



**Newsletter 8-21 First Sunday of Lent Year (B)**  
**Week beginning Sunday 21st February 2021.**  
**Telephone: 0121-554-0905 or Mobile 07894427648**  
**St Francis Centre: 0121-554-6708**  
**Parish Website [stfrancis.livevideostream.co.uk](http://stfrancis.livevideostream.co.uk)**  
**See also St Francis' Centre Website**



**Fr Gerard Kelly** (Parish Priest)

**Fr Yen,** ( Vietnamese Pastoral Centre Wye Cliff Rd 0121-554 8082;

**Safeguarding representatives:** Tim O'Hanlon, Veronica Middleton

**Religious Houses in the Parish: The Sisters of Mercy** 0121 554 3271

St Mary's Convent Heritage and Retreat Centre 0121 554 3271

**The Missionary Sisters: Servants of the Holy Spirit.** 0121 515 2341

**February Mass Intentions**

20	Sat(for Sun)	5.00 pm	Dec'd Friends and Family	
21	Sunday	8.00 am	Thanksgiving/For Peace	
		11.00 am	Ron And Joan Hobbis (Dec'd)	1.30 pm <b>Vietnamese Mass</b>
		5.00 pm	People of the Parish	
22	Monday	10.00 am	Vicki Garcia (GE)	<i>The Chair of St Peter</i>
23	Tuesday	10.00 am	Maria Thuoc (LD)	<i>St Polycarp</i>
24	Wednesday	10.00 am	Anne Peterkin (LD)	
25	Thursday	10.00 am	Loyola McHale (LD)	
26	Friday	10.00 am	Patrick Fullerton (LD)	<i>Family Fast Day</i>
27	Saturday	11.00 am	Malcolm Moore (LD)	
27	Sat (for Sun)	5.00 pm	Eugene McGrade (A)	
28	Sunday	8.00 am	People of the Parish	11.00 am Peter McMahan (A)
		1.30 pm	Vietnamese Mass	5.00 pm Dec'd of the Healy and Kennedy Families

'Universe', 'My Day by Day' and 'Messenger of the Sacred Heart' If you would like a copy of any of these, please put your name on the list in the porch

**Lockdown Restrictions**

We are now with the rest of the country in lockdown . We encourage you to do your best to stop the spread of this virus. Churches are among the safest places to be, largely due to the hard work of our stewards in doing the sanitising and the encouragement to wear masks. In this lockdown you are still able to leave your home to come to Mass. Please follow the steward's instructions. We appreciate all the work they do. Our aim is always to allow you to attend Mass and keep you safe

- During this time of the Corona Virus pandemic, if you are not able to come out to Mass, it would be a great help to the parish if you could set aside your normal Sunday Offerings and bring it all in when you are able to come back to Mass Thank you
- Thank you to all those who have set up Standing Orders in favour of the Parish to take care of your Weekly Offerings. It is the most secure way of supporting the parish. If anyone else would like to do this, forms are available to pick up from the church.
- If you do not wish to set up a Standing Order, I would encourage you to use the 'Repairs and Maintenance' and 'Offertory Envelope' system.

**Lent: Stations of the Cross:** 9.15 am Mondays and Wednesdays  
6.15 pm Fridays

In addition, there will be a 'zoomed' Stations of the Cross on Thursdays of Lent, beginning this Thursday at 4.30 pm, and finishing on 25th March. A different person/ family will lead the Stations each week, and each week will have a different theme.

