

**SAINT AUGUSTINE
OF ENGLAND
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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This Parish is part of Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered charity No. 234216



Fr Dominic Kavanagh Father Joseph Narikuzhi Deacon Kevin O'Connor

Fourth Sunday in Lent 19th March 2023

Dear Parishioners, 'Christ our Shepherd and King. Christ is descended from the line of David, a shepherd, who was anointed King by Samuel. Christ is our King who guides us with the tender service of a shepherd. With him by our side we shall want for nothing even though we walk in the valley of darkness.' (Pope Saint John Sunday Missal.)

Father Dominic writes: 'Dear Parishioners, Father Joseph, Deacon Kevin and I commend to you the request of our Archbishop in today's pastoral Letter for us to reflect as Priests and People together on the Diocesan vision. 'Try to see co-responsibly what needs to change for the good of the Church's mission within your Parish and across the wider deanery. Try to ensure that young people and families are a particular area of focus for your Parish's mission.' Copies of the Archbishop's Pastoral are available in both porches. At our recent deanery Meeting we have been asked to work more closely together with our neighbouring parishes in order to share resources and good practice. Each parish in our local deanery has been placed into a 'cluster'. This means that we will work more closely with Our Lady of the Wayside, Shirley, and St George and St Teresa's, in Dorridge. We already enjoy a good working relationship with Fr Andy and the parishioners of Our Lady of the Wayside, and we look forward to getting to know Fr John Cross and the parishioners of St George and St Teresa's. One consequence of this is that Fr John will host the Lenten Penance Service this year on the Tuesday of Holy Week, April 4th, at 7pm. We look forward to the three parishes being together for this. We will host the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on Sunday 2nd April at 3pm. Light refreshments will be served after the Service.

Please pray for Wyatt Young who is to be baptized into the family of the Church this weekend.

Your prayers are also asked for the Clergy deanery Meeting this Tuesday at Olton Friary.

Please note that we have an additional Mass this Wednesday at 7pm. **On the weekend of 25th/26th March** we have an appeal from Survive-Miva. Survive-Miva is a Catholic lay Association providing funding for essential transport for health outreach work in isolated rural areas, and for the church's pastoral care in places of difficult access. **Our Parishioners from Hong Kong** are organising a day of celebration on Sunday 26th March, between 1pm-6pm. The various activities include the opportunity to learn about the language, customs and culture of Hong Kongers. **The Friday evening Mass** on Friday 24th March will be a vigil Mass to celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation. PTO

18th March Saturday St Cyril of Jerusalem	1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41 12.30pm Lena Gallagher-Intention Kathleen Brown-RIP	Holy Hour 11am-12.00pm Confessions 11am-12.00pm
19th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41 Public and Live streamed Masses 9.00am Vera Brennan-RIP All People of the Parish 11.00am Irene Nicholson-Birthday Ian Thornley-RIP	
20th March Monday SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	2 Samuel 7:4-5,12-14,16 Romans 4:13,16-18,22 Matthew 1:16,18-21,24 Or Luke 2:41-51 Public and Live streamed Mass 10.00am Bridget Mullen-Intention Sean McDonagh-RIP	
21st March Tuesday Lent Feria	Ezekiel 47:1-9,12 John 5:1-3,5-16 Public and Live streamed Mass 9.45am Anthony Crook-RIP Andrew Howard-RIP	
22nd March Wednesday Lent Feria	Isaiah 49:8-15 John 5:17-30 Public & Live streamed Masses 11.30am Sean Ward-RIP 7.00pm Johnnie Hughes-RIP Rita Jephcot-RIP	Confessions 10.45-11.15am Lectio Divina' at 7.30pm To join in the Meeting please email Helen Brookes who will forward you the link to join the Meeting. Helen's email: ehb73@yahoo.co.uk
23rd March Thursday Lent Feria St Turibius of Mongrovejo	Exodus 32:7-14 John 5:31-47 Public and Live streamed Mass 10.00am Special Intention-Sisters of St Anthony's Parish Gerald Kelly- RIP	
24th March Friday Lent Feria	Wisdom 2:1,12-22 John 7:1-2,10,25-30 Public and Live streamed Mass 10.00am Noel & Stella Minihan. Wedding Anniversary 6.30pm -Vigil Mass of The Annunciation Brian Healy-Birthday	Holy Hour 5.15pm-6.00pm Stations of the Cross 6pm-6.15pm
25th March Saturday Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	Ezekiel 37:12-14 Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45 Public Live streamed Mass 12.30pm Deceased Members of McNamee Family Winston Perrier-RIP	Holy Hour 11am-12.00pm Confessions 11am-12.00pm
Fifth Sunday of Lent 26th March	Ezekiel 37:12-14 Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45 Public Live streamed Mass 9.00am Mary Miller-Intention All People of the Parish 11.00am Ben & Susan McKiernan-RIP Olli Haverty-RIP	

The second of our Parents' Meetings for First Holy Communion preparation will take place on Wednesday 29th March at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Free car parking has been requested for the lower level of the Dominion Car Park.

We will be welcoming Years 6 and 5 to Church this coming week for Stations of the Cross and Confession.

Please remember in your prayers those who are receiving instruction in the Catholic Faith at the present moment and who will be baptised and received into Full Communion at the Easter Vigil or during the Easter Season.

This week we have forwarded a cheque to CAFOD for £6,925:39. This includes £5,135.00 for the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey and £1,790:39 from CAFOD Family Fast Day, which is generally used for long-term development.

WALK OF WITNESS: GOOD FRIDAY 7th April join from 11am outside St Augustine's Church, please bring palm cross if possible. Finish 12.15pm at St Alphege; tea/coffee and Hot Cross buns in the Oliver Bird Hall.

