

## SYRIA-TURKEY EMERGENCY APPEAL

In the wake of the terrible earthquakes in Syria and Turkey on 6 February, CAFOD's local experts are already on the ground in Syria and responding to the needs of those affected. Because of the generosity of your parish in recent Fast Days and other donations, we were able to make an initial allocation of £100,000 to provide urgent humanitarian support – food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits - in the worst affected areas. We have also set up a Syria -Turkey Emergency Appeal. Our prayers are with all our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Please pray for everyone affected and consider donating to CAFOD's Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal online. <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

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## LENT - ASH WEDNESDAY

The ashes are a symbol of our human mortality, the fact that we will die and our only survival is through Christ. When the priest puts the ashes on our forehead, tracing the sign of the cross with his finger, he speaks the words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."

This is a reminder that we must die. But also a reminder that we live only due to the will of God, and we will live again, only through the deliverance of Jesus Christ. God created us from dust and although our bodies will return to dust, our immortal souls will live again, thanks to Christ's sacrifice, hence the sign of the cross.

Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance, prayer and fasting. After receiving our ashes, pray and meditate on this simple truth: Our bodies come from dust, and to dust they shall return, but our souls will live forever thanks to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Lord, give me a quiet, humble heart and a clean soul so I will be ready to listen to your word. Amen. *(Catholic online)*

**Pope's prayer intention for February - For Parishes:** We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.. Amen

## **Catholic Parishes of St Mary's and Our Lady of Lourdes**



St. Mary's Brierley Hill and  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford  
Parish Priest: Fr Shanju John  
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Deacon John Brindley (*Retired*)

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*Part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham: Reg. Charity No. 234216*

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A

**19TH FEBRUARY 2023**

### **PSALM RESPONSE**

The Lord is compassion and love.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.

Alleluia!

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

I will recount all your wonders,  
I will rejoice in you and be glad,  
And sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

**The forgiveness we withhold from another  
person is a **mercy** we do not show the Lord.**  
*(Anon)*



Ordinary Time A2	Psalter week 3	Intention/Info
<b>Sunday 18th/19th</b> <b>7th Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>5pm Mass KF</b> <b>9.45am Mass BH</b>	Tony Boyd People of the Parish
Monday 20th	<b>10am Mass KF</b>	Mike Skelding (ill)
Tuesday 21st		
Wednesday 22nd <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10am Mass KF</b> <b>7pm Mass BH</b>	Mike Skelding (ill) Margaret Shipley
Thursday 23rd		
Friday 24th	<b>10am Mass KF</b> <b>10.30 KF</b> <b>7pm BH</b>	MSP Society Stations of the Cross Stations of the Cross
Saturday 25th	<b>5pm Mass KF</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 25th/26th</b> <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>5pm Mass KF</b> <b>9.45am Mass BH</b>	People of the Parish Sylvia Skelding

Please pray for all those whose have died recently especially those on our February deceased lists and for all those whose anniversaries occur this month. May they all rest in peace.

Please pray for all those who are sick including Ian Manley, Noel O'Reilly, Georgina Kutz, Mike Skelding, Martha Jones, Mavis Geach, Sheila Rowley, Audrey Berry, Roger Ward, Pauline Bant, Jeanette Amphlett, Dorothy West, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Roy Davies, Chris and Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Rob and Ilona Bryan, Betty Storey, Connie Birch and Stella Jones. May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

**Collections** BH GA £128.00 Loose £197.29 Church Maintenance £115.97  
KF GA £106.00 Loose £162.25 Church Maintenance £79.16 Hall hire £90.00

**SECOND COLLECTIONS - This week for Life next week for our Sisters.**

**BRIERLEY HILL: Craft Group** tbc Mon 2pm to 4pm in Parish Centre  
**KINGSWINFORD: Friday** 9.30 - 11.30am **Foodbank** .

**FOODBANKS - If you are able to donate to them they will be happy to accept your donations. The need is growing so donations are much needed and gratefully received.**

## ***"Be still and know that I am God"***

Please try to remain in silent prayer in Church before Mass begins. There is plenty of time to chat over tea and coffee after Mass. Please note the signs on the door as you come in, thank you.

**LENT - starts on Wednesday. There will be Mass in both Churches with the imposition of ashes at 10am KF and 7pm BH.**

**Stations of the Cross will be on every Friday throughout Lent, 10.30am at KF and 7pm at BH**

**CONFESSIONS - During Lent Fr Shanju will hear your confession on request.**

**Tea/coffee after Mass** - Please join Fr Shanju and stay for tea and coffee after Mass on Saturday evening at KF or Sunday morning at BH for a chat and a catch up.

**Health and Safety rep KF** once again we need a rep for KF as this is a Diocesan requirement. It is not onerous you just need to be computer literate and above all willing to help the Parish.

**Walk with me books and Day by Day for Lent books** are now available at the back of Church along with a calendar for any children not at Catholic schools.

**The annual World Day of Prayer Service** in Kingswinford and Wall Heath will take place this year at the **Church of the Ascension, Dudley Road, Wall Heath DY6 9AH** on **Friday 3rd March** at **2pm**. All are invited to attend this well prepared ecumenical service. Any queries, please contact Bernie on 07753 292670.

**Lenten Day of Recollection** at St Mary's Convent Handsworth Tuesday 7th March and at St Mary and St John, Wolverhampton on Saturday 25th March. Please see posters at the back of Church for more information.

**150 Years of St Mary's** planning and fundraising meeting on Tuesday 28th Feb at 7pm at BH parish centre. All volunteers very welcome.

**Mass intentions** - there is a lot of availability if you would like a Mass offered for your own intention, especially on weekdays Please put it in an envelope and pass to Fr Shanju.