

## St Bernard of Clairvaux Mission of Parishes:

### Our Lady and St Benedict & St George and St Martin

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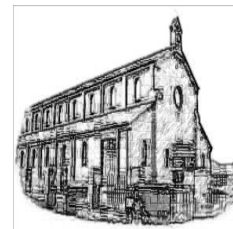
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### Parish Priest : Fr Adrian MacNamara.

Archdiocese of Birmingham [birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number

2342176 [www.northstaffordshire-catholicdeanery.org.uk/](http://www.northstaffordshire-catholicdeanery.org.uk/)



## Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

February 1st and 2nd 2025

Psalter Week 4 Year C: Year of St. Luke



### Our Lady and St Benedict's Mass and Service Times

**Saturday: 5.00 pm Paula Wainwright**

**Saturday 5.00 pm Irene and Vincent Woodcock**

**Mass for Marriage, 3 May 2025** An invitation is extended to married couples, those celebrating a milestone anniversary and those preparing to marry this year to attend a Mass for Marriage, celebrated by Bishop Richard Walker on Saturday 3 May at 12 noon in St Chad's Cathedral. Register via: [www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass](http://www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass).

### St George and St Martin's Mass and Service Times

**Sunday 9.30 am Mollie Geoghegan**

**Sunday 9.30 am Sheila Kelly**

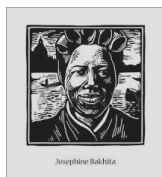
*"The first Christians depicted hope with an anchor, as though life were an anchor cast on Heaven's shores and all of us journeying to that shore, clinging to the anchor's rope. This is a beautiful image of hope: to have our hearts anchored there, where our beloved predecessors are, where the Saints are, where Jesus is, where God is. This is the hope that does not disappoint; today and tomorrow are days of hope." Pope Francis*

**Unwanted Christmas Presents:** If anyone has received an unwanted Christmas present why not consider donating it to the parish. We are planning on having a charity auction in SGSM in the near future after Mass during a Coffee morning. We might do the same in Abbey Hulton after Mass if there is interest.

**LiveSimply Tip** February 1st /2nd: February can be a cold and dreary month. It could be a good time to get outside and appreciate some of the wonders of nature. A frosty morning, snowfall, birds singing, animal footprints in the snow. Maybe meet up with a friend for a walk. Or wrap up warm and sit in the garden or local park with a flask of something warm. Take time to relax and thank God for all the beauty of His creation, during the changing seasons.

**LiveSimply** Both parishes are working towards the **LiveSimply Award**. This is an opportunity for Catholic communities – parishes, schools, and chaplaincies – to answer the call for us to care for our common home and stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers. We hope to form a Care of Creation Group.

**Bakhita Day** The feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, takes place on February 8. There are 50 million victims of human trafficking across the world and as many as 130,000 in the UK, hidden in plain sight in your neighbourhood. Pope Francis describes human trafficking as "blood money" and a "crime against humanity". We are all called to combat this evil trade. To find out more and what you can do, go to: [santamartagroup.org/resources](http://santamartagroup.org/resources).



**Formation of Parish Pastoral Council:** We will meet after Mass on February 2nd in St George and St Martin's to look at the formation of a Parish Pastoral Council. These now required by the Archdiocese following the recent Visitation.

**Safeguarding:** The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies procedures at all times. Mel Shaw is the Safeguarding Rep for the Partnership. Contact Mel on 07857973468 or [sg.sgam.stokeontrent@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.sgam.stokeontrent@rcaob.org.uk). You can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding:rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding:rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Candlemas:** This weekend, forty days after Christmas, we gather to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. Candles will be blessed at the beginning of Mass.

**Asha:** Food items required (in date please!) dried pasta, Basmati rice, tinned sweetcorn/tomatoes/tuna in oil/chickpeas, biscuits, jam, long-life milk, sunflower cooking oil. Other items needed: toiletries for women and men; sanitary products; household items including cleaning products, eg washing up, laundry washing etc.

**Faithful Departed:** Please pray for those who have died recently: Jim Bowyer late of Hanley, Thomas Broughan late of Bucknall, Stanley Bleything late of Sneyd Green and Eddie Hunt, late of Northwood. May they rest in peace.

**Mass Intentions:** If you want to book a Mass on a specific date, please see folder at the back of church or speak to a member of the Hospitality Team.

**Crib Offerings:** OLSB CAFOD £57.30  
SGSM Tearfund £120.00. Thank you.