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THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

[Website](#) [Events](#) [News](#)

Do you throw away your dirty clothes? Then, neither Jesus our Lord will throw you away.

Visit the Archdiocese website for more news, events and information for parishes, parishioners and communities: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

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Approaching the third Sunday of Lent

'A spring of water welling up to eternal life.' (John 4:5-42)

One day a candidate preparing for the sacrament of reconciliation asked a priest, 'Will Jesus really forgive me?'

The priest asked the candidate in return, 'Do you throw away your dirty clothes?' 'No,' came the reply. Then, neither Jesus our Lord will throw you away.

In the encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan woman, we learn that despite how the world must have treated the Samaritan being sinful, Jesus saw in her the possible missionary that she could be with His encouragement. No matter what our past was, our future is pure and spotless.

Fr Joseph Raju Katthula CMF, is a Claretian Missionary, based in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hayes. He now works as the Religious Life Promoter at the National Office for Vocation.

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news

Dementia Prayer Week 12-19 March

As Dementia Prayer Week is always printed in the Ordo, parishes may wish to include the The Father's Love, the



original prayer, in your newsletter:

The Father's Love

As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.

John:15 v 9

Lord, thank you
for your presence
this moment,
holding us in your love.
Help us to share
your love with those who live
among us with dementia,
that we may see
your beauty in them.

Amen

Pastoral Care Project ©2009



Lourdes: time with the Lord, time with one another, in the company of Mary.

Archbishop Bernard invites us to this year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in a new video. He says: "Every pilgrimage to Lourdes is very special for the individuals who come here, but to be here as a group is also really important because it's a place where we can witness to our faith to one another and also draw inspiration from all the other pilgrims who come here from around the world.

"Our Lady has invited us to come here to be close to Jesus Christ to strengthen our own mission as we go back to our homes and our churches.

"So here in Lourdes we never know exactly what we will encounter but the important thing is that it's time with the Lord, it's time with one another in the company of Mary."

The pilgrimage runs from **Saturday 27 May to Friday 2 June**. Tickets are selling quickly, don't miss your chance to join this very special trip.

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes



Being a Welcoming Church to Older People

Father Hudson's Care (FHC) is working with the Archdiocese on a new project: Being a Welcoming Church.

It is a call for action around four areas of great need:

- Older People
- Disability
- Refugees
- Homelessness.

FHC has commissioned the making of four short films

around these themes. The first is Older People.

This will be launched via Zoom on Monday 20 March at 7.30pm and will last for one hour.

The workshops will envision how parishes can live their faith and mission more deeply through charitable action, and equip parishes with new ideas and opportunities to serve those in need.

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events



An Encounter with Christ: Cursillo Encounter Day

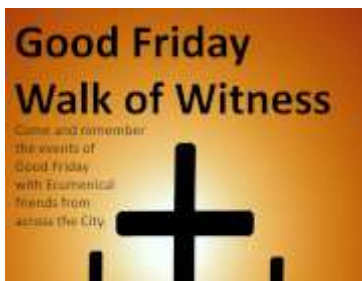
You are warmly invited to a Cursillo Encounter Day at St Mary's the Mount, in Walsall on **Saturday 25 March**. Attendance is free.

Cursillo is an encounter with Christ. It promotes a spiritual revitalisation of our world. By living a fully Christian life, we bring Christ to others, including members of our family, school, workplace, etc.

Cursillo develops a consciousness that we are called to be leaders in our everyday lives.

Come along for talks, discussion, fellowship and food and to learn more about Cursillo in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, and particularly about the upcoming Cursillo Weekend, which will be happening from 11-14 May 2023, near Stafford.

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events



Good Friday Walk of Witness

The annual Birmingham Walk of Witness will again be taking place this **Good Friday, 7 April 10am**, starting at The Church at Carrs Lane and finishing at St Chad's Cathedral.

Come and walk with Our Lord and remember the events of Good Friday with ecumenical friends from across the City of Birmingham.

Will your parish also be holding a Walk of Witness? Please send any photos over to communications@rcaob.org.uk

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events

It's our turn to lead: Become a *Laudato Si'* Animator!



The Vatican-backed Laudato Si' Movement organises an online Laudato Si' Animators' Course which is set up to educate and enable people to inspire others; in parishes, schools and in the world at large, to engage in dialogue and action on the current environmental crises.

The course, which starts on **Wednesday 19 April**, will educate and empower you to bring the *Laudato Si'* encyclical to life.

The course will explain the causes and consequences of climate change, will show how the *Laudato Si'* encyclical fits into Catholic social teaching and will encourage a personal ecological conversion to enable action for the planet.

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events



'Tasting the Silence' four-day retreat

A four-day retreat 'Tasting the Silence' from **Thursday 20 to Sunday 23 April** - Whitby.

A Contemplative Prayer Retreat using the 'Gries Path' as developed by Franz Jalics SJ.

This short form offers the possibility of moving towards contemplative prayer for those not used to extended time spent in silence.

The path taken is clearly led and simple. We stay in silence before God in meditation as a group as well as individually outside in nature.

The Oasis of Silence programme at St Hilda's Priory, Whitby, offers space and stillness to seek God with loving awareness in the present moment.

It is for everyone seeking stillness and silence and who is interested in getting to know or to deepening the practice of contemplative prayer.

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events



Gregorian Chant Festival, Douai Abbey

Schola Gregoriana
The Association for Gregorian chant

Gregorian Chant Festival, Douai Abbey, **Tuesday 2 May - Thursday 4 May 2023.**

This special event at Douai (near Reading) will prepare and use Chant for Compline, Vespers and Latin Masses in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite.

All options include tuition, rehearsal, provision of music, other events and daytime catering but other options

include full board from the afternoon of May 2 to lunch on May 4.

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events



Quick Wins to help reduce parish costs

The Property Team's Building Maintenance Surgery on **Thursday 30 March** at 2pm will be looking at providing your parish with the tools to make small changes to help save you money.

If you have any ideas or thoughts you would like to share with the group that have worked for your parish, please bring them to the surgery.

As before, if you wish to attend, please email rcaobproperty@rcaob.org.uk and we will send you a link to join.

Tom and Tarnia are always available for any property related matters, just drop us an email:

Tom Stockwell: tom.stockwell@rcaob.org.uk

Tarnia McAlester: tarnia.mcalester@rcaob.org.uk



Journeying through Lent

Prayers, reflections, family activities and more for your Lenten journey are now available on the Archdiocese website page for Lent and Easter.

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lent-and-easter



Supporting your parish

You have asked us how you can continue giving to your parish.

Parishes still greatly need your support.

We do though recognise that many parishioners may be struggling financially, and there is no expectation to give where you are unable to do so.

You can donate via standing order or single donation.

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work



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It's great to see information coming into us which we can share with others, please keep it coming!

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