

	Counting rota	Readers' Rota (9.00 Mass)	Eucharistic Ministers' Rota		Flowers rota
This week	Kylla and Lilian	P. Chacka and Dom	Josh Peter	John Thomas	Claire and Family
Next Sunday			Pat McGroarty	Lilian Tatenda Mwawa	

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Keith Dolton, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Betty Duff, Claudino Serra Vaz, Inna, Beatrice Upham, Eileen McGarry, Keelin Trahearn, Cheryl Jones, Josie Griffiths, Mary Cross, Nuala McNally, Rosa Fernandes, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davies and all those we know who are sick.

Please pray for Peter Kennedy, Patrick Fitzgerald, Margaret Brookes, Melly Balbag, Alice Phippen and Pamela Langford, who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Peter Dao-Duc-Diem, Canons Garry Byrne, Bernard McKenna and Thomas Sylvester Copsey, Frs. Edward Kirner, Michael Walshe, George Jackson, Joseph McKenna, David Lloyd, John Tolkien, Charles Ross, John Garvey, Anthony Timlin, and Vincent Joseph Royles, Dcn. Michael Ainsworth, and also Sr. Helen Carey FMA, Margaret Hodson, Johnny Evans, William (Bill) Barber, Marianna Slezak, George Sykes, Michael Grant, Mary Bridget Lillis, Bernadette Gavin, Thomas Patrick Braiden, Patrick Joseph Philbin, Patrick Whelan and Mary McGarry. May they rest in peace.

Remember: refreshments are available in the hall after the 9.00 am Mass on Sundays.

Year Of Jubilee.

Pope Francis has declared that Tuesday, 24th December 2024 to the Feast of Epiphany 2026 will be a Year of Jubilee. The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. It is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

First Holy Communion Lessons.

Parents, if your children are aged 8 or over and you wish them to receive their First Holy Communion next June, please register them with me, using the form at the back of church. Preparation lessons will start in early February. The First Holy Communion Mass will be here in Sacred Heart on Saturday, 14th June.

We need new catechists to help prepare the children for the Sacraments. Please come and speak to me if you feel that you could do this.

Booking is now open for this year's Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage and you are warmly invited.

The pilgrimage runs from Saturday 24th - Friday 30th May 2025 with the theme: "With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope". If you would like to go but you need assistance, help is available. Please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office to discuss assistance requirements: 01212306288 admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk As well as applications from assisted pilgrims, the Office are also keen to hear from doctors, nurses and carers eager to volunteer their time and experience Lourdes. If Our Lady is calling you please answer and give to others. Go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

Altar Servers.

On St. Stephen's Day there were some altar servers who could not be here to be enrolled in the Altar Servers' Guild (the Guild of St. Stephen). I propose that this should take place on the weekend of 26th January.

Servers: please let me know if you wish to be enrolled in the Guild and will be available that weekend.

Sunday of the Word.

Pope Francis is inviting us to deepen our love, appreciation and faithful witness to God and his Word. That is why next Sunday, the third Sunday in Ordinary Time, is a special day devoted to "the celebration, study and spread of the Word of God".

Dates for Sacred Heart in 2025.

First Holy Communions: Saturday, 14th June
Confirmations: Saturday, 18th October

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

This is traditionally observed from the 18th - 25th January. The theme this year is taken from John 11:26; "Do you believe this?"

Holocaust Memorial Day, Monday 27th January (HMD).

This marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia. Eighty years on from the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, antisemitism (anti-Jewish hatred) has increased significantly in the UK and globally following the 7th October attacks in Israel by Hamas and the subsequent war in Gaza. Also, extremists are exploiting the situation to stir up anti-Muslim hatred in the UK. Many UK communities are feeling vulnerable, with hostility and suspicion of others rising. We hope that HMD 2025 can be an opportunity for people to come together, learn both from and about the past, and take actions to make a better future for all.

Tailpiece: Sister Mary was visiting housebound parishioners when she ran out of petrol. A petrol station was nearby, but they had no petrol cans, so she went back to her car to see if there was one there. There wasn't, but she found a bedpan. Being resourceful she took it to the station and asked the attendant to fill it up. As she was pouring the petrol into her tank two men watched from across the street. One of them turned to the other and said, "If it starts, I'm turning Catholic!"

May God bless you and all those you love.
Fr. Harry.