



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 22nd March 2026 – the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings: Year A

Dear Friends,

We are now only two weeks from Easter. This Sunday used to be called Passion Sunday but that title has now been transferred to next Sunday, Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week, the Great Week as the Eastern Orthodox say. All statues are now veiled in mourning for the Suffering Servant as we enter Passiontide and we walk with Jesus along the Via Dolorosa, the path of sadness.

Today we have a Pastoral letter from His Grace, the Archbishop of Birmingham (*NB: follow the QR below to read or [click here](#) if reading online*). He reflects on today's Gospel, the Raising of Lazarus from the dead, the seventh and final "sign" (miracle) in the Gospel of St John. He begins by urging us all to redouble our Lenten efforts: *"There is no need to dwell on the opportunities we have missed this Lent for prayer, fasting and alms giving"*.

The Archbishop continues: *"The sufferings of Christ are all expressions of God's infinite love for us"*, and he quotes from that wonderful hymn of St John Henry Newman beloved by so many Christians:

*"O generous Love, that He who smote
In man for man the foe
The double agony in man
For man should undergo."*

In today's Gospel, the Archbishop notes that the turning point for Lazarus "is a foretaste of the Resurrection", and he says that we all have such moments when our life is changed radically: Baptism, Reception into the Church, Vocation to the Priesthood, Diaconate, Religious or Consecrated Life... and I would add, Marriage, that lifelong commitment to another person, and work which is a "calling" rather than a job.

St. John Henry Newman knew what it was like to be isolated, misunderstood, reviled and rejected by both the community that he left in Oxford and the Church he joined, but he never abandoned his faith that Christ was faithful. Commenting on Martha's response in our Gospel to Jesus asking her if she believed in Him:

“Wherever there is a heart to answer, ‘Lord, I believe’, there Christ is present... We will be as certain, through His grace, that He is standing over us in love, as though we saw Him.”

In this final fortnight let us indeed redouble our efforts to draw closer to the Lord of Love.

P.S. Please remember our sick and ailing and let me know of anyone who needs some support.

God bless everyone... Almost there!

Fr. Clive

Parish Notices

Masses/Rosary this week: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday (*Stations of the Cross*) 9:15am Mass. Friday 9:15 School Mass (replaces Rosary). **Silent prayer on Wednesday 7:30-9pm.**

Feasts this week: Wednesday 25th March, *Solemnity of the Annunciation* (9 months before Christmas!). Mass and Stations of the Cross over at St. Teresa's.

First Communion and Reception classes as usual.

The Parish of the Assumption Pilgrimage to the South of England 7th-9th September.

Suze Mathews, the organiser, will be briefing us at both churches this Sunday, and next week on Saturday evening.

In March, let us pray with the Holy Father that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes. In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones. The repose of the souls of those who have died. People whose anniversaries occur at this time. The people of the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are **Tammy Lawson** and **Sharnalee Foster** (sg.stteresaoflisieux.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk). Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

