



CATHOLIC CHURCHES

of OUR LADY & ST. KENELM, HALESOWEN OUR LADY OF LOURDES, OLD HILL

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(Part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No. 234216)



LITURGY FOR THE WEEKEND 28th/1st MARCH 2026 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sat 28th	Vigil of Second Sunday of Lent	6.30 pm H	Anthony Nolan
Sun 1st MARCH	Second Sunday of Lent	10.00am H 11.30am OH 4.00pm OH	Catherine Doyle (R.I.P) Mary Corrigan (R.I.P) <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Mon 2nd	Saint Chad	No Mass	—————
Tues 3rd	Lent Feria	10am OH	Faye & Damian Keane (Ints)
Wed 4th	Lent Feria	12noon H	Mary Cusack
Thurs 5th	Lent Feria	9am SCH 12noon OH	Tony Murphy (R.I.P)
Fri 6th	Lent Feria	12noon H 7.30pm H	Eileen Kelly (R.I.P) <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 7th	Lent Feria Vigil of Third Sunday of Lent	10am H 6.30 pm H	Pro Populo Patrick Barry (R.I.P)
Sun 8th	Third Sunday of Lent	10.00am H 11.30am OH 4.00pm OH	Anthony Nolan Celebrant's Intention <i>Stations of the Cross</i>

MASS INTENTIONS to Father Stefan please

Masses marked H will be at Halesowen, OH will be at Old Hill

Confessions

There will be an opportunity for Confessions at Halesowen from 10.30 am (after Saturday 10am Mass) until 11am. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during confessions.

Confessions are also available by appointment.

Second Collections

Second collection this weekend is for CAFOD Lent Fast Day.

Second collection next weekend is for the St Chad's Cathedral Maintenance.

Pope's Prayer intention for March

Let us pray that the nations move towards effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and the world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

MARCH Anniversaries

Remember in your prayers these deceased members :

Michael Fogarty, Margaret Moloney, Bill Price, Demi Gavin, William Woodhall, Eric Shelton, Marion Jones, John Russell, Charles Long, Teresa Diffin, Helena Moore, Kenneth Bradley, Angela Clayfield, Donald Boston, Kathleen Clarke, Noreen McCartin, Winifred Stone, Reginald Drew, Roger Billingham, Bertha Vince, Ernest Hall, Bridget Rosa Peck and Michael Bishop, Michael Rose, Gertrude Finney & Mavis Round. *May they rest in peace.*

Please keep in your prayers those who have died recently especially Des Quigley, Frank Fishwick and Baby Luca Livingstone. *May they rest in peace.*

Frank Fishwick will come into Old Hill on Tuesday 10th March at 6.30pm. His funeral will be on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 9.45am at Our Lady of Lourdes, Old Hill.

First Friends with the SVP. !

Parishioners, friends and supporters are invited by the SVP "First Friday Friends" for a coffee and chat in St John the Baptist Church in the town centre between 10.45am - 11.45am on Friday 6th March.

SVP Appeal – Suitcases Needed

The SVP is collecting unwanted but usable suitcases to support the Halesowen Welcome Group. These will be given to resettled refugees as they move into new accommodation and begin to rebuild their lives. If you can help, please leave any donations in the Narthex. Thank you for your kindness and support.

Walk with me

Copies of the Diocesan Walk with me booklets and Calendars are available after Mass, while there is a price on the booklets, they are free to take. So please do take a copy and use as part of our spiritual journey this Lent.

Book

If you want a book to read for your Lenten journey, there are copies of Redemptive Suffering for sale (£10) at the Piety Stall.

In redemptive Suffering, Chioma Okolla offers a powerful and compassionate reflection on the mystery of human suffering through the life and final illness of Fr Sylvester Ogbogu.

Drawing from the scriptures, Catholic teaching and personal experiences this deeply moving book reveals how suffering when united with the passion of Christ, can become a source of grace, transformation and hope.

The book has the Nihil obstat ("nothing stands in the way") and imprimatur ("let it be printed") which are the official Catholic Church declarations certifying that a book or publication is free from doctrinal or moral error. No implication is contained therein that those who have granted the nihil obstat and imprimatur agree with the opinions expressed.

Bingo is Back!! (OLSK)

The OLSK fundraising team are hosting a bingo fundraising event with all proceeds going to the OLSK church to be held on Friday 20th March 2026 at Our Lady of Lourdes, Old Hill, B64 6HN.

Doors open at 6pm and eyes down for 7pm.

Just like before, there will be Irish bingo, Play you cards right and bring your own booze. Come and have a laugh and win prizes whilst raising funds for OLSK

Digital Collections (Our Lady and St Kenelm)

This QR Code will give access to the online giving portal which can easily be accessed on a phone.



