

**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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**6<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

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**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

08:30 Mass: Credo: 11 Sanctus: 16

10:30 Mass: 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** 10:00am in Church followed by Stations of the Cross and Confession.

**Sunday Masses** are at 08:30am and 10:30am

**Feast Days and Saints' Days:**

- Mon: St. John Baptist de la Salle
- Fri: St. Stanislaus

**The Pope's Prayer Intention for April**  
**For the use of the new technologies.**

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

**The Food Bank Collection is Today** The items needed are: tinned potatoes, custard, tinned cold meats, tinned fruit, toiletries. Last month's weight was 109.2 kgs, thank you for your ongoing generosity.

**During Lent a food bank collection basket will be available at the back of Church for contributions at any time as well as for the regular collection.**

**Children's Liturgy** will take place during 10:30am Mass next Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April (Palm Sunday)

**Calling All Readers** (new people welcome): the sign up sheet will be on the notice board these next two weeks for all the Holy Week Liturgies. Please fill it up!

**A date for your diary: Calling all brass cleaners!** The church brassware will be cleaned and polished on Friday 11th April, in the presbytery, after the 10am Mass. The more helpers, the merrier and the quicker the job will be done. Please come along and bring old cloths for polishing. Brasso will be provided. Thank you.

**Easter Flowers:** There is a basket at the back for donations towards the Easter flowers and the general flower fund. Any new parishioners interested in going on the flower rota, please contact Cheryl Cracknell

**Piety Stall** Easter cards are now available. Thank you for your continued support.

**Lent is a 40-day fast** — a reference to the time Jesus spent being tempted in the desert. It's a time when we can prepare our hearts for the remembrance of Christ's death. Our observance of Lent culminates in the solemn celebrations of Holy Week when on Palm Sunday we follow Christ from his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem to the foot of the Cross as sorrowful bystanders to His Passion, before rolling back the stone of the empty tomb and the joy of the Resurrection.

The six-week period is dedicated to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for this great celebration of Christ's Paschal Mystery in the Easter Triduum.

It is an obligation on all Catholics to fulfil Easter Duties. That is, at least once a year, to go to Confession and receive Holy Communion. This should be done around Easter time and before Trinity Sunday.

It is also recommended by the Church that confession at least once a month is beneficial for the soul and growth in one's Faith.



**Holy Week Services & Morning Prayer**

Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> April	09:30 <b>10:00</b>	Morning Prayer <b>Mass</b>
Tue 15 <sup>th</sup> April	09:30	Morning Prayer
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> April	09:30	Morning Prayer
Thu 17 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	09:30 <b>20:00</b>	Morning Prayer <b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b> followed by Watching at the Altar of Repose and a closing prayer at 10pm
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Good Friday</b>	09:30 <b>15:00</b>	Morning Prayer <b>The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion</b>
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Holy Saturday</b>	09:30 <b>20:00</b>	Morning Prayer <b>The Easter Vigil</b>
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>08:30 &amp; 10:30</b> 18:30	<b>Mass of the Resurrection</b> Evening Prayer (in the Parish Hall)

**Additional Events** - please support these special activities as part of Holy Week and Easter Preparation

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> April	12:00	Walking Rosary or Angelus	<i>In the Church Grounds by the Statue of Our Lady or in Church if the weather is inclement</i>
	15:00	Stations of the Cross	<i>In Church</i>
	18:30	Evening Prayer	<i>In The Parish Hall</i>
	19:00	Talk on "Faith", Hope" and "Charity" (Mon / Tue / Wed)	<i>In The Parish Hall</i>
	19:45	Night Prayer	<i>In The Parish Hall</i>
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	10:30	Alcester Churches Together Walk of Witness	<i>more details and route in next week's bulletin</i>

**Morning Prayers** will be held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 09:30am before 10:00am Mass in addition to the daily Holy Week morning prayers.



**PLEASE NOTE** that the next planned ACT monthly drop-in 'open house' for people to spend in prayer due to be held at the Methodist Church on Monday 7th April has been **CANCELLED**.

The next two drop-in sessions are planned for 4.00pm – 4.30pm on the first Monday of each month as follows:-

- 05 May hosted by Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Church
- 02 June hosted by St Nicholas Church.

Please feel free to drop-in to the above sessions, for all or part of the time, to meet in prayer with fellow local Christians.

**ACT Drop-in on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 4.00 – 4.30pm at Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Church.**

As the Government has marked this Bank Holiday as part of the celebrations for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day, the theme for the drop-in will be Thanksgiving and Remembrance. Perhaps it would be nice to follow this occasion with a parish gathering, maybe a simple garden party?

If anyone is interested in sharing ideas for, and then helping to plan, this event then you can either email Mike Bennett at [mhsbennett@aol.com](mailto:mhsbennett@aol.com) or meet Mike after the 8.30 or 10.30 Mass next Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Obviously time is short and families may have other plans, but if you think this could be a nice event, please contact Mike and together we can see if something enjoyable can be planned for this historic occasion.

**Church Offertory** 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.

Legislation is passing through parliament seeking to legalise assisted suicide. The Bill's Third Reading and vote is likely to take place at the end of April or start of May. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to contact your MP to express your views.

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