

Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Mass Time Sunday 9.30am.

3rd December 2017 – First Sunday of Advent – Year B

“ Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come ”

Pope’s Prayer Intention: “That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.”

Father Frank: *The Gospel today encourages us to “stay awake” - not to allow ourselves to become complacent in our Christian lives. Advent is a penitential season when the Church invites us to prepare for the many ways in which Our Lord Jesus Christ comes to us. We can be assisted in remaining vigilant through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, that’s why these disciplines are recommended in this season. Like the “doorkeeper” in Mark’s Gospel, Christians have to remain ever watchful and be attentive to what the Lord wants to reveal to us in all the circumstances of our everyday lives.*

Saints and Feast Days of the Week: St John Damascene (4th), St Birinus (5th), St Nicholas (6th), St Ambrose (7th), Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8th), St John Diego (9th).

Talks and Discussions on the Faith continue on **Tuesday (5th)** after the 6.30pm Mass

Advent and Christmas Meditations. (6th) You are invited to share in these **Wednesday evening** meditations which will focus on the last things heralded by the coming of Christ at the end of time. In the Eucharist we have a foretaste of the future gathering of all things in unity in Christ. Why not use the Wednesdays of Advent and Christmastide to reflect on the mystery of our crucified, risen and ascended Lord who comes to us in the most holy Sacrament of the Altar? This will also help us to “stay awake” and be more watchful and aware of the ways in which Our Lord comes to us always and everywhere in the sacrament of each present moment. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, meditations and silent prayer will take place after the 7.00pm Wednesday Mass and will finish with Benediction at 8.00pm. All welcome.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is usually offered on the last Thursday evening of every month - it has been moved this month to the **Thursday morning of 7th December**. All those who are challenged by their suffering in body, mind or spirit are welcome to receive this sacrament of Christ’s healing. This is a practice which dates back to the earliest Church and is encouraged in scripture, where it is written: ‘Are there any who are sick among you? Let them send for the priests of the Church, and let the priests pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick persons, and if they have committed any sins, their sins will be forgiven them’ (The Letter of James 5: 14-15).

Congratulations! Sara, Simon and Sophia are so pleased to announce that Phoebe Catharine Maria was born 30th November at 2.10pm, weighing 8lb 3ozs. Father Frank and Sandra are delighted to have another grandchild.

Collection 26th November: Loose plate £63.80, Envelopes £73.00, Standing Orders £370.00, Total **£506.80**. The collection for Catholic Youth Service raised £96.10. Today there will be a retiring collection for Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre. Next Sunday there will be a Second Collection for Poor Parishes of the Diocese.

Walk with Me booklets available at the back of church to help us to reflect and pray through Advent in preparation for Christmas. A donation of £1.00 is suggested to defray the cost.

Get – together. This **Wednesday, 6th December**. We meet at 10.30am in BRG car park for onward visit to Melbicks Garden Centre.

Christmas Goodies Sale. After mass today. Including mince pies, pickled onions, mincemeat, chutneys, small Christmas cakes and gifts. Proceeds for Parish funds.

HCPT: Christmas Cards and Advent Calendars are on sale until **24th December**. All proceeds will go towards the expenses of Group 83.

Migrants Day. An Appeal on behalf of the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre www.covrefugee.org.

Asylum seekers, looking to obtain refugee status, need the Centre, a mix of paid staff and volunteers, to help them negotiate the many forms and demands confronting them.

They may need financial support to attend immigration interviews in London or Liverpool, signposting to food banks or receiving help in getting a hot meal, when their £36.95/week for food and personal needs doesn't quite stretch.

Immigration and Asylum Law support is available along with Men's and Women's Groups and help in learning English to support their integration. Being alone in a foreign land can test the most resilient.

Some, who have endured things we cannot imagine, may need specialist help. Those already here who have met verbal and physical abuse, or are at risk, may also need support from the Safeguarding Unit. Having achieved refugee status, together with migrants from other countries, they may need help in finding work or accommodation – the Work and Wellbeing Group and the Housing Group are there for them.

No matter what their need, the Centre tries to help them. The Centre is heavily dependent on donations from people like you; please be as generous as you can – thank you. **Ian Lester.**

Advent Parish Giving Tree. The tree is now up at the back of church. The gifts we collect will be given to those who are struggling this Christmas either through illness or difficult social situations. Many of the children's gifts will be distributed via "Hudsons care" Birmingham. Please take one or more tags and leave your present with the tag under the tree on or before **17th December**. Many thanks to the children from the Children's Liturgy Group who decorated the tags for the children .

