to come on board to give your help wherever needed. Thank you.

Pope's Prayer Intention for January: *For true human fraternity:* We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.