Do you want to learn to pray and live the gospel? We are running the Prayer & Life Workshop at St Augustine's Parish Hall, starting Saturday March 25th 2023, from 10am-12pm for 15 consecutive weeks. It begins with a taster session so you're welcome to come to look and see. The workshop is a service to the church led by lay people devised by Fr Ignacio Larranaga, a Spanish Capuchin priest. The aim is to give a methodical approach to prayer, a new openness to scripture and a practical approach to living the Christian life. Further information is also available on the Prayer & Life workshop website. www.Prayerandlifeworkshopsuk.org

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE-application forms may be found on the Diocesan website or requested from the Presbytery.

RAFFLE PRIZES: PLEASE BRING TICKETS TO THE PREBYTERY TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

6;11;26;46;91;96;111;231;311;386;396;526;551;616;621;711;766;776.

HEAD TEACHER VACANCY- Our Lady of the Wayside School -from September 2023. Closing date 10am 27th March. Information/application pack: www.olaas.co.uk Any questions Peter Davis 07738013672

Offertory Collection for 12th March Gift Aid:£283:90 Loose £1,094:26 Total £1383:16 Second Collection last week: Cathedral Maintenance : £237:20

READERS

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday 18 th March 12.30pm T.Cund	Sunday 19 th March 9am	Sunday 19 th March 11am
Saturday 25 th Mar 12.30pm M.Green	M.Hallissey	H.Brookes
Saturday 1 st April 12.30pm T.Duffy		
Sunday 19 th March 9.00am M.Coburn	Sunday 26 th March 9am	Sunday 26 th March 11am
Sunday 19 th March 11am C.Hodrien	T.Nettikkadan	B.Ngala
Sunday 26 th March 9.00am M.Pearsall	Sunday 2 nd April 9am	Sunday 2 nd April 11am
Sunday 26 th March 11am M.Watts	J.Powers	A.Kelly
Sunday 2 nd April 9.00am C.Ramsey	Sunday 3 rd April	Sunday 3 rd April
Sunday 2 nd April 11am H.Cettler	EASTER ROTA	EASTER ROTA

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Roberto Cordora	Kevin Fahy	Sandy Simia	Adam Cole	Esther Brasil	Anne Deary
Trevor Windle	Danny Meadows	John Doyle	Kevin McDaid	Sue Hodrien	Don Deneny
Patricia Mann	Paul Mann	Cornelius Callanan	John Kavanagh	Damian Poole	John White
Kathryn Farmer	Sandra Evans	Gillian Jones	Catherine Walton	Harry Conlon	Eileen Nolan
James Brown	John McCarthy	Kath Reidy	Mary Johnson	Savio Baretto	Eileen Keaton
Christopher Edmund Poole		for protection and peace in the Mbag Family		Eve	Roger Cox
Nicole Plummer	Pat Brogan	Thelma Cole	Molly Saunders	Roger Cox	Mike Sassano
Rosemary Knowles					

SEVEN LAST WORDS' Reflection 4

'My God, my God why have you deserted me?' (Mark 15:33-4)

'My God, my God why have you deserted me?' 'There is no tidy, rational way to explain suffering.' We all suffer. At times we experience pain, fear, moments of despair. God may seem far away, our prayers unheard, unanswered. God does not give us an answer to the mystery of suffering, but he gives us 'a way to find the answer... it is the cross that will reveal it, but it has to be a personal discovery. We cannot begin to see pattern and purpose unless we have known the cross and blindly let Jesus lead us from despair into hope.'

'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?' these words spoken from the cross reveal 'the depth of sadness, the anguish of the soul of Christ, forsaken, forgotten even by God himself.' 'How he who was God could experience such pain, know such abandonment, such emptiness, we do not know. We can only ponder upon the fact in silent prayer.' But when we ourselves experience pain, emptiness, abandonment 'then we are surely one with him. His darkest moment, and ours, is one darkness.' He knows, He understands. He is with us in our suffering. 'Into that darkness comes his light, not ours, but given to us to be our peace.'

Prayer

Dear Father God, when all is darkness, emptiness too. Help me to abandon my heart to you, even when I see no point in doing so. May this be my gift to you, a precious gift, to the Father who seeks above all my trust. Then Lord, my emptiness is filled, inner wounds healed, and peace achieved. Amen.

At times of suffering and darkness 'we can do no more than just look at the crucifix – but we can do no better, for then it will give up its 'secret.' It will speak to us – in our misery – of hope and of encouragement.'

This reflection is with reference to, and with quotations from Chapter 4, of 'Seven Last Words' by Cardinal Basil Hume. The prayer is an adaptation of verses 4 & 5 of the Cardinals poem.

A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER FOR ALL MOTHERS

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of mothers. May these bearers of life also be bearers of your Word. May they teach and train up their children in the way they should go, so when they are old they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6). Even when the children are already grown, help mothers to sow the seeds that will bear the Fruit of Your Spirit. Just as a mother's work is never done, and her prayers for her children will never end. A piece of her heart is always with them

Please pray for: Patrick Joseph Ryan (Requiem Monday 27th March 9.45am; Reception, Sunday 26th March 5pm) Mrs Joan Fitzpatrick who died recently. Also, Ellen Shinton, Alexander Anthony Clark, Alice Crow, Margaret Baker, Frank Edward Davenport, Gerard Jerome McBrien, Scott MacLean, Anne(Nancy) Flynn, Lily Sage, Josef Guixe, Bernadette (Brandy) Julia Lawrence, MaryGwendoline Robinson, Anne Bridget McTernan and all with anniversaries at this time.

Safe Guarding Representatives are:
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