

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF WALSALL

St. Mary's, St. Patrick's & St. Thomas of Canterbury



Diocese of Birmingham
www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk
Registered Charity No.234216

Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S THE MOUNT

Roman Catholic Church

Vocationists

WALSALL

www.stmarysthemount.co.uk

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Vocationists
www.vocationist.org
Registered Charity No. 1135796



**St. Mary's the Mount Parish Family Wishes You
All a Happy New Year**



Parish Priest: Fr. Jobin Kollappallil, SDV

Assistant Priest: Fr. Fabien Ramiandrisoa, SDV

Brother: Edmar Lapus, SDV

St. Patrick's: Fr. Roberto Ciardo, SDV

St. Thomas of Canterbury: Fr. Christogonus

Ugwuakposim, SDV

WHAT IS PRAYER?

This new year, 2024, is specially dedicated to prayer in preparation for the jubilee in 2025, as requested by Pope Francis. He has also asked the universal Catholic Church to meditate on the theme Prayer with a special focus on "The Our Father" prayer. Therefore we will be reflecting on the theme prayer during this liturgical year. We will try to see different types of prayers that can be used, meditation on the '*Our Father*', meditations on each individual part of the Mass and other topics on prayer.

First of all, let's try to understand in a few words what prayer is. To pray? **To pray is to be in a relationship with God; moreover prayer itself is our relationship with God.** By praying, we learn to speak



to God: speaking to him about our suffering, our worries, our anguish, what hurts us, but also our joy, happiness, and gratitude. Apart from this, **praying is also learning to listen to God**, who speaks to us in silence, in the depths of our hearts, he speaks to us in our conscience. But praying can also be this: **being in the presence of God**, without saying even a word, but just being in his presence....that is, being aware that God is there looking at you, and you are looking at God.

In order to have a better understanding about prayer is to look at people who have prayed a lot: SAINTS. The saints of the Church had an intimate relationship with God. For St. Jean Marie Baptiste Vianney **prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness.** St. Alphonsus Maria de

Liguori teach us about the importance of mental prayer. He says, "Many cry to God, but not with the voice of the soul, but with the voice of the body; only the cry of the heart, of the soul, reaches God.' (...) When we pray properly, sorrows disappear like snow before the sun." St. Anthony Mary Claret teaches us that we can, above all, imitate Jesus Christ in mental prayer.

You, too, can have your own definition of what prayer is according to your experience and your relationship with our God. Here, this text has helped us in some way to understand what prayer is and what prayer does in our lives. From next week, together we will see the different types of prayers that we can use in our prayers.

Happy New Year 2024!

INFORMATION

- **Parish Contributions:** Last Sunday: £1004.17 (Standing Orders: £821, Offertory Collection: £183.17). Overseas Charities: £51. Counting: This Sunday: Team D, next Sunday: Team E.
- **Thank You!** Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas preparations in any way and for participating in the celebration of the true meaning of Christmas as a parish family. We thank you also for your Christmas offerings for the clergy of your parish, and for all your cards, gifts and prayers. We wish you all a Happy & Blessed New Year!
- **Congratulations!** Congratulations to the six new candidates who received their albs, the four servers who received their medals and to all those who renewed their commitment.
- **Bro. Edmar:** Congratulations to Bro. Edmar for taking on the new role of Acolyte, towards priesthood. As part of his formation and to provide a different pastoral experience, Bro. Edmar will be attending St. Patrick's church until the next stage of the formation.
- **Christmas Coffee Morning Raffle:** The raffle draw will take place in church after the 9am Mass.
- **Year of Prayer:** As part of the *Year of Prayer*, we will be having a short time of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction on Mondays and Tuesdays after 10am Mass, to provide more opportunity for prayer.
- **Come & Programme (RCIA):** The next session of the RCIA programme for 2023-2025 will be on **Monday 8th January, beginning with Holy Mass at 7pm in church. The topic for this session is 'Ten Commandments & Church Law'**. Everyone is welcome.
- **Church Cleaning Rota 2024:** The new rota for church cleaning is available to collect from the sacristy.
- **Diocesan Directory 2024:** The new diocesan directory for the year 2024 is available for purchase from the piety stall at the back of the church, priced at £3.50. *Christmas Cards, diaries and other items are also on sale from our piety stall.* Please take a look at these items, before or after Mass.
- **ORDO/Liturgical Calendar:** The new Ordo, Advent 2023 to December 2024, is also available at £6.50. The Ordo offers a liturgical guide to the solemnities and feasts of the Roman Catholic Church. It also highlights world days of prayer and themes of intercession.
- **RIP:** Please pray for the soul of Margaret Mary Lloyd who died on 1st December. Her funeral service will take place in our church on Thursday 4th January at 11.15am, followed by a burial at North Walsall cemetery.
- **RIP:** Please pray for the soul of Dorreyne Elizabeth Allen who died on 9th December. Her Requiem Mass will be on 22nd January at 11am, followed by a cremation at Streetly Crematorium. Let us join our prayers with those of her grieving family.
- **Food Bank:** This week we are in need of tea, tinned meat, tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, coffee and sugar. We are supporting 6 families with your donations. If you know of another family in need who would welcome support from our SVP Group, please contact Father Jobin. Thanks again for your continued support and your generous donations.
- **Refreshments:** Please note that there will be no refreshments in the parish centre this week. *Service will resume next Sunday, 7th January.*
- **St. Mary's the Mount Nursery School:** Applications are invited from parents whose children will be 3 years old in September 2024.
- **Safeguarding:** The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese's policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Paul McGill and Doreen Sehdeva. They can be contacted at: sg.stmary.walsall@rcaob.org.uk Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Pope Francis’s Prayer Intention for January 2024: *For the gift of diversity in the Church*
We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the Catholic Church.

