



Sunday 22nd March 2026

Newsletter

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CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION SERVICES – MARCH

Sunday 22 March

10am

CHURCH CLOSED

Team Service at St Mary's

Monday 23 March

5pm

Evening Prayer

Tuesday 24 March

5pm

Evening Prayer

Wednesday 25 March

10am

Midweek Eucharist

5pm

Evening Prayer

Thursday 26 March

10am

Mainly Music

Friday 27 March

9.30am and 10.15am

Church of the Ascension School Easter Services

Sunday 29 March

10.30am

PALM SUNDAY

Walking procession from St Andrew's URC to
Church of the Ascension for Eucharist

All are welcome to Morning Prayer at St Mary's at 8.30am
on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week.

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no morning or evening prayer said in church on Monday 6 April.

There will be the usual morning and evening prayer said on

Tuesday 7 April and Wednesday 8 April.

Pray for our sick and those who care for them: Evelyn, Pat Hughes, Chris Hemsley, Rev'd Beryl Pritchett, John Whitby, John Timmins, Brian and Jackie Wilson, Jayne Walker, Kerry, Brian, Rogerio Ponticelli, Sandra Mee, Julia and MU Members, especially the house bound.

Recently Departed: Carole Page, Joseph (Mick) Sadler.

Baptism Preparation – Prayer for March

A prayer we commit to pray for you as parents:

Loving father, bless this family with the ability to love unconditionally even in the hardest moments. Help them realise what Jesus gave up so that they can know love and life. Amen.

Please pray for the people that live in Castlewellan Care Home in our parish and for the people who care for them.

The next Prayer and Praise at Fr Mel's is at 7.30pm on Monday 30th March at 14 Beech Tree Close. ALL Welcome!

Notices from Fr Adam

The Triduum – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and The Easter Vigil These three days are the biggest, most dramatic in the whole of the Christian calendar.

You cannot move from Palm Sunday to Easter Day without walking the great three days with Jesus. It just wouldn't make any sense. Jesus walks with us every day of our lives, one way of responding to this is to walk the journey of Holy Week with Him. Please do take a post card detailing our Holy Week services and put them in your dairy now and try to make each on a priority. Loads of work go into these services to make them as special as possible so please come and join in as we walk with Jesus through Holy Week 2026.

Sian Morgan Our Children, Young People and Families Minister, Sian recently applied for a new more senior job at the Diocese and was successful in getting it and so will be leaving her role with us on Sunday 19 April. Sian has done tremendous job here in the parish building up our different worship opportunities and working closely with our church schools. Her biggest legacy here will no doubt be the numbers engaging with Mainly Music and we know this solid foundation will continue into the future. We will miss Sian and will have plenty of opportunities to say good luck to her in the next couple of months.

We will be recruiting to the role but as a result of this change Fr Adam will be finishing at the cathedral earlier than the original six months planned and will be back in the parish full time from the middle of March in order to ensure that the work Sian undertook continues during the recruitment period. If you have any questions, please talk to one of the clergy team.

Pause, Pray, Ponder, Praise reflective service

This reflective service is being held on the third Sunday of the month by Chris Knight [at Church of the Ascension](#). **The next one is on Sunday 19th April at 4 pm.**

This is a service when you have time to just sit quietly with God. Everyone is welcome.



THERE WILL BE A DIGITAL SKILLS WORKSHOP at [St Mary's](#) this coming **Monday afternoon - 23rd March at 12.30pm.**

There is no charge and it will be run by Siddique who runs our Monday morning activity group. This will be a practical session to help you better understand and get more from your digital devices – laptop, tablet or smart phone. **Please bring your device(s) with you.**

There is no need to book, just turn up 😊

For further information, please contact Siddique on 07929 850814 or siddiqueh@gmail.com

St Mary's next Community Coffee Morning is on **Thursday 26th March 10-12.**

Church of the Ascension School Easter Services are being held on **Friday 27th March at 9.30am and 10.15am.** If you are able to help, please let Sian or Sheila know.

Palm Sunday - 29th March We will be joining with St Andrews URC again for our Palm Sunday service and walk of witness. **Starting at St Andrews for 10:30am** (note the time!) and walking to CofA for the Eucharist. Aiming to conclude around 11:45am.

Hearts on Fire service

All are welcome to this contemporary, charismatic mass that is held on the second Sunday of the month [at St Mary's](#). **The next service will be Sunday 12th April at 4pm.**

Come just as you are to worship.

Sunday 22nd March – Fifth Sunday of Lent

Collect

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8: 6-11

John 11: 1-45

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Parish Development update from Fr Adam

As you'll see elsewhere in the pew sheet Sian will be moving on in April to a new job. Having a Children, Young People and Families Minister has been invaluable in reaching out to new families and them embarking on a journey of faith. Please pray for the ministry team as we advertise the role again and particularly pray that people will apply and that God will call someone to join us on the next stage of our parish renewal. **Amen.**

Recycling old glasses – a note from Mary Green Mary has been sorting out old pairs of glasses to take to the Lions Club in Birmingham. If anyone has any glasses they want to donate, could you bring them to church and Mary will take them into Birmingham.

Mainly Music Thank you to everyone who is supporting Mainly Music by making cakes. They are very much appreciated and enjoyed by everyone who comes along. There is a new rota for after the Easter break if anyone can fill a space it would be much appreciated.

Dudley Women's Refuge Lent Appeal If you are able to donate, the needs of the refuge at present are:

oven gloves, tea towels, chopping boards and kitchen utensils (masher, whisk, tongs, grater, tin opener, wooden spoons etc). Thank you so much for your ongoing support 😊

Gluten Free Wafers

Whenever the Eucharist is celebrated, gluten free wafers will be available.