

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 26 February 2017: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

6.30pm (Saturday)	Private intention
9.00am	Parishioners
11.00am	Rita de Carvalho
5.30pm	James Pender RIP

Monday 27 February

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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Tuesday 28 February

7.30am	Deceased Brothers
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Wednesday 1 March *Ash Wednesday*

7.30am	Michael Codd RIP
7.30pm	Rosemary Le Messurier RIP

Thursday 2 March *St Chad*

7.30am	Inacio Rebello
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Friday 3 March

7.30am	Donor's intention
7.30pm	<i>In honour of the Sacred Heart</i>

Saturday 4 March

8.00am	Julia & Netallia's intentions
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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 11.30am-12 noon; 5.30-6.25pm

Please pray for those members of our community who are sick.

Please pray, too, for those whose anniversaries occur about this time, including:
Thomas Hanton, John Brown, Denis O'Shea, O'Donnell, John Moore, James Walshe,
Norah Tobin, Thomas Jordan, Louisa Waite & Peter Thorne.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

COLLECTIONS

No Second Collection today

Last week's collection:

Offertory	£469.54	<i>Gift Aid</i>	£81.10
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SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

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Parish Priest:

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The Love of the Father and Jesus

How often Jesus told us that we have a knowing and loving Father. Have we really grasped his words—that God is our Father, truly our Father in the most real and beautiful sense of that word? God loves us, and he knows us completely, everything that we are and all that we need, far better than we know ourselves.

He came to assure us that our Father loves us, even as Jesus loves us (John 17:22). Jesus came to reveal his Father. 'You know neither me nor my Father,' he told the Pharisees. 'If you knew me, you would then know my father also... He who sent me is true, and the things I heard from him, I tell the world.'

In the love the Father and Jesus have for us, we will find life. 'For the Father loves the Son, and shows him all that he himself does. And greater works than these he will show him, for your amazement. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he chooses.'

Into this life and love, Jesus has received us: 'As the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Live on in my love.' (John 15:9)



1st Reading: Isaiah 49:14-15

Response: **In God alone is my soul at rest.**

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

Today, 26 February, is the 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A).

No second collection today.

This Week:

Church Cleaners:

This week is the turn of Group C: Margaret Madden, family, & Michael. Thank you.

Wednesday 1 March: Ash Wednesday, Day of Fasting & Abstinence

Masses at 7.30am & 7.30pm in the church, with Distribution of Ashes

On this day the faithful, by receiving *ashes*, enter openly the season appointed for spiritual purification. This sign of penance, biblical in origin, represents the human condition as affected by sin. In this sign we outwardly profess our guilt before God and, prompted by the hope that the Lord is kind, express our desire for inward conversion.

This sign also marks the beginning of the journey of conversion that will reach its goal in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the days leading to Easter.

Thursday 2 March: St Chad, Bishop. Patron of the Diocese.

Born in the seventh century, St Chad was educated at Lichfield. As a bishop he established his see at Lichfield. His reputation as a kind pastor who sought out the lost and cared for the sick spread quickly. He died at Lichfield in 672. Today his shrine is located in St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. He is the Patron of our Diocese.

Friday 3 March: Holy Rosary at 7pm

On Fridays at 7pm, the Holy Rosary is recited in the church. All are invited to attend.

Also this Friday (and each Friday in Lent): Stations of the Cross

You are invited to attend the Stations of the Cross every Friday evening during Lent **at 7.30pm** in the church.

The Stations of the Cross (sometimes known as 'The Way of the Cross') have a long history. This form of devotion began at the time of the Crusades and, in recreating Jesus' Passion and Death, was a way to bring events in the Holy Land closer to Europe. The traditional Stations have fourteen scenes from Jesus' last days on earth. Those praying the Stations of the Cross follow each station by offering a brief reflection and prayer at each scene.

Over the years the Franciscans have maintained as shrines the places in the Holy Land that mark the events of Jesus' Passion and Death.

And, after Stations of the Cross: First Friday Mass

After Stations of the Cross, at about 8pm, we celebrate the First Friday Mass to honour the Sacred Heart of Jesus, followed by prayers and anointing for healing.

Looking Ahead:

Walk with Me Lenten Booklet

Written in a simple and accessible style, this booklet provides daily scriptural readings and devotions for our Lenten journey. £1 from the back of the church.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

The next Padre Pio Prayer Group meeting is on Wednesday 8 March at 7pm in the Friary Chapel. With Mass, Rosary and prayer of intercession to Padre Pio.

Please come and join us.



Ashes

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return. OR:

Repent, and believe in the Gospel.

(from the Roman Missal: Rite of Imposition of Ashes)

These are the words that most of us will hear on Wednesday as ashes are smeared on our foreheads at the beginning of Lent. We know that these words are a profound statement of our faith: without God and his great mercy we are nothing! Dust! Mere ashes!

Ashes have long been used as signs of repentance. The Old Testament recounts their use throughout Salvation History (see Jonah 3:6 & Job 2:8). Physically, they are the burnt remains of the blessed palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday liturgy. Now they act as further reminders of the great mercy with which Christ rules, and of our repentance in the face of such mercy.

Aware of our brokenness and our need for penance, we come forward and allow ourselves to be marked with the cross, the sign of God's ultimate victory over sin, separation, and death. This is reason to hope. It is reason to rejoice at the start of this great season. For as strong as our sin is, and as strong as our brokenness is, God's mercy is stronger.

The irony of the ashes is that as loudly as we proclaim the realization of our own sinfulness, the fact that they are in the shape of Christ's cross is an even louder proclamation of our faith and hope in the mercy of the one who is our salvation.



Think about it...

When we approach the God of Mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation with sincerity and faith, we have nothing to lose and everything to gain:

Our sins are forgiven.

Our souls are restored to a state of grace.

We receive the grace of the sacrament, which strengthens us to avoid sin in the future and restores the merits of our good works if they have been lost by sin.

We receive the help to lead better lives.

Use this sacrament often and well!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is celebrated on Saturdays (11.30am-12 noon, and 5.30pm-6.25pm) in the church.

Alternatively, see a priest after Mass.