



Metropolitan Cathedral & Basilica of St Chad

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Chaplains to Birmingham Children's Hospital Fr. Gerry Lennon and Sister Florence Njoku

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Kath White - Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: 0121 230 6288

Sister Margaret Walsh - Trustee (St. Chad's Sanctuary Mon / Wed / Fri. 10.30am-3.00pm)

Abigail Martin – St. Chad's Sanctuary Project Manager Tel: 0121 233 3127

First Sunday of Lent

'Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments'

26th February 2023

Divine Office: Psalter Week 1;

Weekday Readings Cycle 1

Entrance Antiphon When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Responsorial Psalm Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Communion Antiphon: One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.



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Newsletter available online – <http://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/newsletter>
You can read our privacy policy at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

We are pleased to inform you all Masses at the Cathedral will be live streamed. Please visit our website for details. All Ceremonies are open to the public, unless otherwise stated. Please check the Cathedral website homepage for changes and most up to date notices. SOME COVID CONDITIONS REMAIN.

Mass Times: 25th February – 5th March 2023

Sat 25 Vigil First Sunday of Lent (A)
4.30pm Giuseppe Scafetta & Family

Sun 26 First Sunday of Lent (A)
‘Day of prayer for candidates of Sacraments’
9.30am Billy & Una Delahunty RIP
11.30am People of the Parish
3.00pm Diocesan Rite of Election (Service, Not Mass)

Mon 27 Lent Feria
12.15pm Angelina Thuraisingham RIP (Anniv.)

Tue 28 Lent Feria
12.15pm Kathleen Storan RIP

Wed 1 Feast of St David
12.15pm Intentions of Fr. Dominic Cosslett

Thurs 2 Patronal Feast of St Chad
12.15pm Mass (All Welcome)
Celebrant – Archbishop Bernard Longley
1.15pm Monthly Organ Recital
6.00pm St Chad’s Primary School Confirmations
Celebrant - Bishop David Evans

Friday 3 Lent Feria
12.15pm Denis Wallace RIP
1.15pm Stations of the Cross

Sat 4 Vigil of Second Sunday of Lent (A)
4.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 5 Second Sunday of Lent (A)
‘Day of prayer for candidates of Sacraments’
9.30am Jimmy Freeman RIP
Followed by Meet & Greet
11.30am Christy Egan

The God Who Speaks – Next Sunday’s Readings:

Genesis 12:1 - 4; Psalm 32;

2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

www.godwhospeaks.uk

Supporting your Cathedral: It couldn’t be simpler. Just point your smartphone camera at the code below, wherever you are, and it will take you to a giving page. Please remember us in your will.



St Paul’s Bookshop: Please note that as the Bookshop will be open on Sunday 26th for the Rite of Election, it will be open on Sunday morning also **instead** of next Sunday. Why not browse for some spiritual reading for yourself or a friend for this holy season of Lent?

First Sunday of the Month Meet & Greet: The next Meet & Greet will be on, Sunday 5th March 2023 in the Grimshaw Room, where there will be tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass. Please ask our stewards the way to the Grimshaw Room. The bookshop will **not** open on that day.

Holy Father’s Prayer Intention for March:

For Parishes – For Victims of Abuse We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Cathedral Prayers Lists

Recently Deceased: Colonel Patrick O’Connell, John Minister, William Chew, Canon Garry Byrne, Fr Anthony DeVere, Deacon Joe Patterson, Jane Nethercott, Roy Kendrick and victims of the earthquakes in Turkey & Syria

Those who are ill: Lankesh Ratnajothy, Belarmino Antao, Peter Waldron, Jane Goodyear, Frances Crockett, Ray Norris, Harpal, Baby George, Finn, Baby Alice, Chris Saint, Joan Socci, Marie Chatten, and our parishioners, family and friends who are sick at home or in hospital.

For those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Bishop Kevin Dunn. Frs.: George Brewster, George Tarrant, William Driver, John Flynn, Douglas Carter, John Pinkman & Robert White. Also: Angelina Thuraisingham, Marhna Donaghey, Paul Brown, Irene Ashford, Jim Conroy, Lily O’Connor, Patrick Kensan Chiang, Dylan Booth, and Winifred Rondo.

A Weekend Celebration of Faith and Culture at St Chad’s Cathedral – SAVE THE DATE – Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th June 2023.

