

Pope Leo

Let us Pray Together for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine severely tested by the consequences of renewed attacks against energy infrastructure. I express my gratitude for solidarity initiatives promoted by the Catholic dioceses of Poland and other countries, which help the population endure this period of intense cold.

The CaFOD Prayer

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CAFOD

I thank you, Lord Jesus, with all my heart, for you heard my prayer and answered me in my distress. I praise your name!

Recently Deceased

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of **Mary Gowans** upon whose soul, Sweet Jesus have mercy.



Lenten Talks on Thursdays

During the season of Lent our Lenten talks will help us to grow spiritually to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Paschal Mysteries. These talks will be led by **Rev Fr Michael Dolman (Rector of St. Mary's College Oscott Diocesan Seminary)**.¹

Craft & Natter

Craft and Natter will be having their half term break on **Tuesday 17th February**, back to normal on **24th February**, as usual when everyone is welcome. Sessions cost **£1 each** and run from **11am until 3pm**, this includes all drinks and any supplies you might need. For more information call me, **Christine on 07900 604902**

Pope's Prayer Intention

The Pope's prayer intention for February is:- **For Children with incurable diseases.** Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Sick in the Parish

Please pray for the sick in the parish, remembering especially:

Sheila Brayford, Geraldine Frith, Andrew Mather, Ann Watson, Anne Mitchell, Maureen Patton, Maureen Carr, Shaun Smith, Kathleen 'Frankie' Smith, Sheila Plimmer, Ann Hornblower, Dennis Poyner, Freddie Evans, Nuala & George Partridge, Hilary Fernandes, Eoghain Devine, Jean Watson, Marian Mathews, Marie Wilson, Ian Phipps, Oscar Wordsworth, Nichola Woodhall, Paul Corbett, Carmel Fekete, Lynn Stanley, Janet Chambers, Jo Hawker, Alison Welton, Louise Morgan, Margaret Davis, Joe Bannister, Margaret Healy, Juliet Woodhall, Luke Smith, Catherine Shepherd, David Goodwin, Antonio Bigongiari, Olivia (Dotty) Cutler, Keith Allford, Anna Morgan ^{née Meehan}, Holly Brady, Jo Cooke, Anne Humphreys, Theresa Chandler, Fr. Paul Chamberlain, Cath Breen, Max Lewis, David & Sheila Piggott, Clare Cooksey & Áine McDonagh.

Nursery places at St Mary of the Angels Primary

Places for the **September 2026** intake at our primary school are now available, see the notice board in the porch. Please contact school on **01922 743411** or email:

postbox@st-maryangel.walsall.sch.uk

For more information, or see the notice board in the porch.³

Safeguarding Notice

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Mr. Gerry Wintrip. Gerry can be contacted at: sg.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk or on 0121 230 6240 if you have any concerns.

RCIA Growing the Faith

Our weekly **R.C.I.A** course continues from 7:00 to 8:30pm this **Tuesday 10th February**. All are **welcome**, those already Catholics wanting to know more about the faith and those who want to become Catholics. This week's session is entitled **The Lord's Prayer 2**.

Lenten Fridays

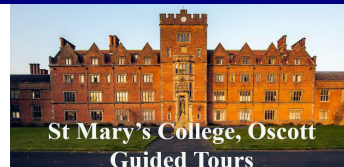
During Lent, starting **Friday 20th February 2026**, the Mass on Friday will be at **12 Noon**, followed by soup with a bread roll in the Meeting Room. All donations will be gratefully received; it's a great opportunity to help with your Lenten Friday fast.¹

New Young Adult SVP Group

The **St Vincent de Paul Society** are delighted to be launching a new **SVP1833** (Young Adult) Conference in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. This group is open to all young adults (18-35) who are interested in faith, friendship and practical service to others. We will have an initial interest meeting **this Sunday 8 February** at **St Chad's Cathedral**, from **12.15-1.30pm**, following the 11.30am Mass. **Lunch and drinks will be provided!**

If you are hoping to attend the **St Chad's** event or would like to find out more, please email **KeziaH@svp.org.uk** or text **07917 923605**, this will help us know numbers for catering (lunch)².

Oscott Seminary College Tours



Tours of the college are available.

St.Mary's Oscott Tour Dates for 2026:

This coming Wednesday **11th February** and Wednesdays of **18th February, 4th March, 11th March, 22nd April, 29th April, 6th May 20th May**

The Tours can all be booked online at:

<https://www.oscott/org/events>.²

Tea & Coffee Rota



The new rota for Sunday morning tea and coffee is now available for collection from the back of church.

