

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY & ST. KENELM

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(Our Lady & St Kenelm's Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No. 234216)

LITURGY FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2021 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

TIMES OF MASS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 20th Feb	Vigil of First Sunday of Lent (B)	4.30 pm	Mary Hatton (4th Anniversary) <i>(public Mass)</i>
Sun 21st Feb	First Sunday of Lent (B)	10.00 am.	Mary Goddard (Int) <i>(public Mass)</i>
Mon 22nd Feb	Chair of St Peter (Feast)	No Mass	—————
Tues 23rd Feb	Lent Feria	12 noon	Private Intention
Wed 24th Feb	Lent Feria	12 noon	Private Intention
Thu 25th Feb	Lent Feria	12 noon	Private Intention
Fri 26th Feb	Lent Feria	12 noon	Christopher Aylott (Anniversary) <i>(public Mass)</i>
Sat 27th Feb	Lent Feria Vigil of Second Sunday of Lent (B)	10.00 am 4.30 pm	Pro Populo Trish Bamford RIP <i>(public Mass)</i>
Sun 28th Feb	Second Sunday of Lent (B)	10.00 am.	Liz Conlon (Int) <i>(public Mass)</i>

Stewards Urgently Required.

(MUST be over 16, under 70 & in good health).

Can you assist as a steward: once a week; once a fortnight?

Every contribution matters.

If anyone would like to volunteer for this necessary and important role as a steward, please contact Mike Weaver (Tel: 07714 287867/ mpweaver@ymail.com) or Father Stefan.

MASS INTENTIONS to Father Stefan please

Masses this week will be open to the public on: **Friday 12 noon; Saturday 4.30pm & Sunday 10am.**

Live stream on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWKO3FtzoDHsTqSXz4uiA>) will be available all day should people want to watch it at a later time. If you have a problem finding the past live streams, please follow the link off the live stream option on the parish website.

Red times denote live streamed Masses only

**This Sunday: 3pm
Stations of the Cross**



(live streamed)

Making a Spiritual Communion

- * Make the sign of the cross
- * Read the Gospel of the day
- * Then share prayer intentions
- * Say the Lord's Prayer
- * Make an act of spiritual communion
- * Close with the sign of the cross.

My Jesus, I believe You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You.

Lately Dead: Please keep in your prayers Maria Giovenco, Patricia Bamford, Joan Guise, Kathleen Madigan & Glyn Xie-Smith (Fr Stefan's friend's Father). *May they rest in peace.*

Their funerals will take place in March.

Maria Giovenco's funeral is expected to take place on 3rd March.

Trish Bamford is on Thursday 4th March at St Peter and St Paul Catholic Church, Wolverhampton at 1.45pm: there are some places available if parishioners would like to attend the funeral, but you need to contact the family for a seat, Fr Stefan has the details.

Joan Guise will be at Stourbridge Crematorium at 11:00 am on Tuesday 9th March 2021.

Kathleen Madigan will be received into church on Monday 15th March at 3.30pm, her requiem will be Tuesday 16th March at 12:30pm.

February Anniversaries

Remember in your prayers those deceased members of our parish whose anniversaries occur during February: Adrian Powers, Ellen Kalinski, Glennis Cutler, Val Johnson, Fr. John Watkins, Maurice Winstanley, Marie Anne Hunter, Catherine Gull, Francis Brown, Richard Watkins, Peggy Harris, Mary Hatton, Olive Adkins, Rose Guilar, Lydia Doady, Rose Ingram, Hermes Mendez, Aloysius Kelly, Norman Lambert, Evelyn Hendy, Christopher Aylott.

May they rest in peace.

Message from Father Stefan.

I hope that everyone has had a good beginning to Lent, it is an important time for us to try and spend a little bit more time with the Lord. We may be shielding still; we may be working from home; we may be in a job that requires us to still go to work; but all of us can find a little bit more time for the Lord during this season on Lent. Yes, it is good to give something up but the focus should always be the Lord and our life with him.

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in each Lectionary cycle is about Jesus' temptation in the desert. This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—but it is not found in John's Gospel. This year we read Mark's account of this event. Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark's narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert.

In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus' public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark's Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfilment of God's promises is here.

The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks the beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.

Shaban,

Fr Stefan