



Parish Life Christmas 2010 to Easter 2011

The pictures above are moments from the life of our Parish over the last few months.

Blessed Robert Grissold Roman Catholic Church

Meeting House Lane, Balsall Common

Priest in Charge: Father Soji Olikkal, 4B Oxhayes Close, Balsall Common CV7 7PS Tel: 01676 532794

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Sunday Mass is celebrated at 9.30am, Weekday Mass on Tuesdays at 7.30pm and first Friday of each month at 9.15am. Mass on Holydays is at 7.30pm. Fr Soji hears confessions from 8.30am to 9.00am every Sunday.

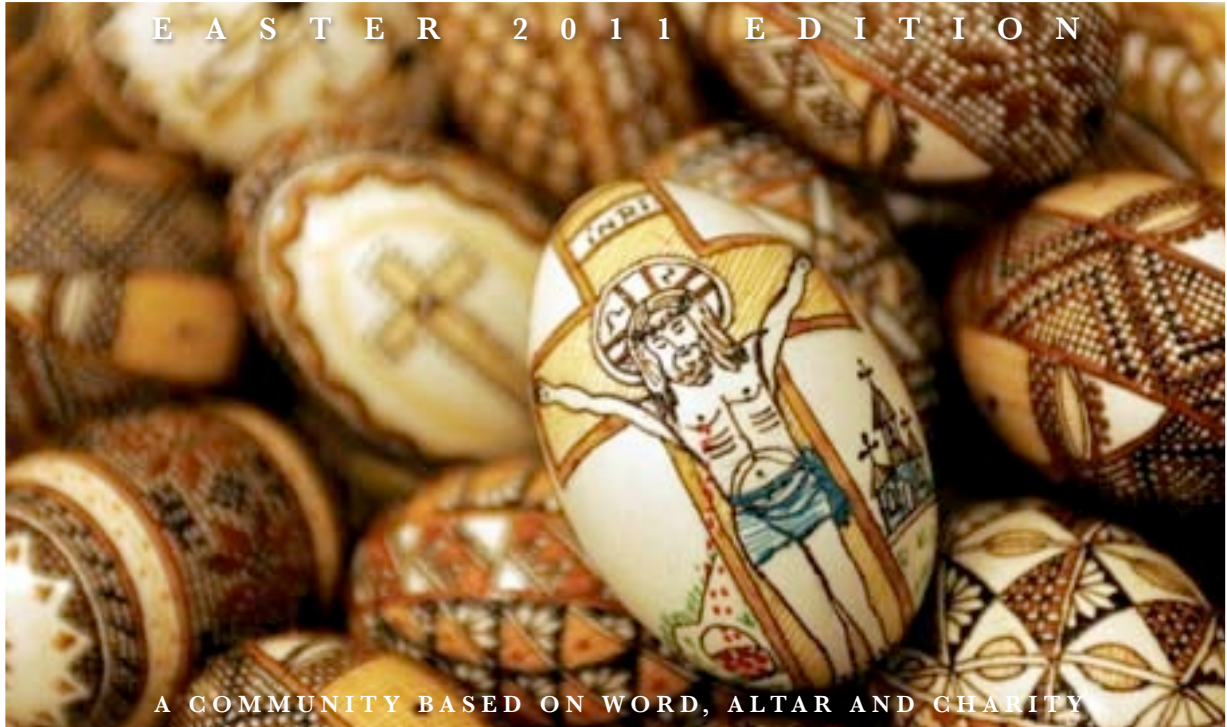
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Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church

E A S T E R 2 0 1 1 E D I T I O N



A COMMUNITY BASED ON WORD, ALTAR AND CHARITY

✠ Father Soji Writes ✠

Each newsletter, our priest, Father Soji writes a message to our parishioners, friends and visitors to our parish.



This Easter I am reminded of the writings of St Augustine. St. Augustine once said “we are the people of resurrection”. This means that, when we place the Risen Christ at the centre of our lives, we will become his own people and we will call him “Lord” just like the Early Christians did. Jesus is everywhere around us because he defeated death; He is omnipresent and we remember this every Easter.

In order to become the people of resurrection we have to sanctify Jesus as the Lord of our lives. We must do what the Bible says in 1

Peter 3,15: “Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts”. If we offer our hearts to the Lord he will guide us and keep us but it’s important that we listen to his message. In the book of Revelation it says “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.”

