

Reflection— “Love your enemies”... This Gospel reading is so blunt that I feel like all I need to do is just repeat it. Hear those words of Jesus, “love your enemies”, how much clearer could He be? But this is something we need to hear again and again, and actually pause to process it, reflect upon it, and consider how we’re stacking up to this standard of mercy. How many times have I grumbled about someone else’s behaviour? How often do I find myself frustrated with the way someone else does things that are different from my own, or have been slighted, mistreated, or spoken down to? There are always people in our lives who, whether because our own failings or theirs, or through miscommunication, we decide to write off and maybe even complain to our friends and say, “I can’t believe what so and so did” or “the nerve of that guy!” I think we can forget about these “little enemies” and not remember what Jesus calls us to do: “love your enemies”. He also adds, “pray for those who persecute you”. Now is a good time to look back on our lives, and name the people who have done anything from annoy to outright hurt or abuse us. And rather than demanding retribution and imagined victories in our heads, (“oh, how I would love to say such and such to that guy, then he’d really feel bad”), we should pray for those people, and truly ask God to help them to discover God’s love or to be further renewed in it.

Pray for your enemies... Jesus said that we are to be perfect, as our heavenly Father is perfect, and God is a God of mercy. Therefore, true perfection, the highest road, is one of mercy, not of disdain, vengeance, or dismissal. God gives life and the beauty of His gifts and grace to all people, even those who seek to destroy it. And for those of us who truly understand how hurtful we’ve been in the times that we have betrayed God and spurned His love, aren’t you glad that God is merciful and loves those who do evil? Let us imitate him therefore, and show mercy to those who do not deserve it, and pray for them that one day they too may imitate God’s mercy and love.



**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF
ORDINARY TIME**

SATURDAY 22nd February

Vigil Mass 4.00 pm

SUNDAY 23rd February

Mass 9.30 am

Saturday	22nd	The Seventh	Vigil Mass 4 pm	Intention of the Alves family.
Sunday	23rd	Sunday of Ordinary Time	Mass 9.30 am	Betty Daniels sick
Monday	24th	Feria		NO MASS
Tuesday	25th	Feria	Mass 10 am	Private Intention
Wednesday	26th	ASH WEDNESDAY		
MASS with Imposition of Ashes at 10 am, 1.30 pm (in school), 6.30 pm				
Thursday	27th	after Ash Wednesday	Mass 10 am	Victims of crime
Friday	28th	after Ash Wednesday	Mass 10 am	HOMELESS
Saturday	29th	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	Vigil Mass 4 pm	Parishioners

Next Week : THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 29th February 2020

Vigil Mass 4 pm

and Sunday 1st March Mass at 9.30am



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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION :

Fr. Paul will be in the confessional each Saturday 11.30-12noon and **between 3.30 and 3.50pm** before the Vigil Mass.

OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT.

THIS SUNDAY AT THE PARISH MASS

at 9.30 am we will have a festival to celebrate the diversity of our congregation. We want you to all come in clothes that represent your country. Wear them to mass and also bring food that is special to your country for a bring and share brunch in the Community Hall after Mass. An INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION AFTER BREXIT. WE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST.

Churches Together in Atherstone -
World day of prayer
Praying with Zimbabwe
St. Peter's C of E Church,
Mancetter 3 pm
FRIDAY 6th MARCH
All are welcome,
refreshments afterwards.
RISE! Take Your Mat and Walk.
A service for everyone.

St. Joseph's Care Home, Coleshill, has vacancies for anyone considering respite or residential care in a Catholic Care Home. Please see notice board for details

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.



A very important day in the life of the Church because this is the official beginning of

Lent. On that day, we receive ashes during the Mass, the ashes are blessed and imposed. These are ashes that come from the palms and branches blessed on Palm Sunday last year. These palms and branches are symbols of our faith in Christ, to whom we renew our baptismal promises during the Easter Vigil celebration. But now these palms and branches are dry, brown and unpleasant to look at which symbolize our souls that for the past months are soiled again by our imperfections, disloyalty and sins.

This Wednesday is **ASH WEDNESDAY** Mass & Imposition of Ashes in Church at 10 am and 6.30 pm. Also at 1.30 pm in St. Benedict's school.

A PROGRAMME OF THE EVENTS OF LENT & HOLY WEEK WILL BE AVAILABLE ON ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE FOLLOWING FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT.



There are some basic ancient practices of Lent that may help us, like: prayer, fasting, almsgiving or works of mercy. These three practices make us reach out to God as well as to our neighbour. Our Christian life is characterized by these three things together every day of the year.

Ash Wednesday is also a joyful celebration of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and this is mixed with the sadness of our recognition that we are not worthy to have Jesus enter our souls. But God gives us another chance to return to Him, to return to the beauty and innocence of our baptism. Upon receiving the ashes, the priest and other ministers say: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel."



HMP Hewell seeks RC Chaplain, which may be a lay person. Please use the following link for the advertised post:

<https://justicejobs.tal.net/vx/lang-en-GB/mobile-0/appcentre-1/brand-15/candidate/so/pm/1/pl/3/opp/32278-32278-Roman-Catholic-Ordained-Deacon-Religious-Brother-or-Sister-Lay-Person/en-GB>

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.



GUILD OF ST. STEPHEN THANKSGIVING MASS 2020

This year it will be celebrated on **Next SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2020**
By Bishop David McGough in **St. Chad's Cathedral, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6EX**

At 12 noon.

Followed by refreshments in the Grimshaw room.

Fr. Paul hopes that St. Benedict's will be well represented by our Servers who are in the Guild.

Please let Fr. Paul know if you wish to go to the cathedral for this event