



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PRAY FOR US

**Saint Mary's Catholic Church,
Wednesbury.**

Saint Mary's Road, WS10 9DL

Telephone 0121 505 7927

Parish Website <http://www.saintmaryswednesbury.org.uk>

Parish email: stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Priest: *Fr Michael Vaughan*

fr.michael.vaughan@rcaob.org.uk

www.frmichaelvaughan.com












SAFEGUARDING: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Mary Jones. She can be contacted at sg.stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk or on 0121 230 6240 if you have any concern.

The Archdiocese of Birmingham has a zero-tolerance approach to ALL abuse.

HYMNS

455 150 298

LENT 1	
21ST/22ND FEBRUARY 2026.	
Saturday after Ash Wednesday February 21st	 4.15pm - 4.50pm. Confession. 5pm Intentions of Bob and Lorraine Costley.
Sunday February 22nd First Sunday of Lent.	 9.30am - 9.50am. Confession. (Request) 10am People of the Parish.
Monday February 23rd Lent Feria.	 10am No Mass.
Tuesday February 24th Lent Feria.	 9.15am – Adoration, Rosary, Confession. (Request) 10am Intentions of the Perpetual Mass Fund.
Wednesday February 25th Lent Feria.	 9.15am NO Adoration, Rosary. Confession. 10am NO MASS
Thursday February 26th Lent Feria.	 9.15am Adoration, Rosary. Confession. (Request) 10am Phyllis Mary Woodward (RIP)
Friday February 27th Lent Feria.	 9am Adoration. Benediction. Divine Mercy. Confession. 10am Mass – Holy Souls. 10.30am – Stations of the Cross.
Saturday February 28th Lent Feria.	 4.15pm - 4.50pm. Confession. 5pm Intentions of Patrick and Edna.
Sunday March 1st Second Sunday of Lent.	 9.30am - 9.50am. Confession. (Request) 10am Collette Hinz 4th Anniversary (RIP)

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Michael Piggott who died on February 14th, and for his wife Norah, daughter Moya and son John. Funeral service in Church Wednesday 18th March 11am followed by interment at Sandwell Crematorium 12.15pm. Please note there will not be Mass that morning because of the Funeral Service. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Communion.

Everyone is most welcome to come to the altar rails to receive Communion, or to have a blessing from Fr Michael. Please put your hand across your chest to indicate a blessing only. Thank You.

Children's Liturgy.

Is held in the church porch every Sunday at the 10am Mass. Children will be called forward at the beginning of Mass. Parents who wish to do so, are most welcome to join their Children.

Tea and Coffee. After Mass every Sunday.

Gift Aid. Thank you to those who Gift Aid their offertory. This enables the parish to benefit from the tax paid on your offering at no extra cost to you. If you would like to know how your tax can benefit the parish (which is a charity) then please have a word with Gary Linford. Thank you.

Baptism Preparation for children under 7.

The next Baptism preparation meeting will be held on **Tuesday 31st March at 7pm.** All parents wishing for their children to be baptised should attend this meeting to help you prepare for your child's baptism. For Children over 7, please book an appointment to speak with Fr Michael.

Finance.

G.A.	£88.00
1 st Coll	£199.88
Votives	£70.00
Hall/social income	£200.00
Total	£557.88

Thank you.

Food Bank: There is a box in the Porch. Please support if you can. Thank you to all parishioners who support this Ecumenical Ministry.

Clergy Training Fund.

Thank you to those who regularly donate to the CTF.

Baptism Certificates.

Please note that Baptism Certificates are given to those who have been baptised one month after the Baptism, and not on the day of the Baptism itself. Thank you.

Replacement Certificates.

Please note that a charge of £10 per certificate is made on ALL Copies of Baptism and Confirmation certificates.

Please Pray for All the Sick of our Parish, may God bless and comfort them.

Also remember in your prayers, those who bear their illness privately, and those that care for them. Theresa Adams, Melesi Chapo, Bridgitt Cooper, Joan Dixon, Lynne Harper, Barbara Jarvis, Michelle Price, Veronica Smith, Pat Wilkins, Pat Morris.

Meter Readers.

My thanks to Kris Moseley and Margaret Holden who have agreed to help with monthly readings of the utility's meters. God bless. Fr Michael.

Church Hall Bookings.

If you would like to hire the Church Hall, please email Margaret Holden using the hall email address.

Last Week's Attendance.

Saturday 38
Sunday 73
Total 111

Please Note

Fr Michael likes to greet people as they enter church and as they leave. He realises that this is an opportunity for people to speak to him about Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion, but he needs to get your or your children's details, so please make an appointment to see him where he can give you his full attention. Thank you.

Fr Michael is available to parishioners Tuesday to Sunday but please note that he is not available on Mondays. Thank you.

RESTORATION FUND

The next Second Collection for the Church and Hall Restoration fund will take place on the weekend of the 28th February/ 1st March 2026.

For your Diary.

Sunday 15th March. Blessing of new Chasuble and Statue in honour of St Patrick.

Easter Triduum. Thursday 2nd April to Saturday 4th April. Mass times to be announced.

Easter Sunday, 5th April. Mass 10am.

Corpus Christi and First Holy Communion, Sunday the 7th June. Mass 10am.

CHURCH CLEANING.

Help needed please with the church cleaning on Tuesday, 24th February and then 24th March. We'd be so grateful if you could spare a few minutes to help. Many thanks, Kris

Parish Clustering.

My dear friends, recently I attended the first deanery meeting for the Walsall and Lichfield deanery. During this meeting we discussed the clustering of parishes. I'd say we're probably 12 years behind Stoke parishes. There is an agenda in that by 2030 we shall go from 250 parishes in the diocese to just 50 parishes. This means that many parishes will eventually be joined, so we'll have a parish with 2, 3 or 4 churches in them being run by one priest and lay assistants.

