

OLTON FRIARY
PARISH DIRECTORY
2023 - 2024



The Church of the Holy Ghost and Mary Immaculate,
St. Bernards Road, Solihull,
B92 7BL
Tel: 0121 706 0505
email: info@oltonfriary.org.uk
www.olton.r-c.org.uk

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| St Bernard's Road | |
| Solihull | |
| B92 7BL | |
| 0121 706 0505 | |
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| Sunday Masses | |
| Vigil Mass(Online/YouTube) "Olton Friary Mass" | |
| 9.00 a.m. Family Mass - Little Church | |
| 11.00 a.m. Parish Mass with Choir - Latin Mass – 1 st Sunday monthly | |
| 6.00 p.m. Mass with Six O'clock Choir | |
| Weekdays | |
| 7.15 a.m. Morning prayer | |
| 7.30 a.m. Community Mass | |
| 9.50 a.m. Holy Rosary | |
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| 7.00 a.m. | |
| 10.15 a.m. | |
| 7.30 p.m. | |
| <i>(In School as advertised in newsletter)</i> | |
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| Fr. Biju Antony, SCJ (Parish Priest & Superior) | |
| Fr. Enrico Frigiero SCJ (Regional Superior) | |
| Fr. Austin Hughes SCJ (Assistant Parish Priest) | |
| Fr. Dominic Innamorati SCJ (Retired) | |
| Fr. Dominic Athit Kasetsukchai SCJ | |
| Br Gerard Sutherland SCJ (Community Bursar) | |
| Br Liam Finucane SCJ (Sacristan) | |
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| info@oltonfriary.org.uk | |
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| sg.oltonfriary.solihull@rcaob.org.uk | |
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| Headteacher - Mr. N Emery | |
| 0121 706 9508 | |
| St Peter's RC Secondary School | |
| 11-18 years | |
| Headteacher – Mr. S Shelton | |
| 0121 705 3988 | |

A Message from Fr. Biju



Hello, and a very warm welcome to the Parish Directory for the 'Church of the Holy Ghost and Mary Immaculate', Olton, known as '**Olton Friary**'!

'Where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, there he is present amongst them' (Mt.18:20) .

I am happy to extend a warm personal welcome to both parishioners and visitors. I hope that as you browse the directory you will gain a snapshot of our life as a Parish Community, and learn about the many ministries and activities that make up our dynamic parish.

The message of the 'Gospel of Christ' and the liturgy, equips us not only to promote the values of the Gospel, but to live and share them with others. Many groups of people within our parish, dedicate their time, energy and resources, to work together, to proclaim the mission of the Catholic Church in our local community.

I am sure you will find the directory beneficial and an easy way to discover the work of the parish.

For further information please visit Olton Friary Website

May the presence of the Lord bless and guide our thoughts, prayers and actions.

Fr. Biju Antony Panthaloorkan SCJ
Parish Priest & Superior



Jubilee Mass 31st October 2021

Sacred Heart Fathers & Brothers of Betharram



Fr Biju Antony SCJ
Community Superior
0121 706 0505

The congregation of the Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers of Betharram was founded in Betharram, a village in France, by St Michael Garicotts in 1835. The Betharramite spirituality is to do the Will of God instantly, unreservedly and irrevocably – like the baby Jesus' throbbing heart in the manger in Bethlehem. The congregation are called to show the heart of Christ to all and have missions and parishes in Asia, South America, Africa, Vietnam and Europe. For further information about the congregation and its missions please visit <http://www.betharram.net/>

Parish Office



Graine McCabe
Parish
Secretary
0121 706 0505

info@oltonfriary.org.uk

The Office is staffed by the Parish Secretary and a number of volunteer parishioners. The Parish Secretary is available from 9.30am to 2pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The Parish Secretary covers most enquiries relating to the administration of the parish and is the first point of contact.

The following items are a summary but not limited to what may be covered:

Baptisms; Information about Confirmation / First Holy Communion programmes; Funeral arrangements; Submissions for the parish newsletter - that the deadline for the forthcoming Sunday is 1pm on the previous Tuesday; GADS (Gift Aid Scheme); Arranging house blessings; Cemetery memorials & maintenance; Housebound parishioners; Hall bookings; Room bookings for parish events; Parish registration/database updates; Website requests /updates; 200 Club enquiries; Church floodlights.

