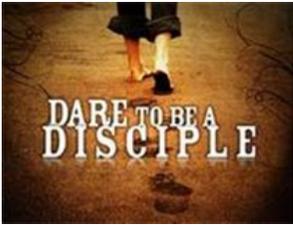


## Reflection— A beacon of encouragement



As a people of faith, we boldly confess that Jesus Christ is the love of God in a human form and that Jesus' ministry carried God's love into the lives of those in need. Jesus fulfills those words of expectation we heard in Matthew's Gospel: ... the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death,

light has dawned. Here is Jesus, moving among the people ... reaching out to them ... healing the sick ... removing barriers ... and showing people how they ought to live. But Jesus did not work in isolation ... he brought samples ... his followers, his disciples ... those who were the first Church, the first assembly of believers, and they were samples because they demonstrated what can happen, what people are capable of becoming. This congregation exists to hold open the possibility of faith in a world of cynicism and unbelief. Every weekend have a chance to say through our participation: ... here, in this place, that we worship the Living God ... here, in this place, we count ourselves with the people of faith and hope, who believe there is more good in God than there is bad in us.

This congregation exists as a beacon of encouragement in the midst of people who can all too easily become discouraged. Families are under siege today. No one has a secure job anymore. We live in a world filled with violence, danger, and disappointment. Our lives, as a people and a nation, are threatened by the three-fold dangers: meaninglessness, hopelessness, and lovelessness. We know, all too well, that no one can live a significant life devoid of purpose, devoid of hope, and devoid of a caring community.

We are to be open to the possibility of God's transforming love taking hold in our lives. Agents of New Possibility ... is that not what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ? Each of us is called to be an agent or vehicle of God's grace ... for the power is not in us but works through us. But we are a people who have been called to follow the Living Christ. We are called to be agents of new possibility just as surely as were Peter and Andrew, James and John, Matthew and Philip and all those wonderful women who left everything to follow Jesus. Let us hear Our Lord's invitation and be prepared to respond with faith and determination.



## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

**SATURDAY 25th January**

**Vigil Mass 4.00 pm**

**SUNDAY 25th January**

**Mass 9.30 am**

Saturday	25th	<b>The Third</b>	Vigil Mass 4 pm Parishioners
Sunday	26th	<b>Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	Mass 9.30 am Victims of War
Monday	27th	Feria	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tuesday	28th	Thomas Aquinas Pr, Doc	Mass 10 am The housebound
Wednesday	29th	Feria	Mass 10 am Migrants & Refugees
Thursday	30th	<b>IN THE SCHOOL</b>	<b>Mass 9.30 am</b> Staff & pupils
Friday	31st	John Bosco Pr.	Mass 10 am Young Christians
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</b>	<b>Vigil Mass 4 pm Peggy &amp; Clarke RIP</b>



**Next Week : THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Year A):**

**Saturday 1st February 2020 Vigil Mass 4 pm  
and Sunday 2nd February Mass at 9.30am**

**ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Owen Street, Atherstone  
Warwickshire, CV9 1DG  
Parish Priest: Fr. Paul R. Lomas  
E mail: [Stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:Stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk)  
Tel No: 01827 736286  
[www.saintbenedictsratherstone.com](http://www.saintbenedictsratherstone.com)



Archdiocese of Birmingham is a Registered Charity 234216

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION :**

Fr. Paul will be in the confessional on Saturday 31st January 11.30-12noon and **between 3.30 and 3.50pm** before the Vigil Mass. **OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT.**



**EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION ON FRIDAYS EACH WEEK.**

After Mass on Friday morning the Blessed Sacrament will be Exposed on the Altar for adoration, prayer & reflection. Benediction at 11.15am  
Take this time to be before the Lord in his Blessed Sacrament.

**NEXT PARISH MEETING IN THE HALL SUNDAY 16th FEBRUARY AFTER THE MASS. DON'T RUSH HOME STAY AND JOIN IN WITH THE ORGANISATION OF YOUR PARISH.**



**27<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

This weekend is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and it is also Holocaust Memorial Day. In cities and towns across the United Kingdom, events will be held to mark this milestone in human history and to express the hope that such evil may never happen again.

This year, the theme chosen for Holocaust Memorial Day is "Stand Together". Those who are targeted by persecutors and racists find protection when others stand together in solidarity with them and challenge what is being done.

**St. Benedict's Church Rotas 2020**

All volunteers (new or long serving) must now complete and sign. Volunteers forms are now available in church. We need your name contact number, e mail and your signature.



**THE MASS FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND**

**Saturday 8th February 11 am**

Each week a small number of dedicated Eucharistic Ministers take Holy Communion out to the sick and housebound in our community. There are also some of those who don't want to receive the Lord at home but would love to come to Mass in St. Benedict's every now and then.

This is the opportunity for them to do so. But it needs you who come to tell them about the Mass, encourage them to come and to arrange transport to get them here.

There will also be a light lunch (Soup and a roll) to follow in the hall.

Anyone present at the Mass can be anointed as all of us have something , a shadow hanging over us that the Sacrament of the Sick can help us with.

**REMEMBER LIFE IS FRAGILE, TREAT WITH PRAYER.**

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family and to this celebration.

Please don't forget to hand in your Mass requests in an envelope with the name and date on and with your donation inside. Fr. Paul has no outstanding Masses.

**AS YOU SIT IN MASS-LOOK AROUND, WHO CAN YOU REMEMBER BEING HERE ( Apart from deceased former members) WHO WAS SAT HERE WITH YOU AND NO LONGER COMES. HAVE YOU ASKED WHERE THEY ARE? HAVE YOU INVITED THEM TO COME BACK? PLEASE CAST OUT YOUR NET.**



At once they left their nets and followed him."

-Matthew 4:18-20