As part of this process, our Parish of Saint Mary's will now be clustered with Holy Cross at Stone Cross, and Saint Michael's West Bromwich. Fr Daniel at West Bromwich also has pastoral care of Stone Cross.

I will be meeting with Fr Daniel sometime during lent to discuss the way ahead. At this point in time, we will be looking at supporting one another in our ministry. This will inevitably mean that there will be changes to times of masses; but this would have to be agreed by Bishop Timothy. I have listened intensively to parishioners over the past couple of years, and I think we could lose a couple of masses during the week. Saturday evening masses will also be looked at, and Sunday Mass times too. Our attendance at mass has steadily increased in the past 2 years, but it's now tailing off. We also need to take into consideration our finances, which you are aware, isn't brilliant. Therefore, Fr Daniel and I will begin to work more closely together for the pastoral care of three churches, and to enable us to do that, we will need to be more available to each other, to support one another, and in doing so, ensure the pastoral care of our communities.

It is envisaged that within the next 4 years, there will be 1 parish with three churches, being looked after by a priest and some assistants, mainly lay assistants, but also, maybe a deacon or a curate.

There will be 1 Parish Council covering the 3 churches, and one Financial Council. Members of both councils will be sought from all 3 parishes. There will be 1 bank account for all 3 churches.

Obviously, 2 churches will lose their status as a Parish, I believe.

The position of Parish priest for the new parish will be at the appointment of the Archbishop and by the agreement of the Priest concerned.

There is no decision to close churches now, however, we must face the fact that this will be inevitable in the future, but there is no agenda to close any church at this time.

I do hope that this has explained something of what we are to expect, and I'd be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Meet and greet. We are currently looking for people who would like to greet and welcome people as they enter church and give them a newsletter and hymn and Mass books. If you think you'd like to help, then please have a word with Mary Jones, or Fr Michael. Thank you. My thanks to those who have done it for some time and have now decided to step back.

Church Hall Heating. Thank you to Gary Linford for agreeing to take on the responsibility of programming the heating in the Church Hall. Fr Michael.

SOCIAL EVENTS.

Easter Raffle 14th & 21st March Prizes out 28th March.

Sunday 15th March whisky cake and Irish coffee in celebration of St Patrick's day.

11th April Bingo 2.30pm

9th May. Spring Fair

Barn Dance April date to be confirmed.

Cream Tea in May date to be confirmed.

Summer Fair 4th July

Bingo through August

Proposed concert maybe with cream tea.

Proposed quiz evening.

These are just some of the parish events we hope to be holding this year, please support if you can. Many Thanks. Margaret Holden and the Belles of St Mary's.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Mass on Ash Wednesday, it was good to see the church full and thank you for your kind donations to the Church Heating £100 was raised to offset our costs. God Bless. Fr Michael.



PARISH DIRECTORY.

Parish Treasurer & Church Cleaning: Kristine Moseley.

pt.stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk

Health & Safety: Paul Piddock.

hs.stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk

Gift Aid & Children's Liturgy/Catechesis: Gary Linford.

ga.stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Hall Bookings: Margaret Holden.

hall.stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk

Safeguarding & Extraordinary Minister for the Sick:

Mary Jones.

sg.stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk

St Mary's School Headteacher Mrs Amy Pritchard.

Flowers: Ann Baxter. Bridget Lane. June Lefan.

All voluntary jobs by appointment.

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of the faithfully departed whose Anniversaries occur in **FEBRUARY**: Peter Bailey, Stanley E. H. Brookes, Cyril Dicken, Michael Groves, Derek Hadley, Irene Harper, Collette Hinz, Graham Humphrey, Ivor J Ilsley, W J Ilsley, Fr Frederick William Keating (Former P P), Ita Lane, Terry Langley Jnr, Faye Mason, John Moran, Edna Peach, Verity Perry, Gary Piddock, William Piggott, Brian Powell, Leon Purcell, Harold Scott, Maria Severn, Sarah Shinton, Christopher Slater, Anthony Brian Smith, Evelyn Stokes, Hilda Taylor, William Ward, Betty Wright.

Our Lady and the Sacred Heart. Sanctuary Lamps.

To have a Sanctuary Lamp lit in one of the chapels, for your intentions or loved ones, please fill in an envelope, available at the back of church, place your £10 in and give to Fr Michael. Thank you. Candles cost £10.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS

NOW AVAILABLE FOR LENT IN THE PIETY STORE. PRICE £1.50 EACH.

The Sanctuary lamp in Our Lady's Chapel burns for:

Repose of the Soul of Michael Joyce. (RIP) (8th February 2026)

The Sanctuary lamp in the Sacred Heart Chapel burns for:

Peter Bailey – Anniversary Remembrance (Monday 9th February)

Brian Bailey – Birthday Remembrance (Friday 13th February)

Passports The priest is available to sign passports upon request, but please note that he must have known the person for at least 2 years, and not the parishioner asking the priest to sign the passport on their behalf. The passport office does phone the presbytery to check, and a fee of £30 is charged per passport. Thank you.

Please check the Parish Website for regular updates. We receive more information than what can be put on the Newsletter, so please check our website for more information.

Thank you.

Please note that the cut-off for all notices to be included in the weekend newsletter is Wednesday at 12pm. Items for the Newsletter can be given to Fr Michael or emailed to Fr Michael's email address. The Newsletter is also available on the parish website.



**STATIONS OF THE
CROSS EVERY FRIDAY
AFTER MASS DURING
LENT. PLEASE COME
ALONG AND
SUPPORT. THANK
YOU.**

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham registered Charity No. 234216