Parish Communication Group



Contact:
Parish Office
0121 706 0505

Administrators:
Martin Hayden
martin.hayden@oltonfriary.org.uk
Geraldine Gnych (Website)
geraldine.gnych@oltonfriary.org.uk
Oriell Raynor (Website & WhatsApp)
oriell.raynor@oltonfriary.org.uk
Chrissy Ellard (Facebook)
Contact: via Parish Office as above

Communication within the parish is greatly enhanced by the dedication and support of the Communication group.

Through WhatsApp, Facebook, and the Parish Website parishioners are kept well informed about Holy Days, Church services, parish activities and requests for prayers under special circumstances.

Those unable to attend services in person can follow via the livestream facility and Sunday Mass at the Friary can be watched on YouTube.

To join Olton Friary WhatsApp Group for important updates, send a text to admin 07570789651 and ask to join.

Parish Directory Team







Contact:
Parish Office
0121 706 0505

Adam Thomas
Pat Bishop
Cecilia Campbell
cecilia.campbell@oltonfriary.org.uk

The directory is produced to provide information about the Friary Parish, its services and regular activities.

The directory is produced by Pat Bishop, Adam Thomas and Cecilia Campbell. All group leaders and members may offer amendments and additions to the directory. A paper copy will be made available on request. It can be found on the Parish Website as a PDF document which may be printed from home. **Link to be added asap**

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| <p>Parish Finance Committee</p>  <p>Parish Priest Chairperson: Stephen Bradley 0121 684 7023 Secretary: Graine McCabe 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>The Parish Finance Committee (PFC) is a consultative body, chaired by the chairperson, to support parish priest on all matters of finance, property, maintenance and administration of the parish. The PFC fulfils a role of particular importance in the growth, at the level of the Parish community, of a culture of co-responsibility, of administrative transparency, and of service to the needs of the Church. It meets quarterly, and considers parish income, expenditure, plans and provisions for future expenditure.</p> |
| <p>Parish Pastoral Council</p>  <p>TBC (Chairperson)</p> <p>Fr. Biju (Parish Priest) fr.bijuscj@oltonfriary.org.uk</p> | <p>The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a consultative body, to advise and co-ordinate the many Pastoral Parish Activities. It exists to help the Parish Priest and the SCJ community in the general running of the parish together with offering assistance to the groups at work in the parish. It also is one means of communication between the clergy and the laity.</p> <p>If a parishioner wishes to bring something to the attention of the council, they are always welcome.</p> <p>The PPC is governed by the Parish Constitution. Please refer to the display on the notice board in the Narthex.</p> |
| <p>Health & Safety Team</p>  <p>Parish Priest: Chair H & S Liaison: Steve Roper Ewa Sawicka Parish Office: 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>The Health and Safety Group have a responsibility to look after the welfare of staff, volunteers, priests & brothers, visitors & parishioners while on the premises.</p> <p>The committee meet monthly; general risk assessments are carried out and necessary action taken. They implement the Archdiocese Health and Safety 2019 policy requirements and advise on H&S issues affecting the parish.</p> |
| <p>Safeguarding Team</p>  <p>Representatives: Carol Foster Maureen Treanor Contact: Parish Office 0121 706 0505 sg.oltonfriary.solihull@rcaob.org.uk</p> | <p>Every parish has a responsibility to provide a safe environment which promotes and supports the wellbeing of everyone and protects them from harm. Olton Friary Parish has a team of two safeguarding representatives, who are particularly involved with the Disclosure and Barring system (D.B.S.) and they defer to the Safeguarding Team at Cathedral House. The D.B.S. ensures the safety for those carrying out Church ministries involving adults and children. i.e., Eucharistic Ministers, Catechists and children's liturgy. The Safeguarding Reps. may be contacted for any concerns.</p> |

Apostolate/Family Ministry

Sycamore



Contact:
Br Gerard Sutherland SCJ
Ros Sherman
Noleen Walsh
Brian Greaney

Parish Office
0121 706 0505

In spring 2023 the Sycamore Course was offered to all who are interested in exploring their faith.

Sycamore is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It gives you space to meet other people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. How can we find happiness? What's the meaning of life? Is there a God? Does prayer make a difference?

Each session involves a short film and time for discussion.

Everyone is welcome.

To take part in a Sycamore course you do not need to be an expert, saint or theologian. You DO NEED to care about your faith and be willing to share your thoughts and experiences with others.

"He sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So, he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way." Luke 19:3-4

Welcome the New Born King



Contact:
Parish Priest
Parish Office
0121 706 0505

During Advent each year parishioners are invited to host an evening of prayer, readings and reflection with carols and hymns as we wait to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Everyone is welcome to join and celebrate together.

Christ in The Home



Contact:
Parish Priest
Parish Office
0121 706 0505

During Lent each year, parishioners are invited to open their homes in fellowship to others. On an agreed evening and time across the Parish, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will bring the Blessed Sacrament to the host's home for an hour of adoration, with prayer, hymns, readings, and reflection. Everyone is welcome to join as part of their Lenten Journey.

Sacramental Preparation

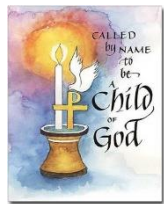
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)



Contact:
Fr Austin Hughes SCJ
Parish Office
0121 706 0505

Our Journey in Faith group can proudly say that we are a 'club that exists principally for the benefit of non-members!' We are a small group who meet on Monday evenings from October through to Easter to help people who are interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith and give instruction to those who seek it. Our meetings last around 75 minutes on a Monday evening. We usually have some input from a priest or a lay person, followed by sharing and a question-and-answer session, always leading on to prayer. For some this interest will lead to a faith commitment, and some will be baptised or received into full communion with the church at Easter. New seekers are always welcome

Baptism



Contact:
Parish Priest
Parish Office
0121 706 0505
Co-ordinator:
Mary Cunningham

mary.cunningham@oltonfriary.org.uk

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we become part of God's family. We have a committed hardworking team, who under the spiritual guidance of the parish priest, lead families through the process of

- Requesting Baptism
- Booking a Baptism and Baptism Preparation Session
- The Baptism of their child.

Parents are asked to speak to the Parish Priest after Sunday Mass. See the Parish website for more information.

First Holy Communion



Parish Office
0121 706 0505
Contact: Simon &
Sarah Wood

sarah.wood@oltonfriary.org.uk

We offer a parish based Holy Communion and Reconciliation programme for children from Year 3 upwards. This includes the children who attend Our Lady of Compassion School as well as other children who are members of our parish. Our programme was designed by the Friary Catechists and aims to guide the children on a journey towards making their First Holy Communion. Our programme runs between October and May, with the children attending sessions approximately once a month on a Saturday morning

Confirmation



Parish Office
0121 706 0505

Contact: Sarah Wood
sarah.wood@oltonfriary.org.uk

Confirmation is held once a year for those in Year 6 or above. Those attending non-Catholic schools have an opportunity to be prepared for this Sacrament at weekly sessions held on Sunday mornings after the 9am Mass for approximately 5 weeks leading up to the Confirmation celebration.

Weddings and Marriage Preparation




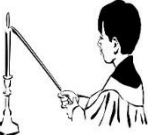



The Wedding Team




Contact:
Pat Bishop
weddings@oltonfriary.org.uk

The Wedding Team organise Marriage Preparation at the Friary, looking at some of the wider aspects of marriage, and helping couples to plan their wedding ceremony.



For information about getting married at Olton Friary, contact The Wedding Team on Wednesday afternoons 1.30 – 4.30 pm. For further information visit the parish web site

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| <p>Hospital Chaplaincy.</p>  <p>Parish Office 0121 706 0505 Fr Biju Antony SCJ Fr Austin Hughes SCJ Shirley Fernando</p> | <p>If you or someone close to you is to be in hospital and would like to receive Holy Communion and/or a blessing, let hospital staff know that you are a Catholic and would like a visit from a hospital chaplain. Members of the Olton Friary chaplaincy team visit patients in Heartlands and Solihull hospitals. Please contact the chaplaincy team through the parish office.</p> |
| <p>Anointing of the Sick</p>  <p>Contact: Parish Priest Parish Office 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>This sacrament helps unite those who are suffering with Jesus' saving and healing power. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the priest anoints the seriously ill, injured, or the elderly with the oil of the sick. In addition to anointing, the person is often offered Holy Communion. Anointing often takes place in homes, nursing homes, and hospitals. For example, a person who is going to have surgery may be anointed. The sacrament may be received more than once, such as if a sick person's condition worsens. Please do contact the parish priest if you wish to discuss receiving or arranging this for a family member.</p> |
| <p>Funerals</p>  <p>Fr Biju Antony SCJ Parish Priest Parish Office 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>Please contact the parish office if you wish to discuss funeral arrangements at the Friary.</p> |
| <h2>Liturgy</h2> | |
| <p>Altar Servers (Guild of St Stephen)</p>  <p>Contact: Alan Bresnan 0121 707 5334</p> | <p>The aim of the Guild is to assist the celebrant(s) in the celebration of Mass, and other services. Open to boys and girls. Please see Fr Biju or Alan Bresnan after Mass if you would like to join.</p> |
| <p>Children's Liturgy</p> <p>Welcome to Children's Liturgy</p>  <p>Sarah Wood sarah.wood@oltonfriary.org.uk</p> <p>Angelika Evans angelika.evans@oltonfriary.org.uk</p> | <p>The children's liturgy takes place during 9 o'clock Sunday Mass. There are two groups, both gather by the altar rails with the catechist and leave the church for about 20 minutes till just before the offertory procession.</p> <p>Little Church - Suitable for children from Year 1 (about 5-6) Under the guidance of a catechist, the children study the Gospel passage of the day through mime, reading and prayer activities. The craft activity is displayed on the Little Church board. Most children attend liturgy unaccompanied, but parents/carers are welcome to settle them in if needed. Every Sunday different children do the offertory.</p> <p>Tiny Church - Suitable for children up to age 5 Guided by a catechist the children follow a programme reflecting the liturgy with songs, stories and a weekly craft activity. There are toys and books available for the very young. All children have to be accompanied by a parent/carer.</p> |

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| <p>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</p>  <p>Parish Office 0121 706 0505 Denise Poole Carol Foster</p> | <p>Ministers of Holy Communion are appointed by the Parish Priest to assist in distribution of Holy Communion at Masses and taking Holy Communion to the housebound.</p> <p>If you or a family member is long or short term housebound and would like the opportunity to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the Parish Office to inform the Parish Priest who will make a suitable arrangement</p> |
| <p>Family Mass Choir 9am (The Larks)</p>  <p>Choir Leader: Anne Russell</p> <p>Parish Office: 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>We call ourselves 'The Larks', as we have to be up early on a Sunday morning! We lead the Congregational singing at 9 a.m. Mass with hymns and music for parts of the Mass in a variety of styles. Instruments have included keyboard, flute, guitar, violin, saxophone and percussion for the little ones in the Congregation. We encourage young readers and musicians to be part of the group and have great support for this from families. Young singers and their parents are most welcome to join us. A short rehearsal after 9am Mass occasionally takes place for learning new music. For some Christmas and Easter Services and the Carol Service we join with the other parish Choirs.</p> |
| <p>Parish Choir</p>  <p>Choir Leader: Geraldine Gnych geraldine.gnych@oltonfriary.org.uk</p> <p>Parish Office: 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>Music has the ability to raise the soul, heart and mind to heaven, and a common saying is that when you sing you pray twice. The Parish Choir aim to bring all these beautiful ideas together, singing for 11a.m. Mass every Sunday as well as for Christmas, Easter, Weddings and other special events throughout the year. The repertoire for the choir tends to be of a more classic nature, often singing two- or three-part musical arrangements, ranging from music in Latin, music by Sibelius and Faure, to John Rutter and Mike Stanley. We practice weekly at 7.30pm on Tuesdays in the Parish Hall and all are welcome to attend. The choir is a friendly group, welcoming new members who have a love of singing. No previous musical experience is necessary, just some joy in singing and dedication to music-making. If you would like to join, please speak to the choir leader or any other member of the choir, or indeed just pop along on a Tuesday evening.</p> |
| <p>6 O'clock Group</p>  <p>Choir Leader Martin Hayden martin.hayden@oltonfriary.org.uk</p> <p>Parish Office: 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>The 6 o' clock group was formed in 1996 from the group <i>Lumen Mundi</i> which existed in the late eighties. The group comprising of teenagers and young adults is led by a couple of adult leaders who offer guidance in terms of liturgy, whilst ensuring appropriate music. The group employs a mix of contemporary and traditional hymns and songs to strike a balance across the needs of the congregation. There is a strong emphasis towards more contemporary music from composers such as <i>Boyce, Stanley and Tim Hughes</i>. The 6 o' clock group has a tradition of writing its own music. Many of the psalms and communion songs were written by current and past members. The group have been invited to play and sing at weddings and at parish charitable events. If you would like to sing at mass and at other times, make new friends and above all have some fun, please consider getting involved in the 6 o' clock group.</p> |