God created us in his own image and as we are created in his likeness, this means we have freedom. Let us use that freedom to open our hearts to

the Lord. Let the Lord come in and rule our hearts and our families this Easter. Through this, we can find true peace. Whenever Jesus appeared to his disciples he offered his peace and when we sanctify Jesus as Christ in our own lives he will fill us with his peace; a peace that is possible only because Jesus will be alive in us. May I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Fr. Soji Olikkal



Easter Prayer

*Lord, You have arisen forever in my heart!
May the sunrise remind me to shine in Your light.
May the caress of a gentle breeze remind me of Your compassion.
May the fragrance of a flower remind me to blossom in Your love.
May the singing of birds bring a song of joy to my lips.
And in the closing of each day may I remember to quietly pray.
Wherever I am, whatever I do may my thoughts in joy return to You!*

LENT HOUSE MASSES



This year, we have repeated the very successful Lenten house masses each Tuesday during Lent. These masses have been very well attended providing the opportunity to celebrate Mass together and socialize afterwards. Out thanks go to all those who graciously offered up their houses for Mass this lent: Louise and John Perry, Natalie Kelly, Nuala Fulham, Gemma and Julian Kuzminski and Teresa & Dominic Green.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

During January, we were pleased to offer adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every day from 10.30am until 5pm. This was well attended by both our own parishioners and members of the Keralan community in the UK. We were also pleased to begin a Lent of Adoration where there would be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continuously throughout Lent. This event was led by the Jesus Youth and adoration began at our church on 9th March inaugurated by the Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham. Adoration continued for a week in our church before moving on to another church.

TAIZE SERVICE

An evening Taizé service was held in church on the First Sunday of Lent, following the form of worship that is characteristic of the ecumenical Christian community in Taizé. Taizé is a small village in eastern France. For over 50 years, it has been the home of a Christian monastic community made up of brothers from many different

countries, speaking many different languages and, uniquely, belonging to several different Christian denominations. Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, Orthodox and others live and pray together, share a simple life and welcome the tens of thousands of visitors who come to spend time with them every year from all over the world.

The community has developed a unique style of meditative singing which focuses on the repetitive chanting of short phrases from the Bible and other Christian texts in a range of languages. Taizé is often associated with a unique style of meditative singing which focuses on the repetitive chanting of short phrases based on Scripture. These songs, along with Bible readings, prayer and periods of silent reflection made up the simple service.

The stillness and simplicity of the service was appreciated by those who attended, and was a fitting start to our Lenten observances. We hope to hold further Taizé services during the year.

Ellie Clarke

CAKE SALE FOR KERALA

In January, Isobel and Aidan Cawley and their family visited the parish to tell us of a trip they had made to Kerala last year and the work being done there by three charities. By selling cakes after Mass, through other donations and money given instead of Christmas presents, they raised a total of £600 for these charities. This was taken back to Kerala by Father Sebastian Arikat when he returned there after Christmas.

BACON BUTTIE SUNDAY

On Sunday 6th March, the parish was treated to a 'Bacon Buttie Breakfast', after Mass, courtesy of the men of the parish. The event raised £78.52 for church funds and thanks are due to Terry Biles and the men of the parish who did the cooking!

PARISH DINNER

The Annual Parish Dinner was held on Saturday March 19th when over 60 Parishioners sat down to a three course meal, where the wine and conversation flowed and all enjoyed a very pleasant evening. There followed lively entertainment by the house band "Killer Quorn" with selection of music by Queen. A wonderful night was had by all, and, with the support of our sponsors, we raised the sum of £1160 towards parish funds.

We would like to thank every one who supported the Parish Dinner. A special thanks to all who donated food, those who entertained us, and



finally to those members of the parish who sponsored the event. Thank you again for your support.

Pam Martin

HCPT - GROUP 83

Group 83 are (just about) ready to set off to Lourdes, though it only seems like 5 minutes since I was giving you an update on the group at Christmas!

On 7th April, Maureen held another very successful coffee evening and on 9th April we had a last day together as a whole group before we set off. We spent the day making T shirts for our party and made the most of the glorious weather with some games outside (or sunbathing for those with less energy!). Hopefully the weather will be just like that in when we get to Lourdes!

