



**PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ALL SAINTS,  
13 NEW ROAD STOURBRIDGE DY8 1PQ**

Website [www.olas.org.uk](http://www.olas.org.uk) Webcam [www.mcn.live/camera/our-lady-all-saints](http://www.mcn.live/camera/our-lady-all-saints)

Email [olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk) Telephone 01384 395308

Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity Number 234216

**PARISH PRIEST** Fr Philip Griffin **PRIEST IN RESIDENCE** Fr Stephen Pimlott

**PARISH DEACON** Rev Mr Tom Tranter **PARISH SECRETARY** Mrs Sarah Price

**HEALTH AND SAFETY** Mr Steve McNally

**SAFEGUARDING** - The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Mr. Paul Shannon and Mrs. Kathryn Sargent. They can be contacted at [sg.olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 / [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk)

**PARISH YOUTH WORKER** – Mr Liam Thomas [yth.olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:yth.olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk)

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL** Principal Mr Anthony Wilkes 01384 431980

**HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL** Principal Mr James Hodgson 01562 881820

Both schools are part of Emmaus Catholic MAC

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 25th/26th January 2025 Year C**

DATE	TIME	INTENTION	FEAST
Saturday 25th January 2025	5-00PM	Dawn Lewis	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 26th	8-30AM 11-00AM	Ann & Con McCorriston People of the Parish	
Monday 27th	9-00AM	Michael Ruffieux	Blessed Edward Oldcorne
Tuesday 28th	9-10AM 12-30PM	<b>Mass at Hagley School</b> Patricia Maxwell	St Thomas Aquinas
Wednesday 29th	9-00AM	O'Dwyer family deceased	
Thursday 30th	9-00AM	Patrick and Margaret Feeney	
Friday 31st	9-00AM 7-00PM	Holy Souls Mgr Michael J Coyne (month's mind)	St John Bosco
Saturday 1st February	10-00AM 5-00PM	Let the Children Live Kevin and Dennis Barker	Presentation of the Lord
Sunday 2nd	8-30AM 11-00AM	Leda Whelan People of the Parish	

**PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR TODAY ARE ON PAGE 129 OF THE MASS BOOK**

**This weekend we have an appeal by Fr Peter on behalf of Catholic Union Mission.**

**Next weekend the second collection will be for Pro Life.**

**CONFESSIONS** – Saturday 10-30am – 11am. Also, confession is available after any Mass.

**ADORATION** – After Saturday 10am Mass, Wednesday 8-30am, Thursday 3pm

**BIBLE STUDY** – Wednesday 10am in the Parish Centre.

**DIVINE MERCY** – After Mass on Thursday. **HOLY HOUR** –No Holy Hour this week.

**ADULT INSTRUCTION** – Thursday 7pm, in the Presbytery.

**CHURCH OPENING** – Church is open all day from 10am – 4pm next Friday. Please join our team of volunteers; a sign-up sheet for just an hour can be found in the porch.

**ROSARY** – Friday 6.35pm **CHILDREN'S LITURGY** – 5pm Saturday.

**RECENTLY DEPARTED** – Anne Billingham, Funeral Mass Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1pm, followed by Burial at Norton Catholic Cemetery.

**Come and meet our Parish Council members, Wednesday 29th January 7pm – 8-30pm, in the parish centre. Refreshments will be served.**

**WOLVERHAMPTON AND DUDLEY DEANERY MONTH OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS IS FEBRUARY.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION** - We welcome Bishop Timothy to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 8th February at 12-00noon and to conduct the Parish Visitation. Parish Council meeting with Bishop Timothy at 2pm - Parish meeting 6pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February, all parishioners are invited to attend.

**Thank you to everyone who completed one of our parish census forms, the last two pages of this newsletter continue the report. Thank you to Malcolm Leach and Jackie Edmunds.**

**FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGE** – Please follow us on our parish Facebook page – Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church, Stourbridge and our Youth Matters Instagram page @youthmattersolas

**PARISH CENSUS FORMS** – A polite reminder for our existing and any new parishioners - If you haven't already done so, please complete one of our parish census forms. Our parish database gives us another way of communicating with parishioners; however, we cannot add your details without a signed census form.

**2025 YEAR OF JUBILEE** – Information about Diocesan events on the Diocesan website introductory booklets available in the porch £1. If you have any ideas for social or spiritual events you would like to see in the parish this year, please contact Fr Philip.

**JANUARY SCRIPTURE COMMENTARIES** on our website, [olas.org.uk](http://olas.org.uk) and in the porch.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY** – Pope's Intentions for January – Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, may always be delivered.

#### **ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE IN OUR PARISH CENTRE**

**TODDLERS** - Tuesday mornings term time only. Please contact Shelagh on 07742 988204

**ALL SAINTS YOUTH GROUP** - Tuesday 28th January – 6-30pm – 8-30pm ; new youngsters welcome (Yr 5 +)

**LET THE CHILDREN LIVE PARISH FUNDRAISING GROUP** invite you to join them for tea/coffee and cake on Saturday 1st February at 11am.

**LUNCHEON CLUB** – The next lunch will be held on Wednesday 26th February. If you wish to attend, please contact Elaine on 07941 833026 by Monday 24th February.

**THE IGNATIAN PRAYER GROUP** - Meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday evening at 7pm on Zoom. Please contact either Sue on 07450 656757 – [suemcderm@aol.com](mailto:suemcderm@aol.com) - or Alice on 07845 706362 – [alice.grennan@gmail.com](mailto:alice.grennan@gmail.com).

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL** – It is important that you notify the parish if you or a member of your family are admitted into hospital; For admissions to Russell's Hall, please notify Deacon Tom - 07415 211098 For admissions to other hospitals, please notify Fr Philip - 01384 395308.

**FOODBANK DONATIONS** - We are open on Tuesday, 12:30pm -3:00pm and Friday 10-00am – 12-30pm. Please drop your donations of food to the back door of the parish centre. Thank you for your continued support. If you wish to donate other items, please check with the foodbank volunteers first. Thank you from Replenish for your donations during 2024 you collected and donated 2,156kg of food and 100kg of toiletries.

**THE BIRMINGHAM LOURDES HOSPITALITE** warmly invites you to a special Mass celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 4-30pm, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. A special invitation is extended to all who have served in Lourdes. School, students and Pilgrims planning to join our Diocesan Pilgrimage in May 2025.

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).



#### **CONTACTLESS AND ONLINE DONATIONS**

**We are now able to offer contactless payments in the porch.**

**You can also donate online to the offertory, second/retiring collection, general parish donation, and youth activities, using the following link <https://donate.mydona.com/our-lady-all-st-stourbridge> or using this QR code.**

**Our Lady and All Saints Church, Stourbridge**  
**Results of Parish Questionnaire**  
**January 2025**

## **Introduction**

In late 2024 it was decided to carry out a Parish Questionnaire to discover the views of the congregation. This was issued at the beginning of December 2024 asking for up to three items which were considered good or going well in the Parish and up to three which could be better, or people would like to see. These were available throughout December 2024 and the results were analysed in January 2025 ahead of the Parish Visitation planned for February 2025. This report attempts to summarise the returns received. A total of 43 returns were received and are analysed below.

## **Things that were Good or Going Well**

In this section, a few respondents identified less than three items in this category and many combined together a number of factors which we have attempted to reflect below.

### **Pastoral**

The work of the **SVP** and the care for the elderly and infirm were mentioned by 9 respondents. The provision of monthly lunches and the cinema club were also praised as being supportive of the elderly. The support for people in hospital was also applauded.

The work of the **Youth Club** and the appointment of a **Parish Youth Worker** were praised in 15 responses, and many emphasised the importance of this in building for the future. The excellent work of the **Parish Secretary** was also widely commended.

Several responders mentioned the **Synodal Pathway meetings** as both helpful, informative and well attended. Many hoped that the new **Parish Council** will be a useful mechanism to further develop the Parish. The opportunities to comment upon the proposed new **Parish Centre** were welcomed.

