

St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe

"Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire."

St. Catherine of Siena was born in Siena, Italy on March 25, 1347. At the age of 16, Catherine's sister, Bonaventura, died, leaving her husband as a widower. Catherine's parents proposed that he marry Catherine as a replacement, but Catherine opposed this. She began fasting and cut her hair short to mar her appearance. Her parents attempted to resist this move, to avoid marriage, but they were unsuccessful.

Something changed her when she was 21. She described an experience she referred to as her "mystical marriage to Christ." In her vision, she was told to help the poor and sick. She often visited hospitals and homes where the poor and sick were found. Her activities quickly attracted followers who helped her in her mission to serve the poor and sick. St. Catherine allegedly was given the stigmata, but it only became visible after her death. From 1375 onwards, St. Catherine began dictating letters to scribes. She petitioned for peace and was instrumental in persuading the Pope in Avignon to return to Rome.



She also established a monastery for women in 1377 outside of Siena. She is credited with composing over 400 letters, her Dialogue, which is her definitive work, and her prayers. These works are so influential that St. Catherine would later be declared a Doctor of the Church. She is one of the most influential and popular saints in the Church. By 1380, the 33-year-old mystic had become ill, possibly because of her habit of extreme fasting. She died on April 29, following a stroke just a week prior. St. Catherine's feast day is April 29, she is the patroness against fire, illness, Europe, the United States, Italy, miscarriages, people ridiculed for their faith, sexual temptation, and nurses.

Pope's prayer intention for May For the formation of religious and seminarians. We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel. Amen



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

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

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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.lol.kingswinford@racob.org.uk or sg.stmary.brierleyhill@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 / safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

28TH APRIL 2024

PSALM RESPONSE

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.

Alleluia, alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Easter B1	Easter	Intention/Info
Sunday 27th/28th 5th Sunday of Easter	5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH	People of the Parish In Thanksgiving
Monday 29th St Catherine of Siena	10am Mass KF	MSP Society
Tuesday 30th St Pius V	NO MASS	_____
Wednesday 1st St Joseph the worker	10am Mass BH 10.30am-11am BH	MSP Society Adoration and Confessions
Thursday 2nd St Athanasius	9am Mass School	School Intention
Friday 3rd Ss Philip and James	10am Mass KF 10.30am-11am KF 6.30pm BH 7pm Kerala Mass BH	Private Intention (CS) Adoration and Confessions Adoration
Saturday 4th	5pm Mass KF	People of the Parish
Sunday 4th/5th 6th Sunday of Easter	5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH	People of the Parish Graham and Sheila Jelf (Golden Wedding)

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

Please pray for all those who are sick including Chris Payne, Fr Cecil, Irene Brown, Christine Holding, Brian Saunders, Christine, Marlene and Tony Lyons, 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 £190.40 CTF £68.49 Hall hire £75.00 Candles £93.99
KF GA £122.00 Loose £214.87 CTF £88.00 Hall hire £120.00 Funeral £150.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS - This week for our Sisters, next week CAFOD Sudan appeal.

BRIERLEY HILL: Craft Group Mon 29th Apr 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.

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.

Walsingham Pilgrimage - Saturday 11th May organised by Fr Philip Griffin. Please see poster at the back of Church and the website www.walsingham.org.uk for more information. Fr Philip needs to know by the end of April if you will be attending .

Congratulations to all our children from St Mary's - Who received our Blessed Lord for the first time on Saturday morning. May their faith increase each day.

Church cleaning KF Tuesday 30th April 9.30am. All helpers very welcome.

Mass intentions There are very Mass intentions received for weekday Masses. If you would like the Mass offered for your intention please write the name and Church requested on an envelope and give it to Fr Shanju. Masses can also be requested for weekends but may take longer to be said. Thank you.

Mass for Marriage Saturday 4th May at 12 noon at St Chad's Cathedral. For those planning to marry this year or celebrating a special anniversary. Please see poster for more details at the back of Church.

Mgr Timothy Menezes and Canon Richard Walker have been appointed by the Holy Father as Auxiliary Bishops for the Archdiocese. Please pray for them as they prepare to take up their new responsibilities for the pastoral care of our clergy and people. With their considerable pastoral experience and their dedicated service as Vicars General we can be sure that our two Bishops-Elect will approach their new responsibilities with energy and enthusiasm, and always sensitive to the present needs of our Archdiocese. As they prepare for their episcopal ordination, we wish Mgr Timothy and Canon Richard every blessing in their new apostolate.

Message from Fr Cecil: *"Dear Fr. Shanju, A happy and blessed Easter season to you. Please would you express my deep appreciation for the cards, best wishes, prayers and masses offered as I have been undergoing treatment for Follicular Lymphoma. On the whole I am quite well with bouts of fatigue being the main side effect. The support, kindness a prayer received from so many has been a great source of encouragement. Many blessing to you, and the People of St. Mary's and Our Lady of Lourdes, for your generous response – it is greatly appreciated. Fr. Cecil."*

A Year of Encounter - CAFOD and the SVP With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including an online session on 4 May to learn more.