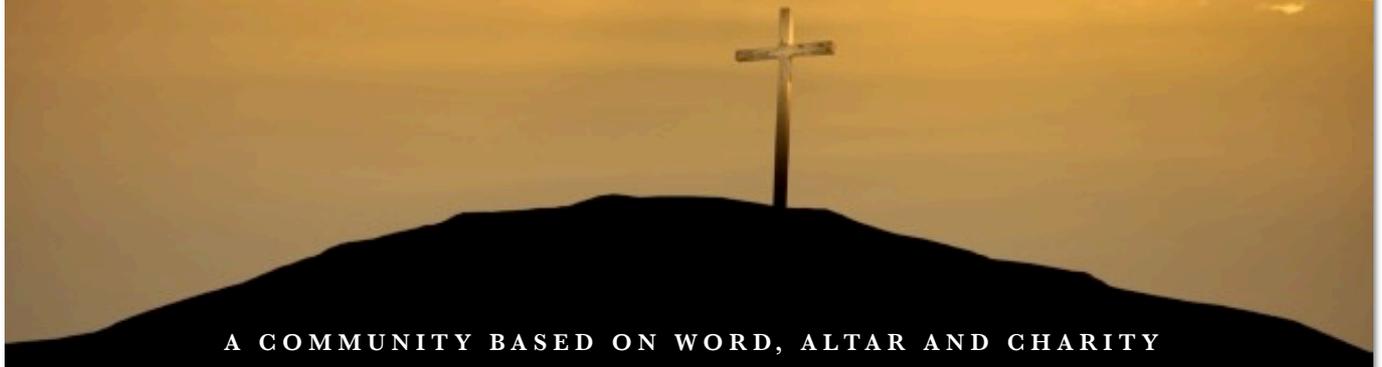


Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church

E A S T E R 2 0 1 2 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.



The tomb where Jesus lay was sealed with a huge stone and the Roman guards guarded it with their life. That sealed the hopes and dreams of the disciples of Jesus who mourned the loss of their Master and friend. In their grief and agony, the apostles did not remember or understand the promise Jesus made to them that, in order for the dawn of new life to begin, the night of His death and suffering must come. Jesus had told his disciples, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and He must be killed, and on the third day be raised to life" (Luke 9:22).

The third day sealed the power of darkness and Jesus rose from the

dead in all glory and power, and the stone tomb became the womb of the new creation. The apostles had an encounter with their resurrected Lord on many occasions and they were filled with the new power of the Holy Spirit; so much that they returned to Jerusalem with great joy and were continually in the temple, blessing God (Luke 24:53).

Dear friends, sometimes in our lives we are faced with loneliness, dejection, disappointments, and discouragements. Just like the apostles, we may fail to understand the power of our Lord and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In such times, we are encouraged to believe that the same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will give us a grace filled and renewed life in our difficult situations.

All we need to do is, surrender ourselves to Jesus and let Him

transform our lives. For His power to work in our lives, we need to renounce our sins, and in faith, receive Him as our Saviour. Without a belief in the resurrection there can be no personal salvation. "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved" (Romans. 10:9).

This Easter, let us ask Jesus to fill us with a new anointing – to die to ourselves and the world, and live as new creation in Him. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). His grace is more than sufficient to triumph over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

May our Lord Jesus fill our families with joy and peace and enable us to lead a life pleasing to Him.

Lovingly, 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!*

PARISH VISITATION

On 18 March, Mothering Sunday, we welcomed Bishop William Kenny to our church to celebrate our Sunday mass and meet parishioners.

Ours was the final church he visited as part of his Visitation of the Warwick Deanery over the last few months. Bishop Kenny pointed out that a Visitation, in which a Bishop visits every parish in a deanery to celebrate mass and talk to parishioners, should not be regarded as "an ecclesiastical OFSTED inspection", but should be welcomed as an opportunity for parishioners to share their views and concerns, and for the church to ensure that the needs of each parish are being served.

After mass Bishop Kenny joined parishioners for coffee and some delicious home-made cakes. A number of parishioners attended the special mass to conclude the Deanery Visitation, which was held at St Francis of Assisi church in Kenilworth on 29th March.

TAIZE SERVICE

An evening Taizé service was held in church on the Fifth 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 which, 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 our simple service.

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

Ellie Clarke

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Please pray for Alex, Daniel and Jacob, who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time in June.

The boys have been attending weekly classes since January, and will make their first communions during our normal Sunday mass on 17 June. The parish community looks forward to sharing this special occasion with them and their families.

Ellie Clarke

CONFIRMATIONS

Five young people from our parish will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 29 April during mass.

The sacrament will be conferred on them by Bishop William Kenny, during our Sunday mass.



As part of their journey, the young people and their families attended a penitential service on 21st March.

Please remember Theo, Natalie, Matthew, Tom and Liam in your prayers as they make their final preparations for this important step in their Christian live.

Ellie Clarke

HCPT - GROUP 83

As I write this update for Group 83, we are all very busy with the final preparations for our week on Lourdes! This year we are a very small (only 11!) but perfectly formed group.

Maureen's coffee evening at the beginning of March was another great success, raising very much appreciated funds for the group.

We have just had our final meeting together before we go, where we made some prayer bracelets, shared lunch and spent some time playing games and enjoying the wonderful sunshine.



While in Lourdes this year, we have planned a day at the beach, so hopefully we will take some of that sunshine with us! We are all very much looking forward to our week on pilgrimage now.

Once again, may I wish you all a happy and holy Easter and thank you for your continued generosity. Group 83 will continue to remember you all in Lourdes.

