



Ss. Mary & Benedict RC Church, Coventry



The Parish is in the Care of the Apostles of Jesus Missionaries

Parish Newsletter— Presentation of the Lord- 2nd to 9th Feb 2025

## Consecrated Life is a Model of Christian Living

In 1997, Saint Pope John Paul II declared the feast of the Presentation of the Lord as the World Day for Consecrated Life. In our parish, the clearest sign of Consecrated Life are our two sisters: Sr. Leena Mathias and Sr. Leera Lobo, who belong to the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Anne of Providence. Of course, the priests of our parish, members of the Religious Missionary Institute of the Apostles of Jesus, are also in a similar category. This means that Consecrated Life is a daily reality in our parish, and I am happy that many do recognise it. The question is whether you see how that form of life is connected to your daily life as a Christian. This is the question I am addressing here.

What constitutes consecrated life is its nature of dedication to the Lord that sets one apart to belong to God in a unique way, so as to spend their entire life seeking to solely do what God wills of them. The key element of all forms of consecrated life are the religious vows of chastity, poverty and obedience; community life provides the appropriate setting in which that lifestyle is enhanced in daily programmes of prayer and ministry. Each congregation specialises in an aspect of Jesus's ministry such as: prayer, evangelization, healing, teaching, publishing etc, which are all geared towards promoting the Kingdom of God.

This form of consecrated life is connected with the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. This is in following an ancient Jewish tradition that has its roots in the liberation from Egypt and the Sinaitic covenant. Accordingly, every first-born male was consecrated to the Lord, as an acknowledgement of God's goodness and mercy in saving his people from their humiliating slavery in Egypt. In consecrating their first born to God, they expressed their thanks and made God's saving action present for every generation.

Members of the societies of consecrated life in the Church serve as a constant reminder of our own consecration to God in the Sacrament of Baptism in which we are set apart for God and become members of the Church, as St Peter declares: '... you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation for God's own possession that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light'. (1 Peter, 2: 9).

*Fr. Aloysius*

### MASSES— 2nd to 9th Feb 2025

Sun	02	9.30am	Tran family (Spl int), Rose Cambridge, Ada Woods (Good health)
		11.30am	Salvator Semuswi (RIP), People of the parish
Mon	03	12.00noon	Danielle Idehen (B'day)
Tues	04	9.30pm	Lucy Tanner (Spl int)
Wed	05	9.30am	Sr. Ernestine Monteiro (RIP)
Thurs	06	9.30am	Geraldine Clarkson (Spl int)
Fri	07	9.30am	Sick of the parish
Sat	08	9.30am	Patrick Tanner (Spl int)
Sun	09	9.30am	People of the parish
		11.30am	Florence Kasibante

### Lectors

	<u>02/02/2025</u>	<u>09/02/2025</u>
9.30am	Marcy, Cath Slater	Elena, Emmanuel
11.30am	Yota, Scarlet	Ekene, Sharon

### Eucharistic Ministers

	<u>02/02/2025</u>	<u>09/02/2025</u>
9.30am -	Felix	Sophie
11.30am	Lilian, Florence	Patricia, Catherine

### LET US PRAY TO THE LORD

**The sick of the Parish:** Norah Griffith, Gerard Griffith, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Bridie McAndrew, Teresa McAffer, Chinasa Okosi, John Crowford, Mr. Tran, Owen Darroch, Lucia Drabik, Mick Hogan.

**Anniversaries during the week :** Marie Macken, Teresa McSharry, Josephine Robertson, John Nash, Elizabeth Hoey, William, Antony Braganza, Peter Montague, Elizabeth Hugh, Frank & Maura Corrigan, William Mulrone, Leslie Burke, Bridget Agnes Clisham,.

**Clergy Anniversaries:** Rev. Denis Clancy, Rev. Joseph Connelly, rev. Thomas O'Carroll,

**Feasts during week:** 5th Feb.— St. Agatha, Virgin, Martyr;6th Feb—St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs.