Our Cathedral Parish is a gathering, week by week, of many nationalities and Catholic cultures. As well as parishioners who have been part of the Cathedral for many years, we now welcome so many students and young adults seeking a spiritual home. Now seems a good time to celebrate that. This will be a weekend to develop a new culture of welcome; in music and food, tours of the Cathedral and developing a community. We look forward to welcoming the participation of as many parishioners as possible. More details to follow.

The Sign of Peace – this gesture before Holy Communion changed during the pandemic, but now it is clear that we must re-consider it. It seems unreasonable for members of the same household who have travelled to Mass together to bow to each other rather than shake hands.

But please be mindful that some people are still nervous about handshaking, so be sensitive to that. The priest or deacon will announce ‘Let us offer each other the sign of peace’ and you can interpret that as a bow or a handshake as is appropriate. The sign of peace is not essential to the Mass, but it a gesture that recognises our being at peace with one another before we approach the altar of God.

Second Collection – Next weekend there will be a second collection for Cathedral Maintenance.

Please don’t leave your belongings unattended.

Feeding your Faith (RCIA)

We continue a series of talks on the Catholic Faith again with our friends in the neighbouring parish of St Catherine's, Bristol Street.

Thursday evenings at 7pm in the side chapel there. Now is the time to consider the steps of faith that might be for you. Please see Fr Tim.

Children who are not at Catholic schools and who would like Sacramental Preparation.

Please speak to Fr Tim or email your request.

If you want to feed your faith in a time of your choosing, look at the website sycamore.fm

Responding to Archbishop Bernard's vision for the Archdiocese - Diocesan Vision, Unfolding God's Plan Birmingham Diocesan Trust (birminghamdiocese.org.uk).

Diocesan Vision Prayer –

Spirit of God,

descend on me this day.

Grant me the Spirit of joy, to lift me,

the Spirit of hope to inspire me,

the Spirit of love to surround me and

the Spirit of truth to enlighten my path.

Holy Spirit,

I pray for a new outpouring of your grace,

so that I may grow in worship of your name

in love of you in my prayer

and in my actions towards others.

Come Holy Spirit into my life to guide me.

Strengthen and defend me,

so that I may be drawn ever closer to you.

Help me this day and always

to be a channel of grace

in all I say and do

and invite others into relationship with you.

Amen

Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer – This promises to be an important year for this project and you are asked to support it together with Christians around our country and beyond.

How can you support it?

- 1) Financially – see website below
- 2) By Prayer
- 3) By sending in real answers to prayer that you have experienced in your life.

www.thewall.org.uk.

Are you new to our Cathedral Parish? If so, please stop and say hello to the priest at the end of Mass. Fr Tim, the parish priest, is assisted by visiting priests. We look forward to welcoming you and involving you in the life of our parish. We welcome your offers of support for parish activities and fundraising ideas.

The CCTV System operates 24 hours a day. This is in place for the safety of people, protection of property and crime prevention. Inquiries: 0121 230 6216 / 0121 230 6211



St Chad's Sanctuary – our parish charity.

www.stchadssanctuary.com. The work of St Chad's Sanctuary continues and the demands on its services is greater than ever. **Could you volunteer to do a weekly turn at the Sanctuary? If you have time, let us know.**

There is a current DESPERATE PLEA for men's clothing: comfy, warm items in small and medium sizes.

Maybe a time to look for clothes that take up wardrobe space for you and which you do not plan to wear.

Let us also pray amid an increasingly hostile rhetoric at national level that we may give dignity to all people.

SVP – Society of St Vincent de Paul -

The work of the SVP in the life of the Church is good, ordinary people, being the face of Christ to those most in need. We have a wonderful group of volunteers who meet monthly to address these needs.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to the work, we would welcome any donations.

If you know of anybody who is in need of help, please let Fr Tim know and the SVP will do what it can to help.

Tabor House / Tabor Living – For the past 5 years, there has been an all-year-round homelessness project in Birmingham City Centre which has been supported by Fr Hudson's Care and by some generous local businesses and willing volunteers.

From its origins as a night shelter, Covid times made it home day and night. That requires a lot of volunteers doing a weekly shift (usually 6pm to 9pm on a weekday or a few hours on a Saturday or Sunday). The project is soon to relocate to St Catherine's Church, Bristol Street, Birmingham and there is currently a recruitment drive for new volunteers. If you would like to become a volunteer, please speak to Fr Tim.

Visit the website at www.taborliving.co.uk

Sacred Heart Church, Aston – on the **last Friday of each month** there is Mass at 7pm followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Scripture Sharing. This is a joint initiative between the parish, Sehion Ministries (Keralan Catholic community) and the Kenelm Youth Trust, inviting young adults especially.

