



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 8th March 2026 – the Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: Year A

Dear Friends,

The theme of this Sunday is... drink! Not the sort which some of us may be trying to cut back on for Lent, but what is called: Adam's Ale, or water.

In our Old Testament reading the People of Israel are moaning and grumbling again. This seems to be a central pastime for them as they meander around the wilderness for forty years. Why did we leave the fleshpots of Egypt where we had onions and other delicacies, and we weren't so thirsty, they demand of Moses? Water is a precious commodity and a rare one in the desert and Moses is sounding desperate as he pleads with the Lord. Strike the rock, he is told, and he does, and out gushes the required water. The People are satisfied... for the time being. Unfortunately for Moses, the Lord is not happy as Moses is told that because of what happened at this rock on Horeb (Mount Sinai), Moses will not be allowed to enter the Promised Land. The text does not tell us what went wrong but rabbinical commentary supposes that Moses struck the rock twice as he did not have enough faith for one blow only. Hence Moses calling the place *Massah* (Trial) and *Meribah* (Strife).

The Gospel also gives us water but in a very different context. A man asking for some refreshment from a woman may seem ordinary enough to us but in that time what Jesus did would have been considered not only astonishing but downright scandalous, disrespectful of the Law and customs of the Jews. Single men did not converse with single women. Who was this woman, coming at noon in the heat of the day, to draw water by herself? A very strange action considering the norm for the women would have been to collect in a group for safety and go in the cool of the early morning or dusk. She is obviously an outcast. A leper? A prostitute with "five husbands" perhaps a catch-all term for multiple partners? Or simply someone who is messed up with numerous broken relationships? And to cap it all, she is a hated and despised Samaritan, the Northern mixed-race foreigners, the "fake Jews".

The conversation between Jesus and the woman is a marvellous piece of gradual revelation as she struggles to grasp what the Lord is saying and offering:

"The water that I shall give [...] will become [...] a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Once she understands, the woman abandons her water jar and rushes to tell the rest of town about Jesus, symbolically reconnecting with the people that she has been avoiding.

Are we so eager to tell others about the Lord Jesus, who is the only Living Water? We can do it by word or deed. An act of kindness, an encouraging comment, a prayer for someone struggling, a lift to Mass? There are a myriad of ways we can live out our Faith and each can choose the path most suitable and do-able.

On this note, can I thank all who serve our parish, who clean or arrange flowers, who sing or read, who count the collections or serve on the committees, who safeguard, who care for the garden or play the organ, who light the candles and organise the sacristy, our welcomers, and so much more... and who edit and print the weekly newsletters! We are a team and no one player is more important than any other. As the two churches are joining together we can benefit from each other's gifts and strengths and help each other in our weak areas.

On this last note, please see the Assumption Parish Pilgrimage being organised by Suze Mathews from St Teresa's. Suze is a national officer for Aid to the Church in Need in her spare time, the Catholic charity that supports Christians in danger or under persecution. She is also an expert on things medieval! Please consider this excellent venture in the Autumn.

God bless everyone, Fr. Clive

Parish Notices

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.**

Look ahead:

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

15th-16th 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 10th March, Requiem Mass 11am @ Holy Trinity for *Ann Gross*;

✠ Thursday 12th March, Funeral Service 1pm @ St. Mary's, Chipping Norton for *Aidan Hughes*;

✠ Tuesday 17th March, Requiem Mass 1pm @ Holy Trinity for *Andrew Bradley*;

Eternal rest Grant unto them, O Lord.

First Communion and Reception classes as usual.

A notice from Oxford Pro-Life: We need you. Oxford Pro-Life Community are working to build a living and lively community of people in Oxford that has a real impact in promoting the respect for the inviolable right to life of all human beings. If that sounds exciting to you and you can spare an hour or so a week visit oxfordprolife.org.uk/volunteer.

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.

SAVE THE DATE – PARISH PILGRIMAGE – 7th-12th 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.

Vacancy – The Archdiocese is looking for a *Parish Mission & Formation Co-ordinator*. See the attached job advert. For a full job description [click here](#) or go to 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.

Join our new WhatsApp Community: scan the QR below (or use this [link](#) if viewing on your mobile) to receive the latest from the parish as well as chat with fellow worshippers. It's currently a work-in-progress, but we hope to flesh it out in time.

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.





Parish Mission & Formation Co-ordinator

Job title: Parish Mission & Formation Co-ordinator

Terms: Permanent/full-time, all year round, 40 hours per week (flexible, including evenings and occasional weekends)

Location: Across parishes of the Birmingham East Cluster

Serving: The Divine Mercy Partnership

Reporting to: Designated Parish Priest (Cluster Line Manager), working in consultation with the clergy of the Birmingham East Cluster)

Salary: £37,440 pa

About us: The Archdiocese of Birmingham is a unique registered charity covering a wide geographical area that extends from Leek in North Staffordshire down to Sonning Common on the Oxford/Berkshire Border, comprising 217 parishes and 241 schools.

The vision of the Archdiocese of Birmingham is to be a Catholic diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour.

Purpose of the role:

To support the parishes of the Birmingham East Cluster in becoming increasingly missionary, outward-looking, and evangelising communities. The post holder will help move parish life beyond maintenance towards active mission by supporting evangelisation, faith formation, volunteer development, and community outreach across the cluster.

The role combines practical coordination with vision-building, helping clergy and lay leaders develop and implement strategies that foster discipleship, invite new people into the life of the Church, and strengthen ongoing faith formation for both adults and children.

Responsibilities:

Please see the job description listing the key responsibilities and person specification for the qualifications and skills required. Copies of the job description and person specification can be obtained from divinemercypartnership@rcaob.org.uk

Applications including a CV and supporting statement to be submitted to the parish priest at divinemercypartnership@rcaob.org.uk by Friday 20th March 2026.

Shortlisting: Tuesday 24th March 2026

Interviews: Friday 27th March 2026

(Candidates will be asked to prepare a short presentation to deliver at the interview)

(We hope candidates shortlisted can be available for interview on 27th due to the following week being Holy week then into Easter)