

OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

566 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 4AY

Tel: 0121 744 1967

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Priest: *Fr. Gerardo Fabrizio*

Parish Deacon: *Rev. Sean Loone*

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Charity No. 234216

Email: waysideparishoffice@gmail.com

Web: ourladyofthewaysidechurchshirley.co.uk

11th March 2018

FOURTH 'LAETARE' SUNDAY OF LENT- YEAR B

My dear brothers and sisters,

Today's readings address a fundamental question: How are we saved? How do we obtain eternal life? If there's a bigger question, I don't know what it is. Lots of people think you get to heaven by doing good deeds, by helping others. Those things matter but they are not the bottom line. It may surprise you that good deeds do not provide the key to eternal life. If good deeds aren't the key, what is? St. Paul tells us: "By grace you have been saved through faith." To make it crystal clear he adds, "This is not from you; it is a gift from God so no one may boast." That's reason why to rejoice today. The rose vestments worn today are the colour for joy.

We can see that reason for joy in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Our justification (salvation) comes from the grace of God. Grace is favour, the free and undeserved help that God gives us..." (#1996). If that's the case does it mean we sit back and wait for God to act? Not exactly. Grace implies a response. After stating that our salvation - our justification - is a free gift Paul writes that we are "created in Christ Jesus for the good works God has prepared in advance." We should, he says, "live" in those good works. And what precisely are the good works? In today's Gospel Jesus gives the most important work: to believe. Five times the Gospel uses the word "believe." Belief in this context is not so much intellectual, like $2+2=4$. First and foremost belief means trust. Jesus invites you to believe, to say to him, "I trust in you." Try to find a time today or this week when you can reflect on your life and no matter what difficulties you face, say "Jesus I trust in you." "God so loved the world," we hear, "that he sent his only Son that whoever believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

(Vigil Mass) Sunday 11 th March	5.30pm	Olive Mary Dunn R.I.P	
	9.00am	Elaine Miller R.I.P	
	11.00am	Sue Buxton	
Monday 12 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 13 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Rita Cushley
Wednesday 14 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Bridget Kelly R.I.P
Thursday 15 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Padraig Nolan
Friday 16 th	7.00pm 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross Joseph Oswell R.I.P	
Saturday 17 th	9.00am	In Thanksgiving	Confessions: 11.00am-11.30am

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

(Vigil Mass) Sunday 18 th March	5.30pm	People of the Parish
	9.00am	Derek Pass R.I.P
	11.00am	Reginald Smith R.I.P

MOTHERS' DAY: A very happy Mothers' Day to our mums here in the parish.

ST MARY'S EDUCATIONAL TRUST: During the months of November and December 2017, Joseph Meehan visited St Mary's Trust in India, in which he was able to spend time with the children of the boarding home and school. Joseph has kindly agreed to speak to the parish next weekend about his experience in India and there will be an opportunity also to learn more about the work of the Trust and the sponsorship programme that the Trust relies upon. We also welcome Mrs Bonita Rennie to the parish who is a Trustee of St Mary's and will happily supply information to parishioners who may wish to sponsor a child. There are parishioners who do this already and it would be great if more sponsors could come forward to support a child.

FAIRTRADE COFFEE MORNING: Many thanks to everyone who made cakes, bought and ate them on Sunday with coffee. The total raised for the Father O'Mahony Trust was £150 - fantastic considering the weather conditions. Thank you for your support.

UPDATE ON ROOFING WORKS AND GLAZING WORKS AT OLV CHURCH: The installation of the main roof glazing over the Altar will commence on Monday 5th March, the installation programme is two weeks, and the slats and final areas of decoration shall be completed upon completion of the roof light. At which time, on the w/c 19th the scaffolding shall be moved from the front elevation to the rear to allow final decoration and guttering works to be completed. The glazing to the lower roof lights shall also be completed during the w/c 5th March, this includes the flashings around the spire and the sacristy and also the curved (flat) glazing units. It will take the contractor around three days to dismantle the platform within the church and then to clean the area. This means that it will be very close to the Easter period. If all goes to plan, we can achieve Easter, however, as we are all aware we need to prepare for any unforeseen issues and delays which may unfortunately take us into Easter with the scaffolding still inside the church.

ST CHAD'S SANCTUARY: The Sanctuary urgently needs large plastic carrier bags for people seeking asylum and newly settled refugees to carry their clothes home, so if you have any stored away in cupboards that are larger than the normal supermarket size, please bring them in to church and we will ensure they are delivered quickly to those in need. Other items currently in short supply are day-size (rather than large camping size) backpacks, suitcases with wheels and prams/pushchairs suitable for newborn babies. Due to ongoing reorganisation of storage spaces and stock at the Sanctuary no other items are needed at present, thank you. Please contact Helena on 07708 328183 with any queries.

FIRST RECONCILIATION: Please pray for the children of the school and parish who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation over the next two Saturdays.

EASTER CARD CAMPAIGN: There are two lists (different colours) of Prisoners of Conscience and Human Rights Groups who need your help to give them hope and friendship. Please take a list or lists and help as many as you can. The cost of postage is listed.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: There will be Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings in Lent at 7.00pm. Please do come along to this wonderful meditation.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION DURING LENT: There will be a series of Scripture Reflections on the Sunday readings throughout Lent which will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Everyone welcome.

1988 ST. PETER'S SCHOOL REUNION: Did you leave or know anyone who left St. Peter's in 1988? We are planning a reunion on 16th June 2018 at 7.30pm, Knowle British Legion, 1611 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull, B93 9LF. Please get in touch to let us know if you are interested in attending. Tel. Maria Lewis 07980 758338 or Matthew Sparling 07450 533478.

FRIDAY CLUB: The next meeting will be on **Friday 23rd March** (a week earlier than usual as the following Friday is Good Friday). Do try and support. Bring along any books or cd's you wish to end or share.

OLW LADIES NIGHT: Gossip and friendship, Saturday, April 28th 7.30pm-10.30pm OLOW School. Tickets £5 to include entrance and a glass of bubbly with glass charm. Tickets on sale after half term. Shops for crafts, Craven and White jewellery, personalised gifts. Donations for a nearly new dress and smart sale. Shoes, bags, mini mommies and little men rails too. Bring your old chick books and go home with new. Licenced bar and Indian food.

PIETY STALL: Cards and some gifts are available now for Mothers' Day, St Patrick's Day and Easter. To come – Holy Communion followed by Confirmation.

COLLECTION: 4th March 2018. Gift Aid: £276.40; Loose: £387.35; Standing Order: £625.00. **TOTAL: £1288.75**

Father O'Mahony Trust: £76.40.

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TODAY'S MASS:

First Reading: Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23. The wrath and mercy of God are revealed in the exile and in the release of his people.

Responsorial Psalm 136: 1-6. **R: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!**

Second Reading: St. Paul to the Ephesians 2: 4-10. You who were dead through your sins have been saved through grace.

Gospel Acclamation: **R: Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

The Gospel according to John. 3: 14-21. God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

Dismissal of the Children

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them, I am there with them, I am there. (sing twice)

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