



## Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – the Fourth Sunday of Lent/Laetare Sunday**

**Readings: Year A**

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**Dear Friends,**

This last week we celebrated in Holy Trinity a Requiem for one of our church family, Ann Gross, wife of Carl, mother of Caroline, Sonia and Alison and beloved grandmother. Church was full to the brim and we were treated to glorious music. The sun streamed in through the incense and there was an air of joy mingled in with sadness. Ann lived a life of service, to her family, her community and her Lord and Master Jesus Christ. It was an honour to celebrate this Mass for her who had shown the way of discipleship to the Servant King: quietly, steadily, without any fuss or fanfare. May she rest in peace.

This Sunday is called “*Laetare*” after the first Latin word of the opening antiphon: “*Rejoice!*” The sober violet/purple gives way to rose/pink just for a day as we begin the second half of Lent. It is a sort of “pit stop” on the way to Easter. How is your Lenten discipline going? Athletes all start well and often finish strongly but they say that it is the middle of the race that determines the result! Lent is not an end in itself but a preparation for the “Great Week” and our destination: Easter.

This week's readings centre on seeing. In our first, Samuel the prophet is sent by God to anoint the future king of Israel. None of Jesse's seven sons are deemed suitable although they appear to be just the ticket. Then David, the youngest and least impressive is called for and despite his youth and inexperience he becomes the chosen candidate. Samuel is reproached by God:

*“For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”*

In our Gospel we meet a man blind from birth, a poor beggar totally dependent on the charity of others, no doubt dirty and smelly. Jesus chooses him “*that the works of God might be displayed in him*”.

Not a high-ranking VIP, someone who could “make a splash” but a wretched human being whose blindness is supposed by his community to be the punishment for either his or his parents' sins. Jesus makes the second of the seven “I am” claims in the Gospel as He heals this man: I am the Light of the world. Unfortunately neither his disciples nor the powers that be can see this and there follows a comic scene when the Pharisees interrogate this formerly blind beggar. He does not grasp

the significance of all the fuss, but he knows one thing: he was blind, and now he sees. And his reaction to Jesus?

*"Lord, I believe", and he worshipped Him.*

May this be our reaction as we worship the Lord who is the Light of the world and who opens our eyes to the reality of our Heavenly Father.

Palm Sunday is only a fortnight away...

**God bless everyone, Fr. Clive**

### **Parish Notices**

**Second collections for CAFOD** raised £358.15, and *St. Chad's Cathedral Maintenance* raised £203.45!

**Masses/Rosary this week:** Monday, and Thursday (*Stations of the Cross*) 9:15am Mass. Friday, Holy Rosary for Peace 9:15am. **No Tuesday morning Mass.**

**Feasts this week:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>, *the Feast of St. Patrick*; Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, *the Solemnity of St. Joseph*.

#### **Look ahead:**

19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> March, 40hrs Devotion for Vocations at St. John's Banbury. Poster at the back of church.

15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March, visit of Relic of St. Carlo Acutis to St Joseph's Whitnash. Details are on the [Banbury & Warwick Deanery website](#).

#### **Funerals in March:**

✠ Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Requiem Mass 1pm @ Holy Trinity for *Andrew Bradley (son of Sakine Faulkner)*.

*Eternal rest Grant unto them, O Lord.*

#### **First Communion and Reception classes as usual.**

**Pro-Life Coffee Social** – Starting at 3:30pm on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of March at "Love Coffee Co", 231 Banbury Road, Summertown, OX2 7HN. Whether you're new and would like to find out more, or a seasoned pro-lifer, come along to relax with like-minded people and stay connected with the pro-life community in and around Oxford. All welcome! Just turn up, or you can get in touch with us via <https://oxfordprolife.org.uk/signup/>. Why not bring a friend along too?

**Lourdes Petitions** – One of our parishioners, *Julie Hart*, volunteers at the baths in Lourdes, twice a year; a powerful experience for which she is very grateful. She would like to share this privilege by offering to place a petition at the grotto or to light a candle, on behalf of anyone in the parish, the next time she next goes on pilgrimage, in May. Please contact Julie by emailing her at [juliehart1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:juliehart1@hotmail.co.uk).

#### **SAVE THE DATE – PARISH PILGRIMAGE – 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026:**

**Our new Parish of The Assumption invites you to join us on a Pilgrimage to the southern heartland of England and meet "the Saints and Kings who made us Christian"**. We will be based in Winchester from where we will explore the rich legacy of churches in Wessex: Malmesbury and Bradford-on-Avon. This is an opportunity for the previous parishes of St. Teresa and Holy Trinity to meet and join together in understanding our early faith history. The full programme, costs and full booking information will be available shortly. For further information please email: [susemathews899@btinternet.com](mailto:susemathews899@btinternet.com).

**Vacancy** – The Archdiocese is looking for a *Parish Mission & Formation Co-ordinator*. For a full job description [click here](#) or go to [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs).

**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](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.