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| <p>Organist</p>  <p>Gerry Poole 0121 707 7904</p> | <p>The parish organist accompanies the parish choir at all their services and is available to play at weddings and funerals.</p> |
| <p>Readers of the Word</p>  <p>Contact: Mike Russell 0121 705 4400 Contact: Denise Poole 0121 707 7904</p> | <p>Reading is a ministry derived from one of the orders to the priesthood (lector), although today it is undertaken by lay people. Readers are commissioned annually, on 2nd Sunday of Advent (Bible Sunday). Readers proclaim the scriptures at all Masses and at Sacramental services, e.g., Baptism, and at non-Eucharistic services. Readers meet annually on retreat, to reflect on their ministry and to receive advice on how to improve in their role. Young readers are always welcome - please speak to the Parish Priest</p> |
| <p>Welcome Team</p>  <p>Coordinator: Cecilia Campbell Parish Office 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>A Smile is the Universal Welcome There are 40 parishioners who work together in this special ministry. We are always eager for other people to join us. Whilst on duty for easy recognition Welcomers wear the Friary Lanyard On a rota basis we arrive early for Mass to prepare the Church for opening. On every occasion we aim to make people feel welcome and included. We answer any queries, provide newsletters, hymn books and any other relevant information. We offer invitations to tea and coffee after Mass in the Parish Hall. We are responsible for taking collections and liaise with the Sacristan to assist the organisation of the Offertory procession. At busy times we help people to find seats and provide direction for receiving Holy Communion.</p> |

Groups, Activities and Organisations

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| <p>Association for the Propagation of the Faith Mill Hill Missionaries (APF)</p>  <p>Contact: Annette Eames Parish Office 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>The Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) assists each of the Catholic Church's mission dioceses to provide pastoral care and preach the Gospel effectively. It is the Pope's charity for World Mission. The APF works in England and Wales with the Mill Hill Missionary Society. Funds for the Missions are collected through the famous red collection boxes in parishioners' homes. Currently there are Red Boxes in over 200,000 homes in UK. To offer your support to the charity or to have a red box or for more information contact Annette Eames the parish APF promoter and coordinator, through the Parish Office. https://missio.org.uk/about-missio/</p> |
| <p>Altar Linen Group</p>  <p>Contact Br Liam Finucane SCJ Parish Office 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>Helpers care for church altar linen for one month each year, washing and ironing large altar cloths and small linen. If it is a task that you do not enjoy consider it as an act of penance! The Altar Servers' Albs are maintained in good condition by Kate Edwards. If any assistance is needed, please contact her via the parish office</p> |

Bereavement Group



Contact Parish Office
0121 706 0505

The small group of volunteers are responsible for compiling and updating the Parish Remembrance Books for those parishioners who have died in a given year.

They organise the annual Celebration of Life Mass, in the month of November, for relatives and friends of deceased parishioners and also the deceased who had their funerals held at the Friary or the Crematorium.

Catholic Women's League of England & Wales C.I.O Olton Section



Chairman: Ann Donohoe
0121 706 6510
Treasurer: Denise Poole
0121 707 7904
denise.poole1809@btinternet.com

CWL Olton Section has been gathering at the Friary since 1950. We meet on the third Thursday afternoon of each month (except January and August) inviting a variety of guest speakers.

We offer friendship and support to our members and have an annual Day of Recollection. We open and close meetings with prayers, asking the Holy Spirit to guide us.

We are a very active group with:

- Fund raising coffee mornings.
- Social afternoons, Summer and Christmas Parties.
- Help given to the Parish in any way that we can.