Carol Service – Sunday, 17th December. at 6pm. It is always followed by refreshments including mince pies. If you are able and willing to contribute. please put your name on the paper at the back of the church today.

Raffle Tickets. Available at the back of the Church today. The tickets are £1.00 each or £5.00 for a book. There are great prizes. Please collect your tickets today and sell as many as you can. The stubs and money can be returned each week after Mass. Please return any unsold tickets in order that they might be sold - Time is short for us to make a success of this - hopefully this will serve to concentrate our efforts. Thank you for your efforts.

Church Maintenance. We are looking for some help to clear the gutters on the church on **Saturday 9th December at 10-00 am** for about an hour, ready for the Gardner to clear the leaves the following week. If you can spare an hour it would be very much appreciated. Please contact **Joe Martin**.

Balsall Parish Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Plan is currently underway and during the month of November every household in Balsall Parish and Balsall Common received a Household Questionnaire which we were encouraged to complete and return. The questionnaire seeks ideas and opinions on a variety of issues within the Balsall Parish and Balsall Common area. Their ideas and opinions will create the Balsall Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan, a planning policy document which will state which community facilities should be developed, upgraded or enhanced from 2019 to 2033. If you have not completed the questionnaire, the deadline having been extended, you are invited to complete the document within the next couple of days.

Your prayers are asked for those who are sick and their carers: Monica Pillow, Lily Mae Carr, Mary Keane, Consuelo Ramon, Denise Hamilton, Sister Maria Goretti, Joseph Lockington, Brian Kenny, Canon Peter Taylor, Kevin Lambert, John Aitken, Helen Hopkins, Heather O'Connell, Vincent Webb, Dave & Ian, Teresa Petropoulos, Ian Gibbs, Frances Carroll, Sarah & Martin Dunne, Cat Patton-Kennedy, Father Pat Sayles, Jonathan Ridler, Sister Teresa Moore, Mary Murray, Andy Rudd, Marjorie Lee, Anne Santos, Louis Loughran, Linda Hatton, Leonardo Byrne, Lucy Knifton, Jim Slattery, Bernard Hammond, Terry Fairbrother, Katya O'Donnell .

Anniversaries: Teresa Arikat, Peter Carroll, James & Daisy Cone, Baby Dixon, Bernard Freyne, Frederick Garnham, Denis Moroney, John White,

This Week's Liturgy and Rota Arrangements

Date & Time:	3 rd December	10 th December
Day:	First Sunday of Advent	First Sunday of Advent
Celebrant:	Father Frank	Father Frank
Intention:	Martin Dunne	Mary Slattery RIP
Altar Servers:	tba	tba
Wardens:	John Perry Maria Pulley & Kathy Jones	Chris Burleigh Christine Horner & Christina Plater
Readers:	Raymond Ritchie & Ellie Clarke	Chris Burleigh & Andrew Chesshire-Ramon
Eucharistic Ministers:	Carol Beck Monica Green & Madeleine Peat	Maureen Carroll Joe Martin & Eileen Selby
Counting:	Ian & Fran Lester	Alan & Jane Devoy
Tea & Coffee:	Claire & Charles Keane	Chris Lynn & Mary Sharp
Cleaning:	Chris & Margaret Burleigh	Christina Plater & Nuala Fulham
Flowers:	Advent Wreath Sue McGovern	Advent Wreath Sue McGovern
Children's Liturgy:	Jane Devoy & Monica Green	Celine Burley & Kathryn Driffield
Music:	Instrumental Group	Instrumental Group

This week's services

Date:	Tuesday 5 th December	Wednesday 6 th December	Thursday, 7 th December
Time:	6.30pm Mass Followed by Talks & Discussions on the faith	7.00pm Mass Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Meditations & Benediction at 8.00 pm	10.00am Mass With Anointing of the Sick
Intention:	Those preparing for Confirmation	Michelle Shortall	Sara Stevens
Friday, 8 th December Mass at 10.00am Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Peter Carroll RIP			

Parish Room: MUST be booked with Louise Perry – Tel 01676 533357.

Contributions for the Bulletin: Please send items to Godfrey Chesshire at godfreycheshire@btinternet.com or call on 01676 532352 by 7.00pm on Wednesday.

Priest: *Revd Father Frank Smith* Tel: 07512 100908 Email: frankj.smith55@yahoo.co.uk

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity No. 234216. Parish website: www.brgparish.org.uk
Warwick Catholic Deanery Website www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk