Ss. Mary & Benedict RC Church,

The Parish is in the Care of the Apostles of Jesus Missionaries

Parish Newsletter- 26th Sunday in ordinary time- 27th Sept to 4th Oct 2026 (Year A)

# Family Tree Bondages

The Word of God today gives us an opportunity to highlight personal responsibility for the decisions we make and accept their consequences. Some of these consequences do affect members of our families and friends. Yet I see a need to distinguish this truth from ideas around "family tree bondage" which need careful examination. When taken as absolute facts, such teaching can paralyse the human spirit and stifle initiative, because it tempts us to place responsibility outside ourselves, blaming someone from the distant past, even ancestors many generations back.

The Prophet Ezekiel, in Chapter 18, speaks with absolute clarity about personal moral responsibility: the one who sins is the one who shall be punished with death; the one who does good shall live.

We must be deeply rooted in the authentic teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, our true Teacher, to guide our understanding. The Word of God empowers us! When we are properly formed, we learn to trust the choices we make. Our Christian faith inspires life because it is founded on Jesus the risen Lord who overcame sin and all that frustrates our existence. The Lord himself tells us: I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

Let us trust our thinking and the decisions we make from a well-formed conscience which is informed by God's Ten Commandments, our Lord's greatest law of love, and by our Christian virtues inspired by the gospels and the traditions of the Church. Let us not allow ourselves to be paralysed by beliefs in bondages related to distant family tree connections. Every single one of us has the God-given power to make new choices, choices that can change the course of our lives.

I therefore counsel you to confidently plan your future, seek advice from mentors, and as God's family the Church community, we will support the noble plans of every member of our church community. All shall be well.

*Fr. Aloysius*

**St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church**
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**Parish email**: stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com
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**Web cam**: mcn.live/camera/st-mary-and-st-benedict
**Youtube**: st mary and benedict church coventry
**Donations to the parish** : https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-online.
https://donate.mydona.com/ss-mary-benedict-church
**Parish Priest**: Fr. Aloysius L. Bukenya, Apostles of Jesus.
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**Parish Sisters**: Srs. of St. Ann of Providence
Leena and Leera
**Sunday School**: Perpetua Sam & Emmanuella
**Parish School:** St Mary & St Benedict's, Leigh Street CV1 5HG
Tel: 02476 229486 Head teacher - Mrs Pauline MacDonald

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**The Parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg. Charity No. 234216**

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME to our parish church. If it is your first time here, or even if you have been here before, your presence with us at this moment at our community worship is greatly appreciated. Our parish church was the second to be built in Coventry after the Protestant Reformation. It was built in 1893 and the pews have never moved since then! Our musical pipe organ was inaugurated in 1898 - it was the best of its kind at the time. Our parish has had thirteen parish priests since 1889. Our parish welcomes you to promote initiatives that build up and sustain our faith community.

## Parish Development

**20/09/2026**: **Gift Aid**: £187.00 **Non-Gift Aid**: £ 265.35 **Total**: £452.35
**Dona**: (20/09/26) £ 343.00 2nd Collection : £143.67 Thank you and God bless you all.
**2nd collection for September :** 27th – Father Hudson's Society; 4th Oct- CAFOD
**Bonus Ball**: No. **Mass Attendance**: 323
Choir practice : Fri– 7.30pm and Sat: 5.30pm
Church cleaning: Saturday 7.30am
Confessions: Saturday– 10.10–11.00am (& by appointment)
**Pious Devotions** : Divine Mercy - Last Thursday of every month at 6pm
Legion of Mary: Meet every Sunday after 11.30am Mass
Bible Study Group: Every Sunday, 1pm – 2pm in the parish hall.

**SAFEGUARDING**: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Perpetua Sam. She can be contacted at: sg.stmary-stbenedict.covty@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.

**CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE**: must be accompanied by an adult if they need to leave the church to use the toilets during Mass or other Church services. Also, please do not let children of this age go near the votive candle stands unaccompanied, and do not let them run around the car park. It is important to ensure that all the time children are safe.

# CHURCH NOTICES

**Holy Father's prayer intention for October**: For mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illness.

**Today is World Day of Migrants and Refugees –** which offers an opportunity for us to pause, pray, and consider how we respond to those who are seeking safety and a place to belong. We are invited to look beyond headlines and statistics, and to recognise the person in front of us: a child, a parent, a brother or sister, a neighbour. A kind word and a listening ear are expressions of welcome to new arrivals in our parishes (Father Hudson's Caritas).

**Feasts during the week:**
Tuesday 29th September – Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels.
Wednesday 30th September – St. Jerome, Priest, Doctor of the Church.
Thursday 1st October- St. Therese of the Child Jesus.
Friday 2nd October – Holy Guardian Angels

**Confirmation/Communion Classes for Children in non-Catholic Schools:** Lessons start on Saturday 26th September at 11.30am. Registrations for candidates will close soon.

**RCIA Journey in the Faith Catechesis:** Every Tuesday at 7pm, in the Lady Chapel starting on 29th September 2026. For more information contact Fr. Aloysius.

**Holy Rosary Before Sunday Mass in October** – We shall pray of the Holy Rosary before each Sunday Mass at 9.05am and 10.05am.

**Welcome to Know Your Church:** Elizabeth Hancock has volunteered to explain to us some facts about our church, where exactly St Mary's School started, and where the original convent of the Sisters of Mercy was located. Date Sunday 4th October 2026, after the 9.30am Mass.

**Red Misso boxes** are due in for counting during this month of September. Please bring them in and thank you for your generosity.

**The 2026 Blessing of the graves of our loved ones:**

**Canley** - Sunday 27th September at 3pm; **St Paul's** - Sunday 4th October at 3pm
**London Road** - Sunday 11th October at 3pm; **Lenton's Lane** - Sunday 18th October at 3pm

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting** - 6pm, Monday 12th October, Venue: The parish hall – side room.

## MASSES—27th Sept to 4th Oct 2026

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sun | 27 | 9.30am | Mary Neehan, Kabwa Leonidas (RIP) |
| | | | Osasumwen Osagie (B'day), People of the parish |
| | | 11.30am | Geraldine Ojimadu, Christian Igbokwe family (Thanksgiving) |
| | | | Michael (18th B'day) Mama Helen Ngenche Forbi (Anniv) |
| Mon | 28 | 12.00noon | Tony Smith (RIP) |
| Tues | 29 | 9.30am | Sr. Angelita (RIP), Annie Travers (Anniv) |
| Wed | 30 | 9.30am | Basil Edwards (RIP) |
| Thurs | 01 | 9.30am | Tony Simth (RIP), Fr. Kevin Hooper (Good health) |
| Fri | 02 | 9.30am | Bobby Ward (RIP) |
| Sat | 03 | 9.30am | Tony Smith, Fr. Terence McDonnell, |
| | | | Fr. John Danaher (RIP) |
| Sun | 04 | 9.30am | Lucia Drabik (B'day Thanksgiving) |
| | | 11.30am | People of the parish, Kabwa Leonidas (RIP) |
| | | | Mama Helen Ngenche Forbi (Anniv) |

| | | LECTORS | EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 27/09/2026 | 9.30am | Ebron, Fausta | Sophie |
| | 11.30am | Jalon, Gabriella | Serso, Beyang |
| 04/10/2026 | 9.30am | Mercy, Martin | Felix |
| | 11.30am | Daluchi, Attracta | Patricia, Cicilia |

**LET US PRAY TO THE LORD**

The sick of the Parish: Patsy Sproul, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Teresa McAffer, Chinasa Okosi, Mr. Tran Van Khu, Owen Darroch, Lucia Drabik, Mick Hogan, William Edwards.

**Anniversaries during the Week** : T. O'Driscoll, Peter Kenneth Kenny, Fredrick R W Quinney, Anne Travers, John Joseph McSweeney, Alan Conlon, Patrick Benson, Mary Shepherd,, Eamon Doyle, Mary O'Neill, Catherine Kennedy, Catherine O'Brien, Robert Elliot, Michael Whiting, Mark O'Keane.

**Clergy Anniversaries** : Rev. Edward Cotter, Rev. Laurence Daly, Rev. Denis Mary Egan, Deacon Tony Colby, Rev. William |McGann, Deacon John Burrows, Rev. John Nightingale, Rev. John Danaher.

Lord Jesus, You teach us today that Your grace is wider than our limits and our expectations. Open our hearts to recognise Your work wherever goodness is found. Remove from our lives anything that dims Your light or weakens our discipleship. Make us generous in spirit, courageous in choosing what leads us closer to You, and joyful in seeing Your presence in unexpected people and places. Amen.