

## St Mary's 1873 - 2023

As St Mary's celebrates its 150th anniversary you might be interested in a little bit of its history.

In 1854 Fr Walter Keen, then at the Catholic Mission in Stourbridge (that Church hadn't yet been built) bought a pub, grounds and a bowling green for £1400 - approximately £250,000 today. The pub had been called the Mouth of the Nile but was changed to the Golden Lion at some point, and this is where the Parish centre is now. The front of this building is original and is Grade 2 listed, dating back to the start of the 1800's. When the first Mass was said in the old pub 200 people attended and a tent was put up on the bowling green to hold them all. Church is a bit warmer and more comfortable today. This pub was used for all Masses and services until the Church could be built.

The Church was built on the bowling green and was opened on the 15th October 1873 by Bishop Ullathorne. No records have been found as the cost of building the Church but it would have been around £500,000 to £1,000,000 in today's money. All of it raised by the Catholics of the area and the debt continued to be paid off for many, many years.

EW Pugin was the Architect, son of Augustus Pugin who designed the Houses of Parliament and this son also designed Our Lady and All Saints in Stourbridge which opened in 1864.

Carved into the Pulpit are the symbols of the four Gospel writers who also appear on the Reredos at the back of the Altar. The four Patron Saints were added in 1899 along with new gas lamps and very basic heating.

There is no graveyard as surrounding the pub and bowling green were many cottages and a school and even a brick kiln so we never had the land to have our own cemetery. In 1873 it was illegal for Catholic Churches to have peel of bells, and indeed it still is, so we have an unfinished bell tower.



## **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  
The Presbytery, Summerhill,  
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Deacon John Brindley (*Retired*)

Convent - Daughters of Divine Love 01384 380155

*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)

## **28TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A**

**15TH OCTOBER 2023**

### **PSALM RESPONSE**

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word was made flesh and lived among us;  
to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God.  
Alleluia!

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The rich suffer want and go hungry  
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Ordinary A2	Psalter week 3	Intention/Info
<b>Sunday 14th/15th 27th Sunday of the year</b>	<b>5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH</b>	People of the Parish Past Priest of St Mary's
Monday 16th	<b>10am Mass KF</b>	Jean Bould
Tuesday 17th St Ignatius of Antioch	<b>7pm 150th Mass BH</b>	In Thanksgiving
Wednesday 18th St Luke	<b>10am Mass BH 10.30am-11am BH</b>	Peter and Paul Wieckowski Adoration and Confessions
Thursday 19th	<b>9am Mass School</b>	School intention
Friday 20th	<b>10am Mass KF 10.30am-11am KF</b>	MSP Society Adoration and Confessions
Saturday 21st	<b>5pm Mass KF</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 21st/22nd 29th Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH</b>	People of the Parish Gareth Floyd

Please pray for all those whose have died recently especially those on our October 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 Marlene and Tony Lyons, Deacon John Brindley, Ian Manley, Noel O'Reilly, Georgina Kutz, Martha Jones, Mavis Geach, Sheila Rowley, Roger Ward, Pauline Bant, Jeanette Amphlett, 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 £288.00 Loose £210.20 CAFOD £89.19 150th £4.79  
KF GA £130.00 Loose £126.82 CAFOD £212.84

**SECOND COLLECTIONS - This week for Church Maintenance, next week for Missio.**

**BRIERLEY HILL: Craft Group** Mon 9th October 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.**

*Silence....Silence....Silence*

**Church is a place of silence and prayer.**

**So let us try to maintain the silence inside the Church, especially for 10 minutes before and after the Holy Mass. Consider others who wish to pray silently. Friendly chats can be in the porch and official talks in the Sacristy. Thank you for doing this. Fr Shanju**

**Today St Mary's celebrates its 150th birthday 15/10/1873-15/10/2023  
Please join us for some birthday cake after Mass. Fr Shanju will be handing out chocolates to everyone at the end of Mass as well**

**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.

**St Mary's 150th Celebration** Tuesday 17th October Mass at 7pm with His Grace Archbishop Bernard Longley and several other Priests, followed by a Civic reception at the Civic centre in Brierley Hill. **NB no parking between the Church and the Parish Centre.**

**Thank you** - a big thank you to all those who turned up last Saturday to clean St Mary's. Benches were moved, windows cleaned, every possible surface cleaned and polished and cobwebs very high up were finally removed. The drive was also weeded to create a better appearance. They all worked extremely hard and we are very grateful. Also a big thank you to those who have helped in any way to celebrate our 150th anniversary, from fundraising, cleaning, decorating, and in so many other ways God bless you all.

**Church cleaning KF - amended date** Tuesday 17th October at 9.30am All volunteers very welcome.

**Bishop Stephen Wright** will be returning to the Cathedral for his return Mass on Friday 17th November at 12 Noon. All are invited to attend to make this special occasion for Bishop Wright.

**Churches Together in BH** After more than 20 years as St Mary's representative for Churches Together in BH, Brian Saunders has decided to step down. We are very grateful for his contribution over that time as are the other faith leaders who have sent messages of thanks. This is an inter-faith group who work on various projects in the area. It is very important that we have a representative for our Church. If you are interested please speak to Brian after Mass or ring him on 01384 832053 for more information.