### **Spiritual**

The **Clergy** were praised in 16 returns. Words used included hard-working, welcoming, strong, stimulating, sensitive, prayerful, approachable, sincere and authentic with excellent leadership. Many thought that the Parish was very fortunate to have two priests and a deacon and hoped this would continue. The quality of the **homilies** was mentioned in several responses as being enriching. The **Altar Servers** were also congratulated and the **Children's Liturgy** and the **5 pm Family Mass** were also praised.

The many and diverse **opportunities for worship** were welcomed by a number of respondents. The provision of Mass with Anointing, Holy Hour, Divine Mercy, praying before the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and many opportunities for Mass including daily Masses and three Sunday Masses, the variety of Eucharistic Prayers and the opportunities for Confession, Prayer and Meditation were mentioned and appreciated. This particularly helps people with busy lives. The spiritual atmosphere and moments of silence were welcomed. The use of two readers at some Masses was liked. One response praised the opportunity to kneel at Communion and the **Ignatian Prayer Group** was praised. One respondent welcomed the conservative delivery of Mass which should not be lost.

The **Children's Sacramental programme** was highlighted, and the candlelit Carol service and parish/school activities were also praised. Many responses mentioned the **Music** provision in Masses. The **Choir** and the **Music Group** both came in for praise.

### **Practical**

A number of responses mentioned the **Beautiful Church** and the wonderful **Flower Arranging**. The availability and extent of the free parking were much appreciated. The **Friday opening** was praised as was the fact that the church seemed warmer in recent times. The work of the **Welcomers** was mentioned by several people and the **Parish** was described as being inviting, well run, thriving, in good heart, friendly and generous. People appreciate the refreshments after the 11 am Sunday Mass.

People appreciated the regular Parish events for the community and participation in Churches Together in Stourbridge. The **Toddler Group** was also mentioned. The Parish community is considered to be supportive and outreaching.

## **Things that could be better or we would like to see in the parish.**

(43 replies with very little repetition)

### **Pastoral**

- Church needs to be more vital and attractive for families and young people, congregation focussed, warm, safe, inviting, welcoming, and where people feel valued. (Several replies said this) More Welcomers on the rota might help.
- Improved socialising (e.g. coffee) after all Masses. A side door would be more congenial than the one situated on the ring road. Speak to people you don't know.
- More social activities with wider participation, especially for the elderly.
- Bereavement support group.
- Better school/parish links with more involvement of parents and families in the parish.
- Subsidised pilgrimages (especially for young people) and Church trips.
- Religious library.

### **Spiritual**

- Many comments were about Mass times which do not suit everyone. Some wanted more evening Masses, or later than 9am on weekdays, with Sunday 11am being too late for some.
- More healing Masses, Eucharistic Services when the priest is not available, more volunteers for reader/minister, and someone would like to see Deacon Tom at Sunday 8.30am occasionally!
- Priests should face the congregation for all of the Mass, announce which Eucharistic Prayer is being used and give the page numbers for the preface and readings. Could we sit down for the notices?
- Homilies 7mins maximum and aimed at children if Mass is school-led, which should be 1/month or at least 1/term.
- Communion under both kinds was requested twice, and 3 complaints about the benches in front of the altar were made. It was also said that reminding people that some could not receive communion was not very inviting.
- A prayer request box (for the living) could be taken up at the Offertory.
- Services of Reconciliation have been very popular in the past. Evening Bible Study groups were suggested.
- A Mission for Parish Renewal, forming an actively listening and responding community, was advocated. The previous 'Night Fever' missions were commended.

### **Music**

- Music featured on many replies, with diverse opinions. Latin is generally not appreciated, some wanted singing at 8.30am, no music on Sat. 5pm, relevant modern hymns, more hymns to Our Lady, sung chants, psalms and antiphons.
- Use of 'Laudate' or newer hymn books was requested.
- School choir and band could lead the music if the liturgy is for, or involving, children.

### **Practical**

- Newsletters to be sent by email.
- More varied and electronic communication, with use of modern technology. (2 replies)
- Elected Parish Council with equal M/F representation. (2 replies)
- Opportunities to use Synodal methods of discernment.
- More publicity for different groups in the parish and how to make contact with those who lead them.
- Important to keep things going when Hall is being rebuilt.

Jackie Edmunds and Malcolm Leach