



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 WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 14th APRIL 2024
THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER

TIMES OF MASS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 13th	Vigil of Third Sunday of Easter	6.30pm H	Celebrant's Intention
Sun 14th	Third Sunday of Easter	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Pro Populo Raymond Mullett (Int)
Mon 15th	Easter Feria	No Mass	—————
Tues 16th	Easter Feria	10.00am OH	Celebrant's Intention
Wed 17th	Easter Feria	12noon (H)	Steven Bateman (RIP)
Thurs 18th	Easter Feria	9am (SCH) 12noon (OH)	Celebrant's Intention
Fri 19th	Easter Feria	12 noon (H)	Summer Barber
Sat 20th	Easter Feria Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Easter	10.00am H 6.30pm H	Celebrant's Intention Hugo and Nicola Ash (int)
Sun 21st	Fourth Sunday of Easter	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Don Pritchard (R.I.P) Pro Populo

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

This weekend -14th April, there will be a second collection for parish maintenance fund (H) and Parish Debt (OH).

On 21st April, there will be a second collection for the Clergy Training Fund.

Fr.Stefan

God's eternal plan for us, it is something that we have to try and work our way through in our lives. We know that Jesus, the eternal word, became man to fulfil the wonder of God's love for us. He lived among us, he died for us, he rose to life to open heaven for us and ascended to his father and our father to show us the way. He will come in glory at the end of time to judge the living and the dead.

We know this, but do we live it? We can get so distracted with the worries of this life, and the terrible things that we can witness going on in the world. The Easter message is one of joy and hope to sustain us, to help us through the difficult times. Let us ask the Lord to strengthen us so that whatever comes our way we can always count on the Lord's love for us.

Cost of living worries?

If you are worried about grocery bills the SVP can help thanks to funds raised from national charitable foundations. For a confidential discussion, please contact SVP Conference President Mike Weaver (call or text on 07714 287867) or Vice President Jane Clarke or Secretary Roy Williams or Father Stefan.

APRIL Anniversaries

Remember in your prayers these deceased members :

Doris Watkins, Sarah Jane Lord, Graham Evans, Ursula Capp, Patrick Breen, Laurence Smith, Stanley Letts, Bernard Felton, Reg Welch, William Daniels, Alan Morris, David Taylor, Frank Summers, Ina Jones, Eileen Simpson, Mary Gale, Alfred Shields, Dorothy Price, Vincent Allen, Walter Simpson, Monica Evans, Fr. Peter Heath (former PP), Ian Colston, Vince Duggan (1st Anniv) and Peter Ash. (1st Anniv) *May they rest in peace.*

Gift Aid (GA)

New Envelopes for the tax year 2024/25 are now available for collection this weekend. Make sure you look for your name rather than box number as you may have been allocated a new number! OLSK only – Standing Order Donors, if you would also like to have a box of 2nd collection GA envelopes, please see or email Emma

As a reminder, it is vital you let us know if you are no longer a tax payer and/or you move address so we can update our records for processing to HMRC

Please get in touch for any gift aid queries / updates / questions to:

Emma for Halesowen parish via email: ga.olstkenelm.halesowen@rcaob.org.uk or

Helena for Old Hill parish via email: ga.olol.cradleyheath@rcaob.org.uk

Diocesan Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 11th May

There is a coach leaving for Walsingham on Saturday 11th May from Our Lady and All Saints Stourbridge. There is parking at Stourbridge if you wish to go. For more information and to book a place, please contact 01384 395308 or olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk.

The cost for the coach is only £10 per adult and children free, due to a generous donation from a parishioners at Our Lady and All Saints. and will be leaving Stourbridge at 7am. (and if enough people say they want to go from here then there could be a pickup!)

There will be mass at 1.30pm and at 3pm there will be a procession to the Priory ruins in the village and will conclude with a time of prayer at the site of the Holy House.

More information about how important our Lady of Walsingham is to us and our country can be found at www.walsingham.org.uk

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 3:13-15,17-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48

Particular to Luke's account of the Easter evening apparition to the apostles in Jerusalem is the insistence that what they see is no ghost but the real Christ. Jesus here also repeats, for the benefit of the apostles, lesson he had earlier given the two disciples on the way to Emmaus concerning the integral role of his passion in the divine plan of salvation (Gospel). It is a lesson that, with the command to preach "penance for the remission of sins" is well-learned: both elements quickly became a fundamental part of their message, of which a very early form appears here – "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are his witnesses" (First and Second Readings).



Understanding the Scriptures. -----

Let's get real. There are certain things we have difficulty accepting in the scriptures. Three of the principal ones stand out in today's liturgy: The first two are the ineluctable reality of sin, and of suffering, in the pages of the New Testament and in the everyday experience of Christians. The third is the non-ghost status of the risen Christ: he too is absolutely real, and absolutely present to our everyday experience. In all of this we are not that different from the disciples. They also had plenty of difficulty, at least with the latter two.

It is quite understandable that we would all prefer to be without sin and suffering. In fact, it is central to God's plan that we should reach that very desirable goal. Our problem is that we try to deal with them ourselves rather than "get with the program". Sin we try to exorcise by dint of sticking our collective heads in the sands of denial. We seem to think that, if we decide it doesn't exist, the problem is solved. But of course, it's not. The word of God is very clear that it really does exist, and in everyone's life; and that in fact that is why Jesus died, and rose from the dead (God's solution to the problem – the one that works). "He is an offering for our sins, and... those of the whole world". The whole of Scripture, and in particular the death of Christ, makes no sense if there is no such thing as sin.

Our problem with suffering is a little different. We don't deny it exists. What we deny is that there is any redeeming value to it. Suffering for us is simply an evil, something to be got rid of, and fast. But, turning again to Christ's bible class for his followers, we find him insisting to the disciples who were scandalized by the suffering of the Messiah, that this was from all eternity an essential part of God's plan (First Reading and Gospel).

(continued)

This was a major change of mentality the first Christians had to undergo (they expected an out-and-out triumphant Messiah), and it remains the same for us. We all have to reach the conviction that "by way of the cross we reach the light" (Per crucem ad lucem).

Shelagh,
Fr Stephen



Third Sunday of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Lift up the light of your face on us,
O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us.
Make our hearts burn within us
as you talk to us. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

The disciples recognized the
Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.



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.olstkenelm.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.