

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

Parish priest: The Rt Reverend Geoffrey Scott, Abbot of Lindisfarne  
 Phone: 01789 762573  
 email: [olasj.alcester@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:olasj.alcester@rcaob.org.uk)  
 Website: [www.catholicchurchalcester.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurchalcester.org.uk)



**26<sup>th</sup> January 2025**      **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 Parish Mass Book page 129      08:30 Mass: Gloria: 9      Credo: 11      Sanctus: 16  
 10:30 Mass: Gloria: 337      Credo: 11      Sanctus: 342  
*Unless otherwise stated the second collection is for the Parish Development Fund (PDF)*

**Monday & Friday** 10:00am Mass in Church  
**Saturday Mass** at 10:00am followed by  
 Exposition and Confession.  
**Sunday Masses** are at 08:30am and 10:30am

**Children's Liturgy** will next take place at 10:30am  
 Mass on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

**Feast Days and Saints' Days this week:**

- Tue.: St. Thomas Aquinas
- Fri: St. John Bosco

**The Pope's Prayer Intention for February**  
**For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.**  
 Let us pray that the ecclesial community might  
 welcome the desires and doubts of those young  
 people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the  
 priesthood and religious life.

**Tea and Coffee after 10:30am Mass Today**

All are welcome to enjoy a good cuppa and chat after 10:30am Mass today in the Parish Hall.

**The Food Bank is next week (Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February).** Particularly needed are breakfast cereals, noodles, pasta sauces, custard, toiletries. Last month's weight was 96 kg, thank you for your ongoing generosity.

**A new church cleaning rota will start in March.** Additional volunteers for the cleaning team are always welcome; please give your details to Jenny Holmes if you can help. email: [jennyholmes2014@gmail.com](mailto:jennyholmes2014@gmail.com) or message: 07810 141466

**ACT -Alcester Churches Together Church Unity Week**

This year our local churches ACT organised that each minister should talk in another church. Father Geoffrey was to go to the Methodist Church but that was impossible due to timings. Nick Cosgriff who gave our Advent talks and is training to be a Deacon, on Father Geoffrey's behalf gave a talk at two different services at the Methodist Church.

Last Saturday evening we welcomed Rev. Alison Mackay, Pastor of Alcester Baptist Church as part of the Church Unity Week. Alison gave a fascinating insight to the history of the Baptist Church, and the way the Church works today. Alcester Baptist Church was established in 1640, at first as an illegal religious gathering, and subsequently grew over the centuries with the current Chapel being built in 1859. Alison's talk concluded with her saying how in a previous role she would meet Archbishop Bernard Longley. They found that they both came from the same area just streets apart. Her brother was taught by the Archbishop's brother. When she was ill the Archbishop said a Mass for her recovery. Fr. Geoffrey & Alison both reflected on our shared history of persecution after the Reformation, and the importance of Church Unity in today's world. Afterwards we moved from the Church to the house for light refreshments, a convivial time when the 8.30 folk met those who go to 10.30 and we got to talk more with Alison.



### Mass at Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Fr. Geoffrey celebrated Mass at Our Lady's School last Friday, following which he blessed the classroom doors which had been decorated by the children for this Jubilee year, on the theme of "New Beginnings-Pilgrims of Hope". Parishioners were also invited to visit prayer stations, where children were leading activities at each. An absolutely wonderful and engaging morning! The children, as ever, were reverent, and a joy to talk with.



**Sunday Missals:** I have some requests again for the new missal. If I have 6 orders the p&p will be free so if you would like one please let me know by the end of the month. Thank you. (Red one £20, Burgundy or white with gold edged pages in a slip cover £30). Rosalind Marie Fallon 07789 282689.

### Parish Hall – a message from Teresa Quick

Our Parish Hall is a great asset to our parish community. I remember with disappointment representatives from the diocese telling us that we would not make a profit from the Hall, but it would be a Parish asset. They were right. Our Hall must be able support itself. It cannot be a drain on the Parish Funds. We are often asked how much it costs to hire the Hall / Meeting Room. We have Standard Hire rates which are very competitive, but Parishioners do get concessionary rates. The Hall has been used after funerals, baptisms, for celebratory events and parties and private fund-raising events and talks: - for Deanery and Douai Abbey Parishes Trust meetings and lunches. We must have regular lettings to fund the upkeep of the Hall but especially at weekends there are times when the Hall is not used and is available for hire. The heating is the main cost to us any time the Hall or Meeting Room is let. Bookings are made through the Booking Secretary –[hallbookings@catholicchurchalcester.org.uk](mailto:hallbookings@catholicchurchalcester.org.uk). or by using 07876 796277 and if necessary, leaving a message which will be returned as soon as is possible. Where would we have been this time last year without the Hall.

### STANDARD HIRING RATES

**MAIN HALL** (including use of kitchen for your own light refreshments)

Type of Hire	Rate per hour	Minimum Hire	Refundable deposit
Per Hour	£16.00	2 hours	£100

**MEETING ROOM** (with facilities for making your own light refreshments)

Type of Hire	Rate per hour	Minimum Hire	Refundable deposit
Per Hour	£10	2 hours	£100

**MAIN HALL/MEETING ROOM COMBINED** (including the use of the kitchen for your own light refreshments)

Type of Hire	Rate per hour	Minimum Hire	Refundable deposit
Per Hour	£25	2 hours	£100

**Church Offertory** Ways to contribute are as follows:

- Standing Order is our preferred method using the following details: Account name: Our Lady & St Joseph's RC Parish Alcester, Sort code: 40-43-54 Account: 11068687 Reference: your name.
- You can give cash at the collections in Mass, or use the Dona card reader machine in church.

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

For enquiries email [hallbookings@catholicchurchalcester.org.uk](mailto:hallbookings@catholicchurchalcester.org.uk) or phone 07876 796 277