OLSK Online Giving

Reflection for the Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: *Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 33; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9*

There are two dramatic events presented in the Scriptures today. In Genesis, Abram is called by the Lord to leave his homeland and his father's house for a new country that the Lord will give him. The Lord will make of him a great nation and his name will be a blessing. The Lord will so identify himself with Abram and his descendants that how they are treated by other nations will determine the Lord's favour toward other nations. Through Abram all nations will be blessed. Abram listens, obeys, and leaves. Psalm 33 expresses the trust of those who fear the Lord and listen to him. The Lord fulfils what he promises and provides for every difficulty.

St. Matthew's Gospel presents the singular event of the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus' external appearance, the momentary presence of Moses and Elijah, and the hearing of God's voice. Only three of the Apostles witness this revelation and they are warned to speak of it only after Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

St. Paul asks Timothy to endure with him the fatigues and trials of preaching the Gospel. They are fulfilling God's purpose in their work. Jesus Christ has abolished death and achieved immortal life for all.

God's purpose: The Christian interpretation of Genesis shows two levels. God calls Abram to be the father of a numerous nation in a new country; slowly it happens. Time passes, and many incidents, adventures and setbacks occur along with it. There is a key of interpretation in the shifting fortunes (and the shifting fidelity) of the Jewish people: the Promised Land, peace and prosperity. God has promised this and he is fulfilling his promise. And so, finally, it happens. Canaan is theirs. In Jesus Christ there is a greater fulfilment of the same promise. The journey is not just from one country to another, but from this life to the other, eternal life. The chosen people are not just the physical descendants of Abram, but the Christian baptised. God has promised this and he is fulfilling his promise, in the midst of the confusing turns of human history and the human heart.

Faithful obedience: The Book of Genesis is remarkably sparse on the internal experience of Abram's encounter with the Lord ("So Abram went as Yahweh told him..." v.4). We are left to wonder how this internal experience was and what it meant for Abram, as an old man, to leave his country and his father's house. We can, perhaps, imagine the impact on Abram of this religious experience, its clarity and truth, and the confidence that it inspired in Abram to trust this promise and act on it.

The sign of Jesus' transfiguration: The Gospels make it clear that Jesus deliberately avoided much outward showing of his divine nature. He became man to teach, to give example, to tend to his people and, above all, to offer himself for them by his death. His miracles were done to relieve suffering, or as discreet signs for his apostles to understand his and their mission. The Transfiguration stands out as different in purpose. It is an unveiling of the divine physical glory of his human nature. It serves as a reassurance to his most intimate apostles of who in reality he is and what we may become.



(continued overleaf)

Obedience is not easy to explain. We think of obedience as the mere control of freedom, an imposition curtailing the expression of one's will. It implies authority, someone's arbitrary decisions over my life. It suggests timidity and weakness of character, for those not able or willing to determine for themselves the direction of their lives. It means the renunciation of my own thoughts and ideas: autonomy.



Perhaps it is this caricature of obedience that we spontaneously reject. The reality is very different. On a human level there is much that we willingly obey because we recognise good reasons for doing so, because we see the common good of all requires it; we recognise that someone knows more than we do and is in a better position to determine something. And we also obey and acquiesce to someone we love because we want that person to be and to grow. Our obedience is whole-hearted and active. We want to obey, even if, at times, it hurts us. Obedience may "violate" a desire I have, but I accept it because of something more important to me.

There are also reasons for religious obedience. The ways of God that surpass human understanding, religious trust in God's representatives and ministers based on God's Revealed Word, the authority of holiness, our own experience of the recognition of God's truth in others.

Obedience is not conformism (either human or religious), which is the mere outward compatibility of my actions. Conformism implies the passivity of non-decision. My inner faculties are not engaged; I let things happen and go with the flow just because it is easier than doing the opposite.

We need to understand better the real nature of religious obedience as a necessary light in the darkness of human existence. This requires

a re-examination of life's purpose, the degree of openness to the experience of religious truth, the capacity to trust and to entrust oneself to another, the sense of the good of others, the capacity for love, being able to adapt to others.

Doing this, we can better appreciate that simple phrase of Genesis: "So Abram went as Yahweh told him." (v.4)

Shelagh, Fr Stephen

Stations of the Cross

Sunday

Old Hill : 4pm

Friday

Halesowen : 7.30pm



Second Sunday of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Let not our enemies exult over us.
Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.
From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.
Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

Communion Antiphon

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well
pleased; listen to him.

The Parishes operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady and St Kenelm is Shelagh Ash. Shelagh can be contacted at: sg.olskenelm.halesowen@rcaob.org.uk. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady of Lourdes is Nadine Hancox. Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.