

## *Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church, Balsall Common*

### **12<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

*“When Jesus had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened.”*

**The Pope’s Prayer Intention:** Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

**Fr Frank:** *Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and we leave behind the touching scene of the crib. Jesus has moved from the helpless infant of Bethlehem to a grown man who takes upon himself a tremendous burden and responsibility. The burden is the weight of the sins of humankind. The responsibility is to make reparation for those sins.*

**Response to the Psalm:** The Lord will bless his people with peace.

**Confession:** 5.15-5.45pm Saturday at St Francis Church, Baddesley Clinton, or by arrangement.

**Last week’s Collection:** Loose plate/Envelopes £TBC, Standing Orders £374, Total £TBC.

**Weekday masses:** Weekday Masses will resume this week on Wednesday at St Francis. There will be no Mass at BRG on Tuesday as Fr Frank will be taking his post-Christmas break. Please see the Deanery website for weekday Masses in the area (a link to the Deanery website is at the end of this newsletter).

**Choir:** Choir practice after mass starts again today. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please speak to Ian Clarke – no previous choir experience is necessary.

**Newsletter:** Please note that David Green will be compiling the weekly bulletin, starting this week. Please send items to him at [david.monica@btopenworld.com](mailto:david.monica@btopenworld.com). If anyone is interested in joining the rota for producing the bulletin, please contact David Green or Ellie Clarke.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** This week of prayer begins this Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. At the heart of our reflections for this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is the question posed by Jesus to Martha: ‘Do you believe this?’ (John 11:26). Please visit [www.cbcew.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/) for resources and prayers.

**Churches Together Service for Christian Unity:** A service of prayer for Christian Unity is to be held at St Mary the Virgin Church, Temple Balsall on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm**. All are welcome.

**Sunday Mass Books:** We are now using the new translations of the Lectionary. The Parish has purchased 100 new Mass books (parts 1 and 2) at a cost of £1000 for this year. In total there is a set of six books that we will purchase over the next three years. If you want to contribute to the cost by dedicating two books in memory of a loved one, or as a gift from a family, we suggest a donation of £10. Please complete one of the forms given out at Mass and hand to the wardens with a cash, a cheque or pay by bank transfer.

**Parish Office:** Sara’s normal parish office hours (Wednesdays 10.30am – 2.30pm) will resume from Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** Every year, hundreds of pilgrims from across the Archdiocese of Birmingham join together for the Lourdes Pilgrimage. 2025 is the Year of Jubilee and Archbishop Bernard invites you to come with us on this very special occasion in the life of the Archdiocese: “It’s a great experience to be together with upwards of 700 fellow pilgrims.” The pilgrimage dates have been announced: **Saturday 24 – Friday 30 May 2025**, and you can now express your interest in a place or get more information by visiting [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes).

**Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock and County Mayo:** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

**Anniversaries this week:** Edward Sheehan, Eileen Innes, Angela Belford, Jack Brookes.

**Your prayers are asked for those who are sick and their carers:** Maggie Ellis, Maureen Carroll and Joan McLean.

If you would like someone to be named on our list of those who are sick, please contact David Green ([david.monica@btopenworld.com](mailto:david.monica@btopenworld.com)) or complete the online form (under Parish Life) on our web site.

**Notices for the Bulletin:** Please **email** all notices for the bulletin to **David Green** by **7.00 pm on Thursday** at [david.monica@btopenworld.com](mailto:david.monica@btopenworld.com) .

### **This Weeks Rota Arrangements for Mass at BRG**

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b> <b>Day:</b> <b>Celebrant:</b> <b>Intention:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> January 9.30am <b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> January 9.30am <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Fr. Frank
<b>Wardens:</b>	Eileen Selby & Elizabeth Power	Pat & Dave Thomas
<b>Readers:</b>	Anisha Mattias	Mary Sharp
<b>Tea &amp; Coffee:</b>	Chris Mitchell & Selby family	Cheshire family
<b>Flowers:</b>	Louise Perry	Ann Parker
<b>Counting:</b>	Monica Green & Liz Selby	Anisha & Cherise Mattias
<b>Music:</b>	Björn Stinner	Björn Stinner
<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Christina Plater & Nuala Fulham	Claire & Charles Keane
<b>Altar Linen:</b>	Nuala Fulham	Nuala Fulham
<b>Children's Liturgy:</b>	TBC	TBC

*The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Monica Green. They can be contacted at: [sg.brg.balsallcommon@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.brg.balsallcommon@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.*

**Priest: Revd. Father Frank Smith. Tel: 07512 100908**

**Email: [fr.frank.smith@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.frank.smith@rcaob.org.uk)**

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity No. 234216.

**Parish website: [www.brgparish.org.uk](http://www.brgparish.org.uk)**

Banbury & Warwick Catholic Deanery website: [www.banburyandwarwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk](http://www.banburyandwarwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk)