THE CATHOLIC CHURCH of SAINT BIRINUS
DORCHESTER-on-THAMES

SUNDAY 23rd AUGUST 2026
MONTH OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN
PENTECOST XIII
SUNDAY XXI (A)

SUNDAY	**23**	SUNG ENGLISH MASS at Berinsfield	**9.30am**	*Neville Rogers (A)*
		SUNG LATIN MASS at Dorchester	**11.00am**	*pro populo*
Mon	**24**	Feast of St Bartholomew, Apostle	**9.30am**	*F and C Wladizia (A)*
Tue	**25**	St Louis, King of France	**9.30am**	*Suzanne Hurley (sick)*
Wed	**26**	Feast of Blessed Dominic Barberi, P *(Latin)*	**8.00am**	*Norman Wrigley (A)*
Thu	**27**	St Monica, Widow	**9.30am**	*Sean Keegan (A)*
Fri	**28**	St Augustine B. C. *Fast & Abstinence*	**9.30am**	*Gladys Kraviec (A)*
Sat	**29**	Beheading of St John the Baptist *(Latin)*	**9.30am**	*Roy Edmund Waywell (A)*
		VIGIL MASS	**6.00pm**	*Sr Helen Southcott (A)*

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 5:15-5.45 pm or by appointment with the Priest. **Birmingham Perpetual Mass Fund*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING GENEROSITY TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

BLESSED DOMINIC BARBERI

The Feast of Blessed Dominic Barberi falls on Wednesday 26 August. In our Diocese there is a Novena to Blessed Dominic together with prayers for a miracle so that he can be canonised by the Church. BLESSED DOMINIC BARBERI was an Italian Passionist Priest with a heart on fire for England. As a young man he had a dream about England where he saw himself as a missionary among the smoke of the industrial landscape. That dream began his love for England and his desire to be a missionary here. He contributed a great deal to the spread of the Catholic Faith in England, and was a significant influence in the conversion of Saint John Henry Newman.

Dominic joined the Passionists in 1814, when Religious Orders were allowed to function again after their suppression by Napoleon. Dominic was clever but sometimes appeared rather slow. Nonetheless, he grew up to be a teacher, a leader, a missionary and a holy man. In 1839, the Passionists decided to found a community in England. As a step on the way, Dominic led a community to Ere in Belgium. He had the heart of a real missionary. Life was hard. One of the brothers fell ill, the community was poor, and Dominic spoke little French, but he did not let this stop him or thwart his plans.

Bishop Wiseman, the head of the English Mission (the hierarchy had not yet been re-founded) wrote to Dominic to invite the Passionists to England. In *"The Second Spring of Catholicism in England"* we read: *"The Second Spring did not begin when Newman was converted, nor when the hierarchy was restored. It began on a bleak October day in 1841 when a little Italian Priest in comical attire shuffled down a ship's gangway in Folkestone…"* Dominic's reception was not friendly. Local Catholics feared they would be persecuted by the arrival of these foreigners. Dominic was laughed at when he tried to pray in English, but the people grew to love him and some became Catholics. He preached retreats in England and Ireland to great effect with many conversions. In 1845, he received Newman into the Church at Littlemore. Dominic died in the Railway Tavern at Reading, having collapsed at the station. Bl. Dominic Barberi OPN

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Jane Grenfell. 07833915724

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