As a member you will find fresh interests, meet new friends and discover opportunities to make a difference play an important role supporting the church.

National website - [The Catholic Women's League of England and Wales \(catholicwomensleaguecio.org.uk\)](http://TheCatholicWomen'sLeagueofEnglandandWales.org.uk)

Church Cleaners



Contact: Sarah Mackey
Parish Office 0121 706 0505

'Prayer without words' – Give glory to God and serve the church by assisting with church cleaning. Teams work on a rota basis once every 6 weeks.

Join a group or set up a group with friends (it's cheaper than a gym workout!)

Churches Together



Fr Biju Antony SCJ
Fr Austin Hughes SCJ
0121 706 0505

The parish works alongside the Church of England and Baptist churches in Olton. The group aims to make a visual presence of "The Church" in the community through joint acts of worship and activities. These include the Good Friday Walk of Witness, a Prayer Walk, Christian Unity Services, World Day of Prayer Service, Christian Aid week and local community social events.

Companions of Betharram



Fr Biju Antony SCJ,
Congregation Superior
Contact: Shirley Fernando
Parish Office 0121 706 0505

We are a small group of lay people associated with the Sacred Heart Community, who meet socially on 1st Thursday of each month for prayer, meditation and discussion.

For more information speak to Fr Biju or visit the parish website

Craft Group



Contact:
Maggie & Geraldine Gnych
Parish Office 0121 706 0505

This is a social group which meets once a week on Thursday afternoons at the Friary, sharing ideas, learning new skills, raising money for church funds and enjoying a chat and a cup of tea/coffee.

For more information contact the parish office or visit the parish website

Flowers Team



Coordinator:
Shirley Fernando
Parish Office 0121 706 0505

Volunteers arrange flowers in church for Sundays and special occasions such as weddings and Feast Days. See the parish website for more details or contact Shirley Fernando if you would like to be involved.

Friends of the Holy Land



Contact Jenny and Steve Roper
steve6162@icloud.com

The FHL, is a non-political Christian Charity supporting the Christian population of the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan. Its objectives are to pray for Christians in the Holy Land, to raise awareness of their plight, to encourage pilgrimages, and to raise funds to support them.

New members are always welcome.

More information with regular updates of FHL work in the Holy Land visit:
<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>

Fund Raising Committee (Sub-committee of PPC)



Contact:
Adam Williams
Parish Office
0121 706 0505

The group organises social events and activities bringing the community together while helping to raise much needed parish funds.

The committee meets monthly, on a weekday evening. New members and ideas will always be welcome.

Fundraising activities include:

Appeals for donations, researching grants and external funding, Encouraging additional gift aid.

Previous Special Social Events with Classical Musical Ensembles, Race Night at Our Lady of Compassion school, large quality raffles. And "Friday nights at the Friary" with Ancestry talks, Quiz nights, Games nights, Cookery demonstrations, Bingo nights and Movie nights.

Gardeners Team



Contact
Steve Roper
0121 705 1737

We are a small, friendly, group of volunteers who enjoy the outdoors and making the Friary grounds pleasing for parishioners and visitors. We meet on Monday mornings throughout the year, unless it is raining, carrying out a range of gardening tasks in the Friary grounds and graveyard. On Tuesday evenings in summer some of the Monday group and others meet primarily for maintenance of the graveyard. Anyone who enjoys the outdoors and gardening, would be very welcome to join us.