85 Prestbury Road, Aston, B6 6EG.

Birmingham Irish Heritage Group – meets on the first Monday of each month at the Sacred Heart Club, Grange Road, Aston from 7pm to 9pm. All welcome.

There is parking at the Sacred Heart Club. Sacred Heart Church is on the No.7 Bus Route from Birmingham.

Lourdes 2023 pilgrimage - Saturday 27 May to Friday 2 June. Pilgrimage Bookings now open. Please see notice board for further details or contact Kath White 0121 230 6288 (office hours 9am – 5pm Monday – Friday) or via email admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk

Please switch off mobile phones when in Church.

An Induction Loop System is provided. Please switch your hearing aid to the 'T' position.

Cathedral Flowers - We are now taking floral tribute requests for 2023. Please see the list at the back of the Cathedral. If you wish to have a floral tribute in remembrance of a loved one or for a special intention, please complete the booking form at the back of the Cathedral and hand over your donations to a member of staff or at Cathedral House Reception. **This year**, as with everything, the cost of flowers will be increasing and we expect this to be £140 - £150. To help with covering the cost, we have made a couple of changes. The Cathedral needs floral decoration on special event weeks and not necessarily all year. The dates can be found on the sponsorship form at the back of the Cathedral. In addition, now three sponsors can contribute to a week's cost. Your kind sponsorship will be noted in the weekly newsletter – Thank you!

Mass Intentions - Requests for a Mass intention can now be made online or via the QR code displayed next to the Dona digital 'Tap & Go' devices at the back of the Cathedral. There is now an option to add a name for the Mass intention.

Monthly Organ Recitals: For details of the 2023 series which continues on **Thursday 2nd March 2023** at 1:15pm please see the website www.thursdaylive.org. Or visit the YouTube Channel for Thursday Live.

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages – Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about Retrouvaille or to register for the next programme commencing with a face to face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 – 26 February 2023 or a Virtual weekend on 6 – 9 July 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

The Holy Season of Lent: The holy season of 6 weeks has begun. Please take the *Walk With Me* booklets and calendars home. Maybe share them with friends. Now is a good time to embrace the season and to be ready to see new opportunities for Prayer, Fasting and Works of Charity (Almsgiving). The Church refers to Lent as a season of grace, a season of joyful return to the Lord. Consider the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent.

The next stage of the Synod Process: The beginning of February 2023 has seen another development in the ongoing and unfolding Synod Process in the Church. If you remember, it began with Pope Francis asking that the whole Church be given a voice – in every person, parish, community and institution: the widest possible consultation of the People of God. It was very clear that when people were asked to give their view, they were pleased to be asked, and acknowledged that if the Church is to be represented, then its voice must be more than the 'usual suspects' of the priests and bishops. But Catholics are sometimes not so forthcoming because they are unsure in speaking about their faith. So there were parish meetings feeding into what became a Diocesan Response to the original Synod questions. Then every Diocesan response fed into a National Response. And now we have begun what is known as the Continental Stage. So, a meeting has taken place in Prague with representatives of all of the European languages – think of how many different languages are represented there. And together, people discern the will of God, the wisdom of the Spirit, and the importance of unity.

Digital 'Tap and go' devices - Your donations are very important to us and the upkeep of our Cathedral. If you are considering other forms of giving, you could use alternatives: **QR code** – available on this newsletter, or at the back of the Cathedral and on the Cathedral website; **Standing order** – For regular giving. Forms available at the back of the Cathedral or you can set up via your online banking service. **Gift Aid Envelopes** – available on request. Contact the parish Treasurer on pt.stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk or one of the Cathedral stewards. **Cash** – Collection bags are now back in use during and after Masses.

The normal programme for Masses is:

Monday to Friday **12.15pm**

Saturday **4.30pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday) – Confessions after Mass**

Sunday **9.30am & 11.30am**

The Cathedral will be open on weekdays from 9.30am and close at 3.30pm (Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available from 11.30am – 12noon.)

Confessions are now being heard once again in the Confessionals.

The Cathedral will be open at 11.00am and close after the Mass at 4.30pm on Saturdays and open at 9.00am and close after the Mass at 11.30am on Sundays.

Holy Communion – Due to the prevailing risk, the norm for receiving communion remains on the hand. For those who wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please come to the Altar as the end of the congregational procession has received Communion, as the Minister of Holy Communion will need to sanitise his/her hands after every person receiving on the tongue.