


Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fitzpatrick MA. STL
Permanent Deacon: Rev Michael Walker
Safeguarding Rep: Jill Allen
Parish Secretary: Gail Barlow *Weds am & Thurs am.*
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Newsletter no: 2550

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered as a Charity. No 234216

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Yr C



13th January 2019

Mass Book: Page 127. Psalter Week 3

Readings:

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 95: 1-3, 7-10 *resp v3*

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

Mass Times

Saturday	12 th Jan	6:00pm	Mass	Jack & Alice Holden
Sunday	13 th Jan	8:30am	Mass	People of the Parish
		10:30am	Mass	Mary Hayes
Monday	14 th Jan	NO MASS		
Tuesday	15 th Jan	9:15am	Morning Prayer	
		9:30am	Mass	Dec'd Parishioners
Wednesday	16 th Jan	9:15am	Morning Prayer	
		9:30am	Mass	
Thursday	17 th Jan	9:15am	Morning Prayer	
		9:30am	Mass	
Friday	18 th Jan	9:15am	Morning prayer	
		9:30am	Mass	Graham & Eijkenboom Family
Saturday	19 th Jan	6:00pm	Mass	Barbara Muchechetere
Sunday	20 th Jan	8:30am	Mass	People of the Parish
		10:30am	Mass	Pamela Williams

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 5.00-5.45pm

Offertory Collection: *Thank you for your generous support.*

Envelopes (Gift Aid) £ 27.00 (NGA) £ 15.00

Loose £ 250.02

Contactless

R&R Appeal (GA) £ 55.50 (NGA) £ 12.00 Loose £ 89.73

Altar Wine: £10.00

Contactless Payments: You can now use your Debit/Credit Card. *Just ask!*
You can also register your Credit/Debit card for Gift Aid purposes.

Please pray for: *The Sick & Housebound of our Parish Community:*

Barbara Brogan, Melene Clifford, Rosemary Daniel, Jean Marie D'Souza, Gill Harrison, Gill Lane, Evelyn Lochrin, Tom Mannion, Caroline Mieczkowska, Diana Newbury, Halina Seligman, Jackie Tidbury, Carl Veys, and Carol Willis.

If you know of anyone who is sick, do let us know.

Those who have died:

Anniversaries that occur at this time:

Sandra Torlonia, Jonathan Evans, Paula Haberstich, Wilma Kench, Jack Mulhall, Bannie Robins.
May they rest in peace

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Which marks the end of the Christmas and Epiphany Season.

This is why our crib and Christmas Tree remain in the Church.

Message of thanks: Nicholas Fogg (From *Aid to the Church in Need*) wrote: It was a real pleasure to be with you at Sacred Heart. I was touched by the warmth of the welcome I received. Although there was no second collection, people kindly contributed to ACN as they left the church. Some £700 in sales and donations will go to help suffering and persecuted Christians.

Contactless Payments:

We now accept all major credit/debit cards as well as Apple Pay.

Just select from one of three pre-set amounts = £5, £10, £20.

Put your card by the card-reader, and wait for the beep = it's done.

Churches together in Henley.

We are hosting the next Ecumenical meeting of the Churches together in Henley, on Tuesday 22 January at 7:45pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend this event.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Preparation sessions for those not attending Sacred Heart Primary School will start shortly. Therefore, I would like to invite any candidates for Confirmation to apply. The forms are at the back of the Church.

Church Lighting scheme:

The electricians are due to return to make some final adjustments to the lighting on the Sanctuary. They will be working in the church from Monday, 21st–Friday 25th January, slightly later than originally scheduled. The Church will therefore be closed, and we will move into the Crypt Chapel. I thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

Marriage and Relationship Counselling with Marriage Care

Catholic Marriage Care is a faith-based organisation, that draws on its Catholic tradition and contemporary research, to help couples in both good times and bad. Most relationships face difficulties at some point. Talking to a relationship counsellor can help. Our local centre in Reading offers relationship counselling with fully-trained counsellors. For further information please call 0800 389 3801.

If you are a trained relationship counsellor, could you volunteer with Marriage Care? Further counsellors are needed for our Reading centre – expenses and supervision is provided. For further information, please contact Sue Cooper at reading.admin@marriagecare.org or phone 0793 949 5774.

2018: A Review of the Parish Year

Today we reflect on the last year for the parish

I was pleased to have the support and prayers of my lovely parishioners throughout last year. Feeling very much at home and settled was very helpful as there were challenges with new online systems at Oscott, and changes and challenges throughout the Deanery.

Our wonderful parish school went from strength to strength. The celebration of Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation were great celebrations of our parish family. Christmas and Easter were prayerful celebrations of the central mysteries of our faith. I was delighted to see so many parishioners involved in the life of the parish, not least at weekly coffee. Our new servers grow in numbers and confidence, and it is good that several young adults have become readers.

During this year, we raised the profile and understanding of our Columbarium. I was delighted that so many of our parishioners decided opt to have their remains placed in the Columbarium and have made their funeral wishes. We shall see this in action as we place the Ashes of Anna Stephenson into the Columbarium after the 10.30am on Sunday 3 February.

We supported the national initiatives, particularly the World Meeting of Families, where we sponsored a family from the deanery; and the Adoremus Eucharistic Congress, as Deacon Mike represented the parish. There were other Diocesan initiatives and 'firsts' which we were encouraged to undertake: we were the first parish in the Archdiocese to undertake the '*Catholic Voices*' course, which was very encouraging. We are also the first to use Contactless giving. Shortly, I will have to give a report to the diocese its progress. What do you think?

We continue to beautify the church and I have been pleased to upgrade the lighting, inside and outside the church, as well as repairing the front doors. We will continue to work on the church in the year to come. More next week.

Now it is not all about numbers, but you might be interested in our parish statistics for 2018 (2017): Baptisms **11** (19); First Communions **27** (23); Confirmations **17** (9); Marriages: **7** (5); and average Mass attendance for the month of October: **213** (240). We celebrated several funerals this year, and we keep them and their families in our care and prayers.

Deaths are not numbers, but persons; please pray for those who died this year: Francis Sheppard, Howard Green, Mary Littlefair, Barry Hardman, Sally Tennant, Juan Koo Balangit, Peggy Lindsay, Monica Loader, Catherine Lindsey, Anne Wood, Mirco Rado, Madeleine Molenkamp, Patrick Kelly, Diane De Stefano, Patrick McGinty, Anno Cheesman and Anna Stephenson.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

Fr Paul