

# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINT BIRINUS

## DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES

A.M.D.G.

SUNDAY 24th JANUARY 2016

SEPTUAGESIMA

SUNDAY III in Ordinary time

Week III of Psalter

[www.stbirinus.co.uk](http://www.stbirinus.co.uk)  
Registered charity Number:  
234216

This Parish is part of the  
Archdiocese of Birmingham

### HOLY MASS

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Berinsfield</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>pro populo</b>
		<b>Dorchester</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Maureen De Beger (5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>CONVERSION OF ST PAUL (Latin, novus ordo)</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Rosemary Austin (A)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>SS Timothy &amp; Titus</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>BPMF</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>St John Chrysostom B.D. (Latin, usus antiquior)</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Private intention</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>St Thomas Aquinas, P.D.</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>BPMF</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Feria VI Fast &amp; Abstinence</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>RC's intentions</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>of Our Lady (Latin, usus antiquior)</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>BPMF</b>
		<b>VIGIL MASS</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Patrick Mortham RIP</b>

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 5.15-5.45pm and before every Mass or by appointment with the Priest.**

**Last week's collection: £357 Gift Aid DD £311 Donation £50**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING GENEROSITY TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.**

### **SUNDAY III (C) THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Today's Liturgy of the Word brings together two separate passages of Luke's gospel and presents them to us. The first (1:1-4) is the prologue addressed to a certain "Theophilus". Since this name in Greek means "friend of God", we can see in him every believer who opens himself to God and wants to know the Gospel. Instead, the second passage (4:14-21) presents Jesus Who "in the power of the Spirit", goes to the synagogue in Nazareth on the Sabbath. As a strict observer, the Lord does not disregard the pattern of the weekly Liturgy, and joins the assembly of His fellow citizens in prayer and in listening to the Scriptures. The ritual provides for the reading of a text from the Torah or the Prophets, followed by a commentary. That day, Jesus stood up to read and found a passage from the prophet Isaiah that begins: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has appointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted (61:1-2) Origen's comment was: "It is no coincidence that He opened the scroll and found the chapter of the reading that prophesies about Him, this too was the work of God's Providence (Homilies on the Gospel of Luke 32:3) In fact, when the reading was over, in a silence charged with attention, Jesus said: "Today this scripture has (now) been fulfilled in your hearing. (Lk 4:21) St Cyril of Alexandria says that "today", placed between the first and the final coming of Christ, is related to the believer's ability to listen and to repent (PG 69.1241) But in an even more radical sense, Jesus Himself is "The Today" of salvation in history, because He brings to completion the work of redemption. The word "today" very dear to St Luke (cf 19:9, 23:43) brings us back to the Christological title preferred by the evangelist himself, namely: "Saviour". Already in the Infancy narratives, it is present in the words of the angel to the shepherds "For to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:11) This gospel passage challenges us "today". First of all, it makes us think about how we live Sunday, a day of rest and a day for the family. Above all, it is a day to devote to the Lord, by going to Mass and by participating in the Eucharist in which we are nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ and by His life-giving Word. Secondly, in our diversified and distracted time, this Gospel passage invites us to ask ourselves whether we are able to LISTEN. Before we can speak of God and with God we must LISTEN to HIM, and the Liturgy of the Church is the "school" of this listening to the Lord Who speaks to us. Finally, He tells us that every day can be a propitious "day" for our conversion. Every day can become the today of our salvation, because salvation is a story that is on-going for the Church and for every disciple of Christ. This is the Christian meaning of "carpe diem" seize the day in which God is calling you to give you salvation!

### **THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

January 18-25 is kept as a week of PRAYER for Christian Unity. Please pray for this intention which is close to the Heart of Christ who prayed that His followers should be One as He is One with the Father. Please make this intention a priority in your daily prayers during this week, that the Saviour may bring order out of chaos and that there may be One Flock under One Shepherd according to the Mind of Christ.

### **THE AQUINAS INSTITUTE, OXFORD**

**The Annual Aquinas Lecture is on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 5pm AT BLACKFRIARS, OXFORD**

**Professor Herwi Rikhof of the University of Tilburg will speak on:**

**THE TREASURE OF ST. THOMAS' THEOLOGY OF THE TRINITY. All are welcome to attend.**

### **MORE COUNTERS NEEDED**

Every week two responsible people need to count the collection and prepare it for the bank. We are looking for more people to help with this important parish task. If you can help please have a word with Fr John or Dennis De Beger as soon as possible.

**EWTN This 24 hour Catholic Television network can be found on channel 589 for users of SKY. EWTN Radio network is on channel 0147. The Parish Web Site, <http://www.stbirinus.co.uk/>, includes information about the times of Masses and other forthcoming events etc.**