

**Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle**  
**Thursday 25th January**

Most Catholics never have quite the conversion experience that was experienced by Saint Paul. However the call to conversion is heard clearly and loudly through our faith in Christ Jesus every single day. Most emphatically my religious faith is deeply intertwined with the mystery of Jesus Incarnation, His crucifixion and most especially the glory of His resurrection.



Perhaps Saint Paul best encapsulates the radical transformation on all levels of his ontological being that faith in Jesus Christ brings about! His revelational moment offered Saint Paul the sacred moment of Kairos that resulted in his unconditional recognition of the Gospel message. In our own lives as Catholic believers, our moments of conversion are not as dramatically revealed in such powerful actions such as being catapulted from the saddle of a horse, but they are no less transforming and sacred.

Benedict XVI, like Saint Paul proclaimed clearly and loudly the need for aversion from things and movements that are contrary to Catholic moral and social teachings, not just because secularization offers a diminished realization of human spiritual potential, but because secularization lacks a fundamental appreciation and expectation of what it means to be converting to a deeper understanding of God and indeed all of humanity. The Catholic Church challenges all humanity to undergo a spiritual and temporal conversion just like Saint Paul and to reaffirm faith in Jesus Christ not just as a personal Saviour, but as the key and integral factor that leads towards the salvation of the entire world. Let us all profess as Catholics our same unconditional desire towards constant conversion to Christ Jesus!

*Hugh McNicol*

**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*)

Convent - Daughters of Divine Love 01384 380155

St Mary's Primary School 01384 985005

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

**SAFEGUARDING** - The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Mrs Epi Pfunde and Miss Lilli Pace. They can be contacted at [sg.olol.kingswinford@racob.org.uk](mailto:sg.olol.kingswinford@racob.org.uk) or [sg.stmary.brierleyhill@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmary.brierleyhill@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 / [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR B**

**21ST JANUARY 2024**

**PSALM RESPONSE**

Lord, make me know your ways.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is close at hand;  
believe in the Good News.

Alleluia!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.

Ordinary B1	Psalter week 3	Intention/Info
<b>Sunday 20th/21st</b> <b>3rd Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>5pm Mass KF</b> <b>9.45am Mass BH</b>	People of the Parish Communion Candidates
Monday 22nd	<b>10am Mass KF</b>	Pam Downs
Tuesday 23rd	<b>NO MASS</b>	—————
Wednesday 24th	<b>10am Mass BH</b> <b>10.30am-11am BH</b>	MSP Society Adoration and Confessions
Thursday 25th	<b>9am Mass School</b> <b>10.30am Funeral Mass</b> <b>KF</b>	School Intention Maureen Southall
Friday 26th	<b>10am Mass KF</b>	Aborted children
Saturday 27th	<b>5pm Mass KF</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 27th/28th</b> <b>4th Sunday of the year</b>	<b>5pm Mass KF</b> <b>9.45am Mass BH</b>	Coyle Family People of the Parish

Please pray for all those whose have died recently especially Maureen Southall, those on our January 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 Christine Holding, Brian Saunders, Christine, Marlene and Tony Lyons, Deacon John Brindley, Ian Manley, Noel O'Reilly, Georgina Czuk, Martha Jones, Mavis Geach, Sheila Rowley, Roger Ward, Pauline Bant, Dorothy West, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Chris and Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Rob Bryan, Betty Storey and Connie Birch May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

**Collections** BH GA £28.00 Loose £124.31 Pax Christi £54.43 Keralan Mass £50.00  
KF GA £129.00 Loose £235.02 Pax Christi £94.08 Repository £140.00 Hall hire £110.00

**SECOND COLLECTIONS - This week for our Sisters next week for St Patrick's Missionary Society .**

**BRIERLEY HILL: Craft Group** Mon 22nd Jan 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 as the need is growing.**

**Today at St Mary's we welcome the Children who are making their First Holy Communion in April for their Mass of Commitment. Please make them and their families welcome and pray for them as they continue to grow in faith.**

**Tea/coffee after Mass** - Please join Fr Shanju and stay for tea and coffee after Mass on Sunday morning at BH for a chat and a catch up. No teas at KF until further notice.

**KF Church cleaning Tuesday 23rd Jan at 9.30am** all those who offered to help please come along that day. Thanks

**St Patrick's Missionary Society** - Next week we welcome Fr Stephen Kimani Kariuki from St Patrick's Missionary Society to say our Masses and make an appeal on behalf of the Society. Please make him welcome and be supportive of their work.

**Volunteers needed** - thank you to those who offered to help. We can still use more of you! Please consider if you can help with any of these:

**At St Mary's** - Church cleaning, parish centre cleaning, flowers

**At Our Lady of Lourdes** - Church cleaning and flowers

If you can please speak to Fr Shanju or Stephanie on 01384 274520 or email the parish office [stmarylol.blackcountry@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmarylol.blackcountry@rcaob.org.uk). Thanks.

**Non Gift aid envelopes** - if you do not pay income tax but would like to use a set of envelopes for the offertory collection, these are now available at the back of each Church. Please help yourself.

**The funeral of Maureen Southall** will take place on Thursday 25th Jan at KF at 10.30am. Please keep her and her family in your prayers at this sad time.

**Catholic Directories** - We have some Directories available price £3 each. These are available on the Piety stall at each Church. Thank you

**Neck scarves for sale** Teresa from KF has knitted some beautiful woollen continuous neck scarves, ideal for the cold weather. These are being sold for Church funds at £5 for the single loop scarves and £8 for the double loop scarves.

**The SVP has two disability aids** which are available for free extended loan to anyone who may need them. The SVP helps anyone of all faiths or none so if you or any one you know may benefit from the two items then please contact Peter Tompkins on 07551 923 482.

**Pope's prayer intention for January** - For the gift of diversity in the Church -We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions within the Catholic Church Amen.