**Prayer for World Day of Consecrated Life:** *God our Loving Father, we thank you for the life and testimony of men and women whom you have called to serve you as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, hermits and members of Secular Institutes. Help them to be more and more rooted in you by following the evangelical counsels. We pray for those of them discerning their vocation, grant them the strength to respond to your call courageously. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church**

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Parish email: [stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com](mailto:stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk](http://www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk)

Web cam: [mcn.live/camera/st-mary-and-st-benedict](http://mcn.live/camera/st-mary-and-st-benedict)

Youtube: [st mary and benedict church coventry](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1)

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

<https://donate.myдона.com/ss-mary-benedict-church>

Parish Priest: Fr. Aloysius L. Bukenya, Apostles of Jesus.

E-mail : [fr.aloysius.bukenya@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.aloysius.bukenya@rcaob.org.uk)

Assistant Parish Priest: Fr. Reginald Agapiti Tarimo, Apostles of Jesus.

E-mail : [fr.reginald.tarimo@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.reginald.tarimo@rcaob.org.uk)

Parish Sisters: Srs. of St. Ann of Providence

Leena and Leera Tel. 02477045457

Sunday School: Perpetua Sam & Emmanuella

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

Tel: 02476 229486 Head teacher - Mrs Pauline MacDonald

*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 even if 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 and 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 thirteen parish priests since 1889. Our Parish welcomes you to promote initiatives that build up and sustain our faith community.

**Parish Development**

**26/01/25: Gift Aid :£182.00 Dona: £296.00 Non-Gift Aid: £ 290.76 Total: £768.76**

SO (Dec): £ Second collection - Thank you and may God bless you all.

**2nd collections**

**Bonus Ball** : No. **Mass Attendance** : 321

**Choir practice** : Fri- 7.30pm **Church cleaning**: 7.30am

**Confessions**: Saturday- 10.10-11.00am (& by appointment)

**Pious Devotions** : Divine Mercy - Last Thursday of every month at 6pm

**Legion of Mary**: Meet every Sunday after 11.30am Mass

**SAFEGUARDING** : The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Perpetua Sam & Asipita Iroko. They can be contacted at: [sg.stmary-stbenedict.covty@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmary-stbenedict.covty@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

**CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE**: must be accompanied by an adult if they need to leave the church to use the toilets during Mass or other Church services. Also, please do not let children of this age go near the votive candle stands unaccompanied, and do not let them run around the car park. It is important that we do everything to ensure that children are safe.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**Pope's Intention for February: For Vocations to the priesthood and religious life.** Let us pray that the ecclesial community may welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

**The Jubilee Year 2025 in Our Parish**

How are we as a parish celebrating the Jubilee Year 2025?

Please submit your ideas about the best way to celebrate the Jubilee Year as a parish with its theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. One approach is to have every devotional group share with us your thoughts. You may send your ideas to the parish email or talk to our sisters and priests.

**Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage** – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 12 noon at St Chad's Cathedral - main Celebrant Bishop Richard Walker; in thanksgiving for your marriage, and ask for God's ongoing blessings. Those who are celebrating wedding anniversaries this year of the Jubilee are invited to submit their names to the parish priest before 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (to submit by 6<sup>th</sup> April).

**Experiencing Marriage Difficulty? Help is at hand.**

Retrouvaille is a Catholic ministry for marriages in difficulty. From couples whose relationships need a little help to those with more serious challenges and are thus separated or considering a divorce. The next programme is taking place in February and is running online from **Thursday 27 February to Sunday 2 March**. For more information phone or text: 07887 296983 or 07973 380443. Email: [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) Website: [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**The National Conference of Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible** - organised by the **Word on Fire UK Bible** to help you gain a deeper appreciation of the Bible and the Catholic faith with Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK. **Date**: Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd February 2025. Tickets are available. **Location**: Excel Centre, East London. **Speakers Include**: Bishop Robert Barron, N.T. Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland, Archbishop John Wilson and more. For more information and to register, please visit: [wordonfire.org/the-bible-event](http://wordonfire.org/the-bible-event).

**Father Hudson Caritas** – Parish Volunteers' meeting will have their meeting at 7pm on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February in the parish hall (side room).

**Dates for your diary:**

**Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> February**: 7pm, Parish Finance Committee Meeting.

**Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> February**, 2pm Special Mass for young people aged 15 – 35 years .

**Saturday, 22nd March**: 9.30am to 1pm.; Retreat for Eucharistic Ministers, at St Thomas More Parish.