On 23rd April, 16 of us will be making the journey to Lourdes with group 83, leaving Blessed Robert Grissold at about 5am! We will continue to remember the parish of Blessed Robert Grissold in our

prayers while we are away. Thank you all for your continued support. We wish you all a happy and blessed Easter.

Ann-Marie Hopper

MILLENNIUM PROJECT



We have had one Breakfast so far this year which raised £167.21, a further £32.79 was added from donations which gave us £200 to send to Fr Ed in Lima.

On Sunday 13th March we were delighted to welcome Fr Ed to our Parish when he celebrated Mass for us. He gave us an update on the progress of his projects in San Benito where he and his workers are helping the poor people.

‘The nutrition project now has the backing of the Health Ministry and provides a nutritionist four days a week instead of twice a month! The network of mothers and kindergarten teachers are able to detect and monitor cases of malnutrition and those at risk of it, is functioning well as are the workshops demonstrating the use of nutritional food. The biggest gain to the community has been the formation of the township health committee which provides communication with the local hospital. The prevention of family violence project has developed networks to raise awareness about family violence and cases are now being referred to local and government agencies for their support.’

The money we send from our Breakfasts, donations and small change from our Bottle is going to help all these projects to improve the quality of life for the people and

especially the children of the poorest townships in Lima.

Our next Breakfast (no. 44) will be on Sunday 22nd MayEveryone is welcome so please make a note of this in your diary.

Sue McGovern

FUTURE PARISH EVENTS

We have several events planned for the remainder of this year to raise badly needed funds for our church. There will be a cake sale on 12th June. This is always popular with the members of the parish bringing (and buying!) all sorts of different cakes. In September, we are intending to hold an Indian curry night with authentic Indian cuisine and entertainment. Finally in October, there will be the annual Parish Quiz night. This very popular event is often hotly contested by a number of teams from both within and outside the parish.

More details will be available nearer to the time in our weekly newsletter and on the parish website.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

This term, youth group have been fundraising for a table tennis table. Thanks to everyone’s hard work and the generosity of the parish we have raised nearly £150. To achieve this, we have held a lottery, cake sale and a Mother’s day card sale. Also this term, we enjoyed a youth group Taize worship session, and a visit to the pantomime, Alice in Wonderland.

Ruth Keane

OLDER PARISHIONERS’ GET TOGETHER

Our older parishioners meet monthly on the first Wednesday of each month at 11am for coffee, cakes and a chat. An outing is planned for this Summer - watch out for details in our weekly newsletter. Come along to the next meeting and bring a friend!

Judith and Bysshe Gibbs

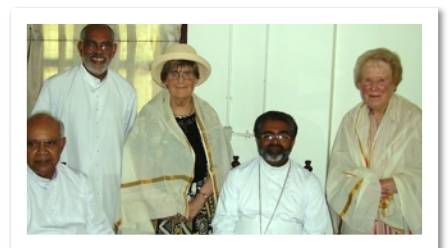
A VISIT TO KERALA

In February, Maureen and her friend Noreen spent two happy weeks touring Kerala. “It was a wonderful experience,” said Maureen, “With the help of Father Sebastian, we became very familiar with the Keralan way of life which is very different from ours. During our visit, we stayed with a family and visited many churches including St. Thomas' Shrine and St. Alphonsa's Shrine (St. Alphonsa is the first Keralan to be canonized).

We were invited to many homes for meals, including Father Sebastian's present bishop and Father's family. We visited a flower garden, a spice garden, tea plantations in Munnar, an elephant compound and many towns and villages including Kochi and Trivandrum, the capital.

We spent a day on a house boat in the back waters, paddled in the Arabian Sea, travelled on a train and had many rides in a "Tuk-Tuk"- the local taxis.

We met Father Sebastian's great nephew, Father Sijo, who visited our parish during August 2007. He took us to a residential home for children with Aids. Our final two days were spent at a retreat centre where we were able to unwind and prepare for our journey home. We arrived



back in England exhausted (having lived out of our suitcases for two weeks), but happy and feeling that it had all been worthwhile.

We found the Keralan people very hospitable and always ready to please. They are all very loyal and very committed to their faith. Noreen and I are extremely grateful to Father Sebastian for all his help”.