

Holy Family RC Church Coventry



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 Priest in Residence (Retired) Fr Bernard Anwyl

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 Safeguarding Rep: Grainne Griffiths
 Youth Group: Kien Kirk

Registered as a Charity. Birmingham RC Diocese No: 234216

6TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	13th Feb	5 00pm		Nicholas & Christina Boyle RIP Bridget McTigue Fred Forbes & Delia Forbes R.I.P Muir Pollock
Sunday	14th Feb	10 00 am		Nancy Cairns RIP
Monday	15th Feb	9 00 am	Webcam Only	Philip Duffy RIP
Tuesday	16th Feb	9 15 am		Bridie Raffell RIP
Wednesday	17th Feb	9 15 am	Ash Wednesday	Sp Int
Thursday	18th Feb	9 15 am		Roy Williams RIP
Friday	19th Feb	8.00 am	Holy Hour	
Friday	19th Feb	9 15 am		Winifred (Win) Kavanagh 34th A RIP
Saturday	20th Feb	5 00pm		Fr Savres RIP Priestly A Joseph Corcoran RIP
Sunday	21st Feb	10 00 am		Francis Hegarty RIP

The parish webcam <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/coventry-holy-family>

The provision for the Masses in the parish will include 1 webcam only Mass during this week. *Mass is celebrated during this pandemic in a way that we promote safety as a priority; stewards, sanitising, distancing, avoiding groups from different household socialising. Holy Communion is given at the end of Mass and then we are asked to quietly leave and not to mingle outside, but to head off home. For some who are vulnerable watching on the webcam is the option to take.*

Please pray for those who have died recently, in the parish:

Mabel Campbell-Kerr, Funeral 23rd Feb Mary O'Doherty, Funeral 24th Feb, Gail Atkins, Funeral 26th Feb Margaret Vaughan, Funeral 4th March Ursula Pearson, Funeral 22nd Feb Liam O'Donnell, and Fr Giles Goward, a priest of the archdiocese. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord... Funerals are limited to 30 people and are family attendance only.

The Empty Tomb: Three Days Later! During Lent we are asked to concentrate on preparing spiritually for Easter. Last year we were unable to celebrate fully the ceremonies of Holy Week, it was a jolt to the system. It was very strange, Easter in an empty church. It reminded me of the empty tomb and the reality of Jesus' death. The pandemic has kept us in the tomb in a way. The enforced isolation, the lack of freedom to relate to each other as we have done, the fear, the illness, loneliness, death too, has contributed to the feeling of the empty tomb. This lent we are less restricted, we can at least gather for Mass and yet the empty tomb looms large in our lives. We are to remind ourselves during lent that three days later Jesus rose from the dead and joy flooded forth to the world. When the pandemic passes there will be an outpouring of joy and we are to anticipate this joy during lent. Pray with expectant hope! Repent with the anticipation of God's mercy filling us! Fast with an enthusiasm that our sacrifice is worth while! Give generously of your time to God, to others, to faith, to prayer, to loving. We still are asked to pray, to repent, to fast and to give this lent as in all other lent's, this time that empty tomb image drives us forwards to realise that three days later Jesus rose from death and our lives are changed forever!

First Reading

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46
 The Law regarding leprosy is given to Moses and Aaron.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32:1-2,5,11
 A prayer of contrition and confession for sin.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1
 Paul urges the Corinthians to imitate him as he imitates Christ.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:40-45
 Jesus cures a person with leprosy, who reports his cure to everyone.

Fr Bernard has his own email
anwylb2@btinternet.com

This Year is designated the year of St Joseph, by Pope Francis and a new statue of St Joseph has been donated by some of our parishioners and will be arriving from Italy. (delayed at port by Brexit regulations at present!)