Prayer for Vocations

Divine Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant us and all the faithful true generosity in following your call and bestow on us the grace of your Holy Spirit to persevere in overcoming all obstacles to our vocations. Give the church in our Diocese and throughout the world many holy priests, fervent religious and committed lay people. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels, Saint Justin Maria Russolillo and all Saints, we humbly ask you to hear our prayers and multiply the ministries by which we may serve You and one another in faith and love. Amen. Hail Mary....



Prayer after Communion
“O my God and my all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, may your will be done, your love reign, your glory shine always more in me and in everyone as in yourself, O my God and my all.”
 (St. Fr. Justin)



Let us pray for those who are sick:
 Enid Johnson, Beryl Fearon, Eileen Fogarty, Liccia Petrocco, Wendy Bubb, Martha Ekezie, Moira Law, Madeleine Holland, Anne F Kazmie, Patrick Kelly, Anne Dixon, Cliff Maybury, Anne Kinsey, Faisal Kazilbash, John Horton, Una Greevy, Aga, James McGeough, Mavourneen Smith, Marie Hornblower, Judith Dunthorne, Angela Gonsalves, Margaret Powell, Lee Chit Wei

CONTACT DETAILS OF PRIESTS		
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St. Thomas’s	Fr. Christogonus, SDV	Dartmouth Avenue, Walsall, WS3 1SP. Tel: 07404816951 Email: fr.christogonus.ugwuakposim@rcaob.org.uk

Sunday and Weekday Masses

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	OFFERED BY
Saturday 30 th	5:30pm 6:30pm 6:30pm	St. Mary's St. Patrick's St. Thomas's	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	
Sunday 31 st <i>The Holy Family</i>	9:00am 10:00am 10:00am 11:00am 6:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	St. Mary's St. Patrick's St. Thomas's St. Mary's St. Mary's St. Mary's St. Patrick's	Barny Nelson - <i>H, WB</i> Holy Mass Holy Mass Walter Daniels – <i>RIP, DA</i> Eucharistic Adoration Thanksgiving Mass for 2023 Holy Mass	Nelson Family H Draper
Monday 1 st January 2024 <i>Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i>	10:00am 9:15am 10:00am	St. Mary's St. Patrick's St. Thomas's	New Year Mass Barny Nelson – <i>H, WB</i> New Year Mass New Year Mass	Nelson Family
Tuesday 2 nd St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen Bishops	9:15am 10:00am 10:00am	St. Patrick's St. Mary's St. Thomas's	Holy Mass Mary Doyle - <i>WB</i> Holy Mass	J & M Heavin
Wednesday 3 rd	9:15am 6:00pm 7:00pm	St. Patrick's St. Mary's St. Mary's	Holy Mass Adoration for Vocations Margaret Williams – <i>RIP, B</i> <i>Special Intention</i>	M Williams Ambrojappa
Thursday 4 th	9:15am 10:00am 11:15am 10:00am	St. Patrick's St. Mary's St. Mary's St. Thomas's	Holy Mass Holy Mass Funeral Service for Margaret Lloyd - <i>RIP</i> Holy Mass	
Friday 5 th	9:15am 10:00am 6:00pm 7:00pm	St. Patrick's St. Thomas's St. Mary's St. Mary's	Holy Mass Holy Mass Adoration & Confessions Holy Mass	
Saturday 6 th	10:00am 10:30am 5:30pm 6:30pm	St. Mary's St. Mary's St. Mary's St. Patrick's St. Thomas's	Holy Mass Adoration & Confessions Catherine Broughton - <i>RIP</i> Holy Mass Holy Mass	J & M Heavin
Sunday 7 th <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	9:00am 10:00am 10:00am 11:00am 7:00pm	St. Mary's St. Patrick's St. Thomas's St. Mary's St. Patrick's	Matthew McGill - <i>RIP, DA</i> Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	McGill Family

C=Conversion, RIP=Rest in Peace, DA=Death Anniversary, S=Sick, B=Birthday, TH=Thanksgiving, WB=Well-Being, H=Healing, HE=Health, RC=Recovery, SI=Special Intention, M=Marriage, BP=Baptism, G=Guidance, SE= Success in Exams, WA=Wedding Anniversary, HS=Holy Strength, Ch=Church, SCH=School, BD= Beechdale, PC=Parish Centre