

OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

566 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 4AY

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A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Priest: Fr. Gerardo Fabrizio

Parish Deacon: Rev. Sean Loone

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31st March 2019

FOURTH 'LAETARE' SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

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My dear brothers and sisters,

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another. The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean—observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law—before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree.

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

FOURTH 'LAETARE' SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

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| (Vigil Mass) Sunday 31 st March | 5.30pm | William Looney R.I.P | |
| | 9.00am | People of the Parish | |
| | 11.00am | Jim Higgins R.I.P | |
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| Monday 1 st April | 9.15am 6.00pm | (8.55am Morning Prayer) Vigil for Peter Barnett R.I.P | Eucharistic Service |
| Tuesday 2 nd | 12.00pm | Requiem Mass for Peter Barnett R.I.P | |
| Wednesday 3 rd | 9.15am | (8.55am Morning Prayer) | Mary Bradley R.I.P |
| Thursday 4 th | 9.15am | (8.55am Morning Prayer) | Liam Duffy R.I.P |
| Friday 5 th | 7.00pm 7.30pm | Stations of the Cross Hannah Nolan R.I.P | |
| Saturday 6 th | 9.00am | Helen Whitehead + Exposition | Confessions: 11.00am -11.30am |

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

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| (Vigil Mass) Sunday 7 th April | 5.30pm | Patrick Forkin |
| | 9.00am | Rosa Iuliano R.I.P |
| | 11.00am | People of the Parish |

IN MEMORIAM: Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter Barnett R.I.P and William Looney R.I.P who died recently. May they rest in peace.

MOTHERS' DAY: A very Happy Mothering Sunday to all our mums in the parish. May the day be filled with happiness and joy.

PETER BARNETT R.I.P: Arrangements have now been made regarding Peter Barnett's funeral. A vigil of reception will take place on Monday 1st April at 6pm. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Tuesday 2nd April at 12.00pm**. This will be followed with a committal at Robin Hood Crematorium at 1.30pm. It will be lovely to see as many parishioners as possible for Peter's funeral. Following the Requiem, there will be refreshments served in the Scout Hut. We would be most grateful, if parishioners could provide a plate of food for people to share. There are lists at the back of the church indicating the types of food, sandwiches, cakes etc. that can be brought in on the day. Thank you for your support.

FIRST AID: We have a new First Aid kit in Church, kept at the back underneath the balcony. To help us all, there will be a short 10 minute meeting following this weekend's Masses, for all health-care professionals who would be willing to help in a medical emergency. We will also discuss the usefulness of getting an external Automated Defibrillator for the site. If you would like to offer your help or opinion but cannot make any of the meetings, please email the office.

FUNDRAISING FOR AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR: Our Lady of the Wayside School are raising funds for a defibrillator to be stored on site, probably on the back wall of the Church. This will be for all users of the hall, Church, scout hut as well as for the school itself (it will be able to be used on children as well as adults). The estimated cost will be about £1,350 (plus VAT if the school needs to pay). The school are doing most of the fundraising and are up to about £800. If you would like to make a donation, please contact the parish office (we can claim gift aid for you) or simply send it to either us or the school.

SOLIHULL WELCOME: During Lent, we are encouraged to be generous with almsgiving towards the poor. Solihull Welcome would be grateful if parishioners would kindly donate the following items, which can be left at the back of church. Any tinned vegetables & fruit, dried pasta & rice, tinned tuna & vegetable oil. Also washing powder- which can be decanted into smaller amounts! Thank you.

PENANCE SERVICE: This will be held here in church on **Tuesday 16th April at 7.00pm**. We welcome parishioners from St Augustine's Church in Solihull and priests from the Deanery who will be assisting with confessions that evening. Everyone welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday evening in Lent at 7.00pm. Please do come along to this wonderful meditation.

JUSTICE & PEACE: There will be a meeting of the Group on **Tuesday, 2nd April at 7.45pm** in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

EASTER GREETING CAMPAIGN: There are 2 lists, in different colours, of Prisoners of Conscience, who are in desperately in need of your help, to give them hope and encouragement and to let them know that someone cares and that they are not forgotten. Do send to as many as you can, remembering that Our Lord was once a PoC.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES:- Boxes of envelopes for the new tax year are ready for collection this weekend from the car park exit. If your circumstances have changed in the last year (home address or no longer paying tax), let us know so that we can update the records. If you wish to start making offertories using the envelope scheme, or wish to change to standing order or have any questions- Ian, Rex or Michael will be on hand to help you.

GARDEN DESIGN HELP: Over Easter the school access pathway will be replaced. Also, at the same time, will be the drains underneath, the removal of most of the trees (whose roots damage and block the drains) and a new fence erected along the KwikFit boundary. We then intend to plant shrubs etc. (no trees!) on the border between the path and fence. Can anyone offer help in planning/deciding what to plant? If so, please contact the parish office.

WEB SITE VOLUNTEER NEEDED: to look after and develop the parish website. If interested please email the parish office.

COLLECTION: 24th March 2019. Gift Aid: £311.40. Loose: £462.68. Standing Order: £601.00. TOTAL: £1,375.08.
Father O'Mahony Trust: £92.48.

TODAY'S MASS:

First Reading: Joshua 5: 9-12. The People of God keep the Passover on their entry into the promised land.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading: St. Paul to the Corinthians 5: 17-21. God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.' **Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!**

The Gospel according to Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32. Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

Communion Antiphon: You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

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. (repeat)
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