

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest
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Fifth Sunday of Lent – 21 March 2021

“If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies,
it yields a rich harvest.”

John 12, 24

EASTER FLOWERS

One of the joys of Easter is to see the church adorned once more with beautiful flowers.

Please donate what you can to the flower fund. Baskets are available as you come in to Mass. Thank you.

EASTER ENVELOPES

Envelopes for the Easter offering are also available this weekend onwards. Please take one and bring it back over the Easter weekend.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Fr Paul Fitzpatrick will lead a penitential service here at Our Lady & St Anne on Thursday 25th March at **7pm** (please note change of time).

Fr Fitzpatrick will hear confessions in the Cenacle.

IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL A MASS BOOKING

If you are unable to take up your place at Mass for some reason please let the stewards know on these numbers so that your space can be used :

Saturday 17.30 07704180826

Sunday 10.00 07753605972

YOUR SEAT MAY BE GIVEN AWAY

Masses are booking up quickly now and there is often a queue of people who turn up just hoping that there may be space. **If you have booked, you need to be seated 5 mins. before Mass starts** or your seat may be given away.

HOLY WEEK / EASTER BOOKINGS

Thankfully, this year we are able to celebrate in church but we will have to do some things differently to stay safe and be COVID secure. **Bookings will go live on Eventbrite 9am on Monday 22nd March.**

Liturgies available to book:

- Palm Sunday - 27th/28th March, usual Sunday Mass times
- Holy Thursday, Mass of the Last Supper - 1st April @ 19.30
- Stations - 2nd April, 12 noon
- Good Friday - 2nd April @ 3pm
- Easter Vigil - 3rd April @ 20.00
- Easter Sunday - 4th April @ 10am

Please be considerate when booking eg if you have been to the Easter Vigil Mass you might consider leaving room for somebody else on Easter Sunday morning.

STATIONS ON GOOD FRIDAY

We are unlikely to be able to accommodate everybody who wants to come to the Good Friday service at 3pm. If you are lucky enough to have a seat for the Good Friday liturgy, please leave the Stations at noon for somebody who did not get a seat for 3pm.

Please be seated at least five minutes before these start to allow for the appropriate solemnity to be maintained.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bridget McArthur who died recently. May she rest in peace.

The diocesan Privacy Policy is available at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy> or by request from the parish office.

Our Lady & St Anne Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Charity No. 234216

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year B – Mark):

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th Chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

Mass Intentions for Fifth Week in Lent

All weekday Masses are closed this week.

Saturday 20th March Claudina Rodrigues RIP
Lenten Feria

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year B

Saturday 20th March 17.30 People of the parish

Sunday 21st March 10.00 Private intention

Monday 22nd March Holy souls
Lenten Feria

Tuesday 23rd March Holy souls
Lenten Feria

Wednesday 24th March Holy souls
Lenten Feria

Thursday 25th March Holy souls
Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Friday 26th March Fred Bonham RIP
Lenten Feria

Saturday 27th March Miroslav
Lenten Feria

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Year B

Saturday 27th March 17.30 Fr Giles Goward RIP

Sunday 28th March 10.00 Ian Macdonald RIP