Ann-Marie Hopper

MILLENNIUM PROJECT

This year we have had only one Breakfast so far. However thanks to our generous Parishioners we raised £120. A further £45 was counted from the Bottle making a total of £165. This will have a spending power of £825 in Peru and is an encouraging start to our fundraising in 2012.

The next Breakfast will be our 48th and we may reach our 50th by the end of the year! Our thanks go to everyone for your support and generosity in this Project, Fr. Ed is always very thankful for our help in improving life for the poor people in Peru.

Sue McGovern

FUTURE PARISH EVENTS

There are several events planned for the remainder of this year to put into your diary. On the 29th April, Bishop William Kenny will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on five young people from our parish.

There will be a cake sale on 13th May. This is always popular with the members of the parish bringing (and buying!) all sorts of different cakes.

On the 9th June, there will be a parish supper with entertainment provided by a well known celebrity! This will be followed on the 17th June by the celebration of First Holy Communion for three of our parish children.

Finally in October, we intend to hold our Parish Quiz Night. This is always an fun (and hotly contested!) event enjoyed by all who attend.

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

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

During Lent, the parish youth group has run a stall in the Parish room after mass selling and publicising Fairtrade. So far, we have raised £56.66 and with the money we raise we are intending to

buy more Fairtrade stock to sell at out stall. We also hope to encourage people to think more about Fairtrade in their everyday life.

Everyone in the Youth Group thinks that Fairtrade is a great idea as it means that people in poorer countries get a better deal for what they do. This is why we hope to convince people that Blessed Robert Grissold Church should become a Fairtrade parish. Becoming a Fairtrade parish is not difficult; it means that we will have to use Fairtrade tea, coffee, biscuits, sugar, fruit and other Fairtrade products within the church and promote Fairtrade whenever possible throughout the year. That's it!

Becoming a Fairtrade parish is really simple yet it will be so effective to those in poorer countries. Please support us.

Hannah Clarke

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

ALPHA UPDATE

A reminder that Autumn 2012 will see the first Alpha Course held at Blessed Robert Grissold.

The Alpha course is a practical and accessible overview of the Christian faith. It is a low-pressure, fun and informative course where participants can relax, share thoughts and explore the meaning of life. The course is suitable for all: non-church goers, new Christians, practicing Christians and those who have lapsed in their faith.

Alpha is supported by all the major denominations and the course material is wholly compatible with catholic teaching. Each session

involves a light meal and then a talk on a subject central to the Christian faith followed by a group discussion. The subjects covered by the talks cover key questions like: Is there more to life? Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus Die? Why and How do I pray? How does God guide us? The talks are extremely insightful and thought provoking.

The course is scheduled to run on Wednesday evenings for 10 weeks, starting on 26 September and ending on 28 November. Each session will last for 2 hours (7.30-9.30pm).

Please make a note in your diary and spread the word. Parishioners and non-parishioners are welcome alike. Anyone interested in attending should put their name and contact details down on the list on the notice board in the entrance hall or contact David Green on 01564 775155 for more information. More information on Alpha can be obtained on www.alpha.org and at <http://uk-england.alpha.org/catholic-context/catholic-context-home>

David Green

MUSIC IN THE LITURGY

"The importance of music in biblical religion is shown very simply by the fact that the verb "to sing" (with related words such as "song", and so forth) is one of the most commonly used words in the Bible."

These were the words used by Cardinal Ratzinger (now, of course, Pope Benedict XIV) in his work *The Spirit of the Liturgy* in 2000.

Here at Blessed Robert Grissold Church we are fortunate to have a number of talented and dedicated musicians who lead and support the congregation with music for our Sunday mass and other celebrations.

The music in our parish covers a wide variety of styles – from ancient chant to modern worship songs.

Most masses will include some congregational singing accompanied by the organ, or instrumental group (comprising any or all of guitars, keyboard, saxophone, clarinet, flute and violin), or occasionally with no accompaniment at all.

We currently have both an organist and junior organist who regularly play our church organ. The organ is electronic, but with an authentic pipe-organ sound and feel. It can also record what is being played, so we have built up a bank of about 20 hymn tunes stored in the organ which can be played back when no musicians are available.

The instrumental group has an ever-growing and diverse repertoire of music for our masses, and often they introduce more modern hymns and music to the church. With guitars and keyboard as the basis, the instrumental group can include a wide variety of instruments from a number of different players.

The adult choir will usually sing a piece of choral music to celebrate feast days, as well as leading the music at the main masses at both Easter and Christmas. The junior choir (Quavers) occasionally sing at mass, but also join with the adult choir for important services.

We have a mass setting which was written for our parish and recently updated to reflect changes in our liturgy. This comprises of musical settings for the Lord have mercy, Gloria, Holy Holy and Lamb of God.

New musicians and singers are always welcome – we know there is a wealth of musical talent in our parish! Contact Ian Clarke on (01676) 533931 or email ian@clarke-1.demon.co.uk if you want to know more – or speak to any of our musicians or choir members.



Parish Life Christmas 2011 to Easter 2012

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

Email: frsojiolikkal@gmail.com

Parish Priest: Father John Sharp, The Presbytery, Rising Lane, Baddesley Clinton, Knowle, Solihull, B93 ODD

Tel: 01564 782498

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 Holy days is at 7.30pm. Fr Soji hears confessions from 8.30am to 9.00am every Sunday.

Registered as Charity No. 234216

www.brgparish.org.uk

Next Newsletter published Christmas 2012. Any contributions or comments, email Ian Clarke on newsletter@brgparish.org.uk