

Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Church Priory Road, Alcester. B49 5DY

Parish priest: The Rt Reverend Geoffrey Scott, Abbot of Lindisfarne

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Until further notice, Saturday & Sunday Masses are held in the Hall, weekday in the Presbytery.



18th February 2024

First Sunday of Lent

Parish Mass Book page 148

Sunday Masses are at **08:30am and 10:30am**
Unless otherwise stated the second collection is for the Parish Development Fund (PDF.)

- Weekday Masses:
Monday 10:00am in the Presbytery.
Saturday 10:00am in the Church followed by Stations of the Cross & Confession.
Friday 23rd Feb. 10:00am is at Our Lady's Catholic Primary School. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

Notable Feast & Saints' days this week:

- Weds 21st Feb.: Commemoration of St. Peter Damian
- Thurs 22nd Feb.: Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Apostle
- Fri 23rd Feb.: Commemoration of St. Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr

Collect

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.
Amen.

Please support our Local Foodbank which has sent out a plea for donations especially during Lent. Our collection is the 1st Sunday of the month. The amount of help needed is outstripping the donations they are at present receiving. Please donate an item or two from their shopping list. The top ten items required are tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned fruit, baked beans, soup, tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, breakfast cereals, pasta and custard. Remember the Arden Foodbank provide emergency food parcels for local people and families facing hardship.

The Dona Machine is now working consistently in the Parish Hall. New network wiring has been completed into the Church, thank you to those who installed it and to all those using the Dona machine.

Hall Update When you see scaffolding going up on the Hall do not be alarmed. It is the start of the completion of the snagging from the original Hall renovation. The work on the snagging was taken over last year by Sibbasbridge a Stratford on Avon firm.



Lent

Lenten acts of penance include fasting and prayer, in particular on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Our devotional life centres around the Passion of Christ - please make every effort to attend Saturday Stations of the Cross during Lent. Lent gives us the opportunity to make retreat in the midst of a busy world

Children's Liturgy There is no Children's Liturgy today, it will resume on 3rd March. (1st and 3rd Sunday of the month).

Tea & coffee will be served after 10:30 mass next Sunday, 25th February.
Rota: MR / CR

The Pope's Prayer Intention for February: For The Terminally Ill

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

The Parish Hall and Meeting Room are available for hire and bookings.

For enquiries email hallbookings@catholicchurchalcester.org.uk or phone 07876 796 277

Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Church
Priory Road, Alcester. B49 5DY

Use this code to donate by
phone to Parish Collections



CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day (Friday 23rd. February)

Family Fast Day is on Friday 23 February. Please join in by eating simply and giving what you can. Collect a CAFOD envelope to Gift Aid your donation or give online. If you can set up a monthly gift, you'll help more hardworking people in hazardous jobs to return home safely and feed their families for good, like the fishermen of Liberia where five people a month die in storms and other dangers.

GOSPEL REFLECTION for the First Sunday of Lent-Mark 1:12-15

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus goes out into the wilderness for 40 days. Like the fishermen out at sea, he knows what it is like to be alone in dangerous conditions, to be hungry and maybe even afraid. But he is never abandoned. We hear that the angels looked after him. Let us then, not abandon our sisters and brothers when they are in need of help, and stand alongside them as they work to feed their families.

Fundraising Irish Supper Saturday 13th April

Following the success of the fundraising Italian meals Ruth and Bernard O'Leary have kindly offered to prepare an Irish supper on Saturday 13 April, 7.00pm in the parish hall.

Cost is £20 per person, bring your own drinks. It will be 3 courses, a sharing plate of prawns, pâté, olives, cheese and meats followed by Irish stew served with soda bread, a dessert platter of Guinness cake, Baileys cheesecake and Irish apple cake. Home reared lamb donated by Gabby Allison.

Places are limited so booking is essential. Please advise of any dietary requirements when booking.

Contact Jenny Holmes to secure your place

jennyholmes2014@gmail.com or text/phone 07810141466



Our Lady & St Joseph Alcester
Fundraising Irish Supper
Saturday 13 April 7.00pm Parish Hall

£20 per person

Safeguarding in Action Deanery Day Banbury and Warwick

The Diocesan Safeguarding team are visiting in person Immaculate Conception Church, The Causeway, Bicester, OX26 6AW 10am-2pm on Saturday 2nd March. We will be available for discussion, questions and information sharing on all things Safeguarding.

Drop in anytime, for some refreshments and a chat and there will also be talk/presentation at 12pm Including an opportunity to view transformational angels' art project and learn more about the LOUDfence initiative.

We welcome all and look forward to seeing you.



*Let us love
not in word or speech,
but in truth and action.*

1 John 3:18

Heating Update

At last, a decision has been made regarding the heating of the church. We have considered every piece of advice from members of the parish, the diocese, electric heating engineers and plumbers. We have been taking into consideration the need to, if possible, avoid fossil fuels. We have not been able to achieve our objective at present. There were too many obstacles whichever way we turned. **Finally, it has been decided that we have a new gas high efficiency A rated boiler with a low loss header to be installed in the sacristy and in future a hybrid air source heat pump fitted which will link with the boiler.** We thank all the people who have helped us come to this decision. The work has been agreed so we look forward to being in a warm church for Easter.