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| <p>Gift Aid Scheme</p>  <p>Graine McCabe Parish Secretary Parish Office 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>The parish participates in the Diocesan Gift Aid Scheme, whereby a tax refund is obtained on direct giving to the Church by individuals. If you pay income tax and would like further details, please contact the Parish Office.</p> |
| <p>Justice and Peace Outreach</p>  <p>Contacts: Barbara Hylton (07752 424578) Geraldine Clifton (07813 369074) Email: outreachjp@gmail.com</p> | <p>Sharing time and information in dealing with the issue of justice and peace is a valuable and necessary contribution to the process of building God's kingdom of love. Olton Friary Outreach J&P Group (OJP) welcomes all. Olton Friary community members may register their interest and support. You would receive the periodic J&P emails and invites to attend regular network meetings. The aim of these meeting is to share and prayerfully lend support to those actively involved in promoting a range of J&P work both locally and globally.</p> |
| <p>Life</p>  <p>Contact Carol Foster Parish Office 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>'Life' is a charitable group which supports the rights of the unborn child.</p> <p>Money to be donated to the cause is raised during tea/coffee mornings after Mass on Tuesdays in the lounge. Everyone is welcome to join us.</p> |
| <p>Lourdes Group</p>  <p>Contact James Noonan 07593298704 01562883680</p> | <p>Every year the Olton Friary Lourdes Group join the Birmingham Diocesan Pilgrimage. Pilgrims are free to choose as much religious involvement as they want and enjoy coach day trips to the Pyrenean countryside.</p> <p>For more details about travel arrangements, medical provision and financial support please look at the parish website or contact James. All are welcome regardless of faith, health and disability.</p> |
| <p>Parish Projects Contact: Parish Office 0121 706 0505</p> <p>St Basil's Centre</p>  <p>Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers Missions</p>  | <p>In an attempt to look beyond our own parish community, we have two projects of support, namely:</p> <p>In 1983 the Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers and the parish adopted and began to support St Basil's Centre as a good cause. It is a Christian charity organisation whose principal aim is to care for homeless young people in Birmingham and surrounding areas. It encourages them to help themselves to have a purpose for living. St Basil's provide accommodation; offers support with employment needs and appropriate training. To save regularly at home Collection boxes are available from the parish office and the Narthex. If you wish to give occasionally, there is a box in the wall of the church.</p> <p>Parishioners may offer regular financial support to the Sacred Heart Missions. SCJ Mission boxes are provided to be kept at home for a few months at a time to save donations. Collection boxes are available from the parish office or the Narthex. On Wednesdays and Fridays at the After-Mass Coffee mornings money is raised in support of the SCJ Missions</p> |

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| <p>Piety Stall</p>  <p>Contact: Gaynor McGarry gaynor.mcgarry@oltonfriary.org.uk Angelika Evans angelika.evans@oltonfriary.org.uk Parish Office 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>The piety stall is open after all Masses on Sundays (occasionally on Saturdays) An excellent selection of cards and goods are available. Orders can be taken for specific requirements, speak to staff on the stall. At significant times during the year craft items are sold to raise money for church charities. More volunteers to help run the stall would be most welcome.</p> |
| <p>St Vincent de Paul Society</p>  <p>Contact: Mary Scott 0121 711 2659 maryjosephinescott33@gmail.com</p> | <p>Members of Olton Friary SVP Conference are just one small part of a worldwide network of SVP volunteers whose mission is to "tackle poverty in all its forms through the provision of practical assistance to those in need." The concept of need is broader than financial hardship, so visiting people who are sick, lonely, in prison, or suffering from addiction is also a significant proportion of our work. The essence of our work is person-to-person contact and spending time with people is our greatest gift. We offer friendship to parishioners by visiting in their homes, hospitals and care homes on a regular basis. We offer practical and financial support when requested. We are involved in distributing donated food from COSTCO to organisations, Asylum Seekers, refugees, hostels and needy families. We volunteer for a soup kitchen in the city Centre: serving soup & sandwiches to those who are sleeping rough on the streets. We support an SVP Conference in India with prayer and financial aid and provide financial aid to projects recommended to us on an ad hoc basis. Many Parishioners who are not necessarily members of SVP work with us to ensure the success of the projects. If you are interested in joining us or need any further information, please do contact us.</p> |
| <p>St Peregrine</p>  <p>Contact: Lin Carmichael, Parish Office 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>St Peregrine is the Patron Saint of those suffering from cancer or other serious illness. The group meets on the last Friday of the month at 2.30pm in the Day Chapel. (See the Newsletter) New members are warmly welcomed for prayer, ongoing support and friendship or just for individual requests for prayers.</p> |
|  <p>Contact: Ewa Sawicka Parish Office 0121 706 0505</p> | <p>The 200 Club is managed by a committee and it is a fundraising initiative that raises much needed funds for the parish and gives the opportunity for members to win monthly prizes, ranging from £100, £50, £20 and 3 prizes of £10. New members are always very welcome and if you would like the chance to win and support the parish, please contact the Parish Office.</p> |