To join in praying the Stations on 'zoom', you must download (free) the 'zoom' application on your phone, ipad, laptop or computer-it takes just a few minutes. Then type in the meeting ID and password

Meeting ID: 818 1004 5631

Password: stfrancis

If you would prefer a link to be sent to you, email [sisters@mercyhandsworth.org.uk](mailto:sisters@mercyhandsworth.org.uk) and the link will be forwarded. If you are unsure of connecting, you can try and connect any day ahead of the session. The log-in details are the same for all five sessions. We look forward to being with you on 'zoom' and praying the Stations of the Cross. *Sr Nicole*

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Charity Number 234216

- **Your prayers are also asked for the repose of the soul of Ivor Dixon**, of Lloyd Road, who died a fortnight ago. Ivor is the husband of Mary Dixon. Ivor's Funeral will be at Sandwell Crematorium at 11.30 am on Monday 22nd February. May he rest in peace.
- **Your prayers are also asked for the repose of the soul of Thomas Attridge**, of Wilncote Grove, Perry Barr, a regular at Mass in St Francis for many years. May he rest in peace. Thomas's Requiem will be at St Francis on Wednesday 10th March at 10.30 am. RIP
- **Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Frances Burke** of St Augustine's Parish, Frances's Requiem will be at St Augustine's on 11th March at 10.45 am. May she rest in peace.
- **Your prayers are asked also for the repose of the soul on Noel Henry**, formerly of St Francis Parish, who has died in Erdington. Noel's Requiem will be at 9.30 am on Tuesday 2nd March. May he rest in peace.

**We extend our prayers and sympathy to all these bereaved families**

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• **2020 Cash and Car Draw.** Because of the corona-virus, we were not unfortunately able to complete our Cash and Car Draws in 2020, as we need bring people together to make sure everything is above board. We will now complete the draws in 2021 as soon as we are able to open St Francis centre again. There are still seven draws remaining, including our celebration December draw, with it's star prize of a car. Tickets are just £70 for the last 7 draws— would still make a beautiful present for a birthday or other occasion

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- **Please pray for the Sick of the Parish:** Patrick Pender, Bridie Keelan, John O'Connor, Beatrice Thompson  
**'The Hour of Prayer'**  
 Weekday evenings from 7-8 pm. This hour will be livestreamed and will include the Rosary, Silent Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and Night Prayer of the Church, known as Compline  
[stfrancis.livevideostream.co.uk](http://stfrancis.livevideostream.co.uk)
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#### **Other Ideas for Lent:-**

- Try **coming to Mass** every day during Lent. Daily Mass is celebrated here in **St Francis on weekdays at 10.00 am**, and on **Saturdays at 11.00 am ( The Saturday Mass includes the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour) Masses for Sunday are as on the schedule overleaf)**
- Practise a little bit of **self denial (give something up)**. **Friday of this coming week is the Lent Family Fast Day.** Try to make a special effort this year **'to live a little more simply, so that others may simply live'** What you save on **Family Fast Day may be put in with the Second Collection next Sunday**
- Use the **'Walk with me'** booklets every day. The 'Walk with me' booklets and calendars are available today. Please take a few books for other family members or neighbours and friends. Sometimes people who are not Catholic would appreciate the gift of a 'Walk with me' booklet to help them do something special for Lent.
- Use the **pathwaystogod.org**-this is a highly recommended method of getting into the habit of daily prayer for Lent. It is set up by the Jesuits. It offers a daily Scripture passage for prayer and reflection  
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- **On Tuesdays of Lent at 7.45 pm, just before the 'Hour of Prayer'**, we hope to have some people talk on the **live-stream** about how **they live out their Christian vocation**. We hope to have a Sister of Mercy, a Holy Spirit Sister and some lay people. I would also like hear from anyone who would like to tell us something about their Christian vocation on the live stream. **The first speaker on Tuesday, 23rd Feb at 6.45 pm will be Mary Keelan**
- **St Chad's Cathedral is doing a series of Lenten Talks on zoom on Thursdays of Lent** at 7.00 pm. Various speakers. In order to obtain the link for any or all of the sessions, please send your name and where you live to [stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk)
- **The Gregorian University Foundation in Rome** is pleased to offer the opportunity to deepen your Lenten prayer and draw closer to Jesus Christ through an online Lenten Retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola. The retreat is free to anybody who is interested. For additional information, send an email to Colleen Mudlaff at [executivedirector@gregorianfoundation.org](mailto:executivedirector@gregorianfoundation.org), or you can telephone Colleen on 202-320-9788. Or ring Michael McFarland, SJ on 508-981-3513