Date for Your Diary



The room at the Conservative Club is booked for our **St. Patrick's Day** celebration evening at **7:00pm** on **Friday 13th March**.

The musicians and singers have confirmed their attendance; there is a sign up form in the church porch for anyone intending to come to our celebration to add their names².

Whetstone Over 50's Group

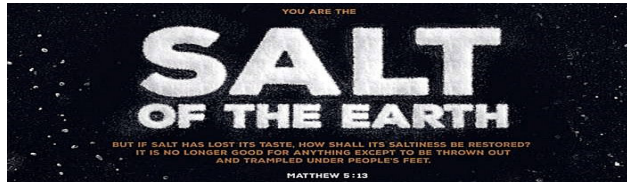


The next meeting of the group will be this coming **Monday 9th February** at **2pm** in our meeting room.

This month, we have the **Year 6** children coming over to play board games with us and also to talk about their Confirmation which is in March.

Sacrament of the Sick

Please remember to inform **Fr. Ramesh directly** in case of sickness, especially if it requires hospital treatment or a prolonged absence from Mass. If you cannot inform the clergy yourself it is then your family who should take on this responsibility.



Baptism Enquiries

If you would like to have your child Baptised here at St. Mary of the Angels, please visit the 'Baptismal Enquiry' page of the parish website using the following link:

<https://www.catholicaldridge.co.uk/baptismal-enquiries.html>

Here you can complete a '**Baptism Enquiry Form**'.

The next available date for Baptism Preparation is:

7:00pm Tuesday 10th March 2026

7:00pm Tuesday 9th June 2026

7:00pm Tuesday 8th September 2026

PARISH DUTIES THIS WEEKEND: 7TH – 8TH FEBRUARY 2026

6:00PM VIGIL MASS	WELCOMERS:	Dawn M
	READERS:	Cathy S & John H
	EO Euch. Ministers	Emma & Tony
9:30AM SUNG MASS	WELCOMERS:	Margaret L & Elena S
	MUSIC:	Choir
	READERS:	Helen C & Mark H
	EO Euch. Ministers	Katie & Katharine ^{Musicians} Phil P

Duties During the Week: 9TH – 14TH FEBRUARY 2026

CLEANERS:	Team D
FLOWERS:	Anne H

PARISH DUTIES NEXT WEEKEND: 14TH – 15TH FEBRUARY 2026

6:00PM VIGIL MASS	WELCOMERS:	Ann & John T
	READERS:	Pat H & Hugh D
	EO Euch. Ministers	Chris & John T
	WARDENS:	Tony M
9:30AM SUNG MASS.	WELCOMERS:	Helen A & Elaine A
	MUSIC:	Folk Group
	READERS:	Martin B & Catherine A
	EO Euch. Ministers	Will & Sue ^{Musicians} Catherine C
	WARDENS:	Pat & Sally S
COFFEE:	Terri F-N and Family	

Reflection: On this Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount and gives His disciples a powerful image: "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world." Notice that Jesus does not say, "Try to become" salt and light. He says, "You are." This is not a future goal; it is our identity as His followers. Salt in the time of Jesus was valuable. It preserved food and gave it flavour. A small amount could make a big difference. In the same way, Christian discipleship is not about being loud or dominant, but about quietly influencing the world for the better - bringing honesty, compassion, and hope where they are lacking. But Jesus also warns that salt can lose its taste. Faith can become weak when it is taken for granted, when it stays private, or when it is separated from daily life. Faith that is never lived eventually fades. Then Jesus speaks of light. Light does not exist for itself; it exists to be seen. No one lights a lamp and hides it. Light pushes back darkness simply by being present. This is important for us. Being a disciple does not mean drawing attention to ourselves, but allowing God's light to shine through us. Our words, attitudes, and actions either reflect Christ - or hide Him. Good works are not about showing off. They are about pointing beyond ourselves to God. When kindness is shown, when justice is defended, when forgiveness is offered, God is made visible. The First Reading reminds us that light shines when we care for those in need - feeding the hungry, welcoming the lonely, and lifting burdens. Faith that does not reach others remains incomplete. The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time reminds us that most of our Christian witness happens in ordinary places: at home, at school, at work, among friends. We may feel small or insignificant, but Jesus says even a little salt matters, even a single light makes a difference. As we continue this journey through Ordinary Time, let us ask for the grace to live our faith with consistency and courage - not for praise, but so that God's love may be seen and felt in the world. May we be salt that brings hope, light that brings clarity, and lives that quietly give glory to God **Amen.**

God bless you all.