

St Matthew's Newsletter 16th August 2026

Message from the Vicar

Dear friends,

This Sunday, we will be celebrating the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Within the Church of England, there are a variety of views on Mary – for some, Mary is an important figure in their spiritual and devotional lives, whereas others see her as a more marginal figure and are sceptical of anything that may distract from the importance of Jesus.

There is surprisingly little about Mary in the Bible, and yet this doesn't take away from her significance. When an angel appears to her at the annunciation, Mary is described as 'highly favoured' and 'blessed among women' – these are the words which form the core of the Hail Mary prayer. Clearly, Mary was chosen for a purpose, to be the one who would bear Jesus, bring him into the world, and point others to him.

As Christians, our vocation is Mary's vocation. We too are to be Christ-bearers, carrying Christ in our hearts. We too are to bring Christ into the world through our deeds of love, service, and good works. We too are to point others to him so that they may know him. In all of this, Mary is our friend and companion on the journey, praying for us and serving as a role model for us. Far from obscuring Christ, Mary reveals him afresh to each generation as the one who 'magnifies the Lord'.

With my prayers,

Father George

This week's Services

Sunday 16th August – The assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10 am Parish Mass and Sunday School

All are Welcome to Tea, Coffee, and biscuits which will be served in the Lounge and Family Room after the Service.

Congratulations to Leo and Reice, who will be baptised during today's Parish Mass. We welcome them into the family of faith and it is good to be able to celebrate with them and their family and friends today.

Tuesday

7:30 pm Phone-in Service

Wednesday

There will be no weekday services this week

Thursday

There will be no weekday services this week

11 am Messy Church

Friday

There will be no weekday services this week

Sunday 23rd August – (The twelfth Sunday after Trinity)

10 am Parish Mass and Sunday School

All are Welcome to Tea, Coffee, and biscuits which will be served in the Lounge and Family Room after the Service.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Fr. George

Email fr.george.reeves@gmail.com

Phone 07507 312 040

Fr Douglas (Area Dean):

Tel. 07570 953169 E-mail:

ad.handsworthandcentral@cofebirmingham.com

Ann Harrison (Parish Administrator)

Parish Office (open weekday mornings)

Tel. 07467 832601, E-mail: ann_harrison1@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwardens:

Janet Cook Tel. 07957 282433 Email: janet@dandjcook.co.uk

Tim Bartlett Tel. 07957 415887 Email: tabartlett64@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

Friday Coffee Mornings

All are welcome for Coffee/Tea and Cake in The Lounge

Every Friday 11am – 1pm

Bereavement and Friendship Group

If you've suffered a bereavement or are feeling isolated and lonely come and meet other who know how you are feeling. Every Monday, 1:30 to 3:30 pm in The Lounge.

Book Club.

The next meeting on Wednesday 2nd September. The book for August is "The Fortnight in September" by R C Sheriff. If you love reading and would like to join us over a cup of tea/coffee you are warmly invited to our next meeting.

Messy Church, in the Summer Holidays, Only one more Messy Church to go on Thursday 20th August. We run from 11am to 1pm.

There will be a working party to trim the hedge outside church this **Saturday 15th August**, starting at 10am. Thanks to Pete, who couldn't make Saturday, but came on Thursday morning and did a great job. All volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

On **Sunday 13th September** at 4pm St Matthew's is hosting a deanery confirmation service, with churches from across central and north Birmingham invited to present candidates to be confirmed.

If you have not been confirmed and would like to be, this would be a fantastic opportunity to do so. Please speak to Fr George for more information.

Early notice of a new date for St. Matthews Christmas Fair. This year it will be moving to Saturday 6th December

NOTICES

Fr George will be on holiday from 17-22 August, so there will be no weekday services this week. For any urgent enquiries during this time, please contact the Area Dean, Fr Douglas Machiridza, who can be emailed at Ad.handsworthandcentral@cofebirmingham.com

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help with Messy Church this summer, it has been wonderful to see the church so full with children and families. The last session of the summer will be on Thursday 20th August.

A reminder that we welcome contributions towards the cost of flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one. Please place any donations in the pot on the table.

Contributions of food for the **FOODBANK** are always welcome. Please give as generously as you can and place any items in the basket by the door.

Our church relies on the generosity of visitors and worshippers. If you would like to make a contribution to the ministry and mission of St Matthew's but don't have any cash, there is a contactless card reader on the table by the front door.

Please put your request for prayers during the intercessions on the sheet on the table.

If you could offer a lift to someone to Church, please let us know.

We are buying a memorial stone to commemorate Fr Michael Westlake's time at St. Matthew's. Contribution towards the cost of this would be gratefully received.

In addition to our regular facebook page [here](#) we now have an Instagram page [here](#)

Scripture Readings for This Week

Sunday 16th Aug (11th Sunday after Trinity)

	Matthew 15.[10-20] 21-28
Monday 17th Aug	Matthew 19.16-22
Tuesday 18th Aug	Matthew 19.23-end
Wednesday 19th Aug	Matthew 20.1-16
Thursday 20th Aug	Matthew 22.1-14
Friday 21st Aug	Matthew 22.34-40
Saturday 23rd Aug	Matthew 23.1-12

A Collect for Sunday 16th Aug

O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

St. Matthew's Prayer List,

Please Pray for The Sick and Those in Need:

Please contact Margaret Cox if you would like to add anyone to our prayer list.

Sat: Barbara Linley, Andrew & Gail Walker, John Hope, Barbara Hayward
Mon: Fr Barry Smart, Revd Frank and Margaret Finch, Bali Dhugga, John Duncombe, Pam Millard
Tue: Jayne Middleton, Loretta Charles, Bernadette O'Sullivan, Lorna Wild, Barrie Greenwood, Graham Staton
Wed: Shirley Woodley, Eileen Eveson, Jean Hayes, Irene Roberts
Thu: Dai & Lal Gravell, Shirley and Ray Hollins, Mark Hawkins Ann Edwards, Mark and Shiv Furnell
Fri: David & Anne Gadd, Barbara Dring, Sue & Tony Kyte