Is God's power limited? Rabbi Harold Kushner wrote a best-selling book, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. He wrote this book after watching his young son, Aaron, suffer from one of the most heart-wrenching conditions which a human being can confront. The boy had *progeria*, a disease in which the aging process is bizarrely speeded up. Kushner was told that Aaron would never have any hair or grow over three feet tall. At six years of age he would have the skin and bone structure of an old man. Harold Kushner watched his son shrivel up, grow weak, and finally die, all before his fifteenth birthday. Can you imagine anything more horrible? In his book, Kushner said he grew to accept God's love, but question God's power. We believe God loves us, yet we still hurt; so the only possible alternative is that God's power is limited. This side of Heaven, we will never know the answer to why, but we can know the loving care of our Heavenly Father. Rev. Richard Exley says we can do one of two things with our suffering: we can make it into a shrine or we can turn it into a sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15). When we allow our heartaches to control our lives or harden our hearts, then we are making a shrine to our suffering. But when we turn our heartaches over to God and continue to trust Him, we are turning our heartache into a sacrifice of praise. [Richard Exley. *Strength for the Storm* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999),

Ash Wednesday ---February 17, 2021



"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Joel 2:12

Ash Wednesday plunges us into the season of Lent by immediately calling for repentance, sackcloth and ashes. Indeed, these sacred and simple tokens remind us how far we are from God while simultaneously showing us a way home. The prophet Joel speaks to us, "Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning" (Joel 2:12). The idea of repentance, of taking on more in these days where we are so weary, can feel particularly crushing and alienating.

However, consider the special relationship, the covenant, forged between God and an unassuming man who would become Abraham. It was truly unique for its day. Typically, a covenant between a lesser and greater power put the bulk of the restrictions and consequences on the lesser power. The greater power or ruler would offer protection in exchange for trade rights, a share of the harvest or outright payment. Should the lesser power fail to hold up their end of the bargain, they would suffer dire consequences – abandonment or death. However, if the greater power was unable to fulfill the agreement, there would be no consequences. It was a relationship of trust, but ultimately, a result of a power imbalance. God flips this concept of covenant on Abram.

God calls Abram to prepare for a standard covenant ceremony. Several animals are brought as offerings and split in half, their blood covering the ground. As the lesser party, Abram is expected to walk in between the split halves to seal the covenant. It was a particularly gruesome reminder of what would happen if he or his descendants failed to uphold their end of the bargain. Yet, once the offerings are laid out, God appears as fire, a light in the darkness. It is God, not Abram, who moves between the broken animals as the one responsible for the fulfillment of the covenant. This dramatic scene tells Abram and his future descendants that should they break the covenant, it is God's responsibility to fulfill the terms. God is on the hook for the fulfillment of the covenant's terms.

Harkening back to the foundations of the earliest relationship between God and the people to whom God chose to be revealed, Joel reminds us that it is God who will fulfill the terms of the covenant. We must only show up and be ready to work together. No matter how dark it is, how far we have drifted or how much we have sinned; God will not destroy or abandon us. This is our solace in Lent. We must simply return to God.

Before making the covenant, God knows that we will fail, that we will break our end of the bargain time and time again. But in God's mercy and justice, God takes the place of the responsible party. As we begin this Lent, we cry out to God to remind God of the relationship forged with Abraham, Sara and their descendants. We beg God for mercy and ask to remember God's promises to us. We look for a way back to the faithfulness of God and journey with Jesus, whose love and sacrifice remind us that God is with us even in the darkness and that there is a light to release us from that darkness.

Walk With me booklets. We have had our usual order, which does not reflect the smaller numbers coming to Mass during the Covid-19 pandemic. So please do take a copy and if you know someone who would benefit from one take one and post through their letterbox. **Collections:** £622.25 Thank you. **100 Club :** Draw takes place during this week

The parish will eventually come out of the pandemic. I will be taking a census so we can get the parish data base up to date with names and addresses of parishioners. How we recover from the pandemic will involve much co operation, support and work, to build up the fabric of parish life. Asking how can I help, is better than pointing out what is lacking..