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# THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

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

## Bishop David McGough RIP, Holy Week is here

Visit the Archdiocese website for more news, events and information for parishes, parishioners and communities: [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

Want this newsletter emailed to you? Go to [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/enews](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/enews) to sign up.



### Bishop David McGough RIP

It was with great sadness we announced the death of Bishop David McGough, retired auxiliary bishop, last weekend.

Archbishop Bernard Longley said:

*"I know that you will join me in praying for Bishop David's eternal joy with the risen Christ as his good and faithful servant – and in offering Bishop David's family our heartfelt condolences and our prayers over the coming days."*

*"With immense gratitude for all that Bishop David has meant to our Archdiocese – and my prayers and kindest wishes."*

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news)



### A Reflection for Palm Sunday

The Catholic Bishops' Conference's Lenten Project - a series of reflections throughout Lent - continues with Palm Sunday.

**'The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.'** (Matt 26:14–27:66) **Light and dark in Matthew:**

Matthew's Gospel shifts between light and dark with a similar deftness to Caravaggio's use of chiaroscuro in 'The Taking of Christ' heightening the range and intensity of betrayal.

We've leapt from Palm Sunday joy to Judas betraying Jesus with a single kiss. It's easy to blame everything on Judas since his treachery is the turning point of the Passion. Yet, he is not the only one to fail Jesus as he walks towards his death.

*Fleur Dorrell, the Catholic Scripture Engagement Manager for the Catholic Bishops' Conference and for Bible Society, and the national co-ordinator of the God who Speaks initiative, delivers this weekend's reflection.*

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news)



## Holy Week in your Parish

Have you considered how you will keep Holy Week holy this year?

The ceremonies beginning with *Palm Sunday* and then the Sacred Three Days (Triduum) of *Holy Thursday* evening, *Good Friday* afternoon and *Holy Saturday* evening are some of the most beautiful and precious moments of prayer in the whole year.

Find out the times of these ceremonies in your parish and try to attend, especially if you have not been to them before.

### **Mass of Chrism in St Chad's Cathedral – Wednesday of Holy Week at 11.30am**

On the Wednesday of Holy Week each year, the priests and bishops of the Archdiocese gather with Archbishop Bernard to renew their priestly promises, and for the blessing of the Holy Oils that will be used in the Sacraments of the Church across the Archdiocese over the coming year.

All are welcome to the Mass of Chrism (Wed 5 April).

(Please note that the Cathedral Car Park is not available for general use on this day.)



## Good Friday Walk of Witness

The annual Birmingham Walk of Witness will again be taking place this **Good Friday, 7 April** from 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](mailto:communications@rcaob.org.uk)

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events)



## Meet the new Head of Safeguarding

Claire Reay has joined the Archdiocese of Birmingham as the new permanent Head of Safeguarding.

Claire is a qualified Social Worker, working in Adult Social Care for over 28 years. During that period she was a hospital Social Worker and a Palliative Care Social worker before becoming a manager in Community Adult Social Care in 2002.

In the community role she worked with adults from the ages of 18 and above with a wide range of care and support needs. Claire's particular interest has been in working with people with learning disabilities.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news)



## LOUDfence is coming to St Chad's Cathedral this May

A LOUDfence involves tying LOUD (brightly coloured) ribbons and messages of support in public spaces to show support to all victims and survivors of child abuse.

The aim is to give survivors a voice, create awareness in the community and work to end child abuse.

LOUDfence will be hosted at St Chad's Cathedral from Sunday 7 to Saturday 13 May.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news)



## Responding to the Call of Creation - April

The latest newsletter for Responding to the Call of Creation is now available.

It focuses on three big events in April:

- No faith in fossil fuels: Service and pilgrimage to Parliament with CAFOD and other organisations, **Friday 21 April**
- International Mother Earth Day, **Saturday 22 April**
- Ecology and the Creation Theology: Exploring a Sacramental Worldview at St Mary's College, Oscott, **Saturday 29 April**

Plus some tips for change in April. You can download it as a pdf to share within your parish.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/resources-to-care-for-creation](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/resources-to-care-for-creation)



## Invitation from Mary's Meals: Pray in May

Mary's Meals is a global charity serving nutritious school meals to over 2.4 million children living in 18 countries around the world.

We provide a daily meal in a place of learning to attract chronically hungry children into the classroom, where they receive the education that could be their ladder out of poverty.

Since our humble beginnings, Mary's Meals has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support us.

Throughout the **month of May** Mary's Meals are inviting churches to pray with us as part of our Pray in May campaign, and the charity will soon be contacting churches across our Archdiocese.

Praying that our work continues to flourish and grow, and that more children throughout the world will see their lives transformed by receiving a daily meal in a place of education.

[www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)



## Mass for Marriage - register your interest

There's still time to register to attend this wonderful event celebrating love and marriage across our Archdiocese.

This year's Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage takes place on **Saturday 29 April** at 12noon at St Chad's Cathedral.

If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2023, or are engaged to be married this year, or would simply like to give thanks to God for your marriage, and ask for His ongoing blessings, please do attend.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news)

## Register now for 'Eternity' - what's next?

What happens to us after we die? How can a knowledge of eternity help us to live well now?



Join The Art of Dying Well for an interfaith conversation about eternity at the Niksham Centre, Soho Road, Birmingham on **Thursday 27 April**.

Speakers include:

- The Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham
- Rabbi Yossi Jacobs, The Chief Minister of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, Singers Hill Synagogue
- Simon Romer, Teacher of Buddhism
- Anjana Shelat, Midland region coordinator of Hindu Mandir Network UK, Trustee at Shree Laxmi Narayan Temple
- Dr Gopinder Sagoo, from the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewa Jatha community in Birmingham.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events)



## Journeying through Lent

*"Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross."* - Pope Francis

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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lent-and-easter)



## Latest vacancies

The **Archdiocese of Birmingham** is seeking up to **five enthusiastic Choral Directors** to work with the Programme Director to implement, deliver and develop the National Schools Singing Programme within the Archdiocese.

Closing date for applications is **Monday 24 April**.

The **Kenelm Youth Trust** is currently recruiting for two positions:

- **Retreat Centre Director:** for July 2023 start.
- **Digital Ministry Worker:** for August 2023 start.

Closing date for applications is **Tuesday 11 April**.

There is a **Prison Chaplain vacancy** at HMYOI Drake Hall in Eccleshall, Staffordshire.

The successful applicant will provide for the religious care of prisoners and staff in the Roman Catholic faith tradition including (for ordained priests) sacramental provision, and appropriate pastoral care for all irrespective of faith or tradition.

The closing date is **Friday 14 April**.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs)



## 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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work)



## Please follow us online

If you are on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram please follow the Archdiocese of Birmingham online.

Our accounts are being used more than ever before to share news, events and information.

We hope you are finding this e-newsletter useful. **Please share with anyone you think will benefit, and encourage them to subscribe via the website.**

If you have any news, events or information you'd like to share this way please email it to [communications@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:communications@rcaob.org.uk) marked 'For Newsletter'.

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

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