



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 12th April 2026 – Divine Mercy Sunday

Readings: Year A

Dear Friends,

At the start of Holy Week, on Palm (Passion) Sunday, the annual challenge was made: do Holy Week! Specifically, come to the “*Triduum*” services of Maundy Thursday evening, Good Friday afternoon and Saturday evening Vigil, the most important of all the Church's services and also the longest! The response was magnificent. Every service was full, the choir were on top form, the church looked wonderful, the servers served and the people participated fully in the drama of Our Lord's Passion. Many, many thanks to everyone who prepared the church, swept and mopped, arranged the stunning flowers, produced the newsletter and schedule, and so much more.

However, none of the week prepared me for Easter morning at both churches. Our first Easter as a new parish of The Assumption was simply staggering. At 9:15am the door of St. Teresa's kept opening and shutting as worshippers gradually filled all the seats and latecomers had to stand at the back, filling the empty space around the organ. We were treated to a sumptuous Latin Mass setting with antiphonal accompaniment and when I invited “any children” to come forward for their Easter eggs, I was almost bowled over in the rush!

This was a prelude to Holy Trinity at 11am. Long-standing parishioners told me they had never seen so many in the church. It was truly remarkable as every space was filled, including the foyer, choir loft and into the Lady chapel. The singing was first-class, the full involvement of the people exemplary, the sun streamed through the incense and God was on His Throne! At the end of the morning, I sat down, tired but happy, in an empty church to reflect on a great Holy Week and a magnificent Easter morning. What was it that had drawn so many this year? All over the country I hear the same from fellow Catholic priests. The Diocese of Westminster, for example, has seen a doubling of conversions in the last couple of years. Is it the realisation that the world is in a mess? Anxiety about our future as a country? Or the Pope Leo effect, coming straight after Pope Francis and his outreach to those on the margins?

This month two adults will be received and confirmed in St. Teresa's and already two more have asked for Instruction in Holy Trinity. Reception into the Catholic Church comes only after at least six months of meeting with me and going through the tenets of the Faith. What a joy it is for this parish priest!

First Communion this Summer will see another bumper crop of youngsters. May I express the thanks of both churches to Mary Prior and Nareen Bowers for the week by week teaching they give over nine months to the children being prepared. The children will receive the Lord for the first time on *Corpus Christi* in June.

Sadly, the number of deaths has not abated making this Winter the worst on record, certainly for our local Funeral director Sole's. I cannot commend their work more highly as they treat the deceased and the grieving with respect and kindness. Thank you to those who have supported parishioners who have lost loved ones. May they rest in Peace and rise in Glory.

This Sunday used to be called "*Low Sunday*" but in 2000 at the canonisation of Sr. Faustina, the end of the Easter "*Octave*" was designated as "*Divine Mercy*" Sunday by St. John Paul II. It is the message that despite all our failings and selfishness, the Lord comes to us again and again in His Body and Blood, in the words of Absolution, in works of Mercy. May His Name be praised.

My thanks to Frs. Martin (St. Teresa's) and Paul (Holy Trinity) for celebrating Holy Mass this weekend.

Again, a very big thank you to everyone.

God bless everyone, Fr. Clive

Parish Notices

The Second Collection for Holy Places raised £435.40!

Masses this week: Tuesday and Thursday 9:15am. **Friday Rosary for Peace** 9:15am.

Basic Safeguarding Training for Volunteers

Thank you to all the volunteers who have completed a Volunteer Information Form, as required by the Archdiocese of Birmingham. It is also required that all volunteers have a basic understanding of safeguarding matters, for the wellbeing of our whole community. Level One of the CSSA (Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency) training is on the noticeboard at the back of the church, and can be found by following this link: <https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/>

If you have any questions, please speak to Sharnalee Foster, Parish Safeguarding Rep, who can provide further printed copies, or contact her at sg.stteresa.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk

Save The Date: Talk And Discussion: What Price Religious Freedom? Sunday 10th May 3pm-4pm, Morris Room, Charlbury Corner Couse.

We now take our religious freedom for granted, but throughout the world people are disadvantaged and persecuted for their faith: Christianity, Islam, Judaism. Our panel experts: Elliott Banks, Lead Researcher Aid to the Church in Need and Fr. Dominic Robinson SJ, Chair: Justice and Peace Commission, Diocese of Westminster will help us explore the impact of this persecution has not only on faith but on a wider society. This event is sponsored by the Parish of the Assumption – St. Teresa's, Charlbury and supports Aid to the Church in Need. Tickets £9 to include the talk, a glass of wine/cup of tea/cake. Please pay on the door, cash or cheques only. — Suze Mathews ACN Parish Representative

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are **Tammy Lawson** and **Sharnalee Foster** (sg.stteresaoflisieux.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk). Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.