**ST JOSEPH, UPTON UPON SEVERN, WITH OUR LADY AND ST ALPHONSUS, BLACKMORE PARK**

*This parish forms part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216*

**Parish Priest: Fr. Nazarius Mgungwe (01684 574250 – resident at St Joseph's, Malvern)**
**Fr Hugh Sinclair (retired – 01684 592602 – resident at St Joseph's, Upton)**
**Deacon: Rev'd. Seán Duffy (07913 163696)**

The Parish Account name is: *Blackmore Park and Upton*

**St Joseph's Church, 9 School Lane, Upton upon Severn, Worcs. WR8 0LA.**
**Our Blessed Lady and St Alphonsus, Blackmore Park, Hanley Swan, Worcs. WR8 0EA**

Hospital Chaplains: Worcester Royal, Newtown and South Bank: 01905 963712

Parish Website: stjosephupton.co.uk

**Confession:** Fr Hugh hears confessions before 4pm Mass on Saturdays; or by appointment

**Mass Times:**

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| **Sat** 14 Mar | 4.00pm | Blackmore Park | John Hanson – R.I.P. | **4th Sunday in Lent** |
| **Sun** 15 Mar | 9.00am | Upton | | |
| Tues 17 Mar | 9.30am | Upton | *St Patrick* | |
| Thurs 19 Mar | 10.00am | Blackmore Park (Exposition from 9.15am) | | *Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary* |
| Fri 20 Mar | 9.30am | Upton | | |
| **Sat** 21 Mar | 4.00pm | Blackmore Park | Emma White – R.I.P. | 5th Sunday in Lent |
| **Sun** 22 Mar | 9.00am | Upton | | |

**Stations of the Cross** – after Mass on Thursdays and Fridays

The **Second Collection** this weekend is in aid of the **Cathedral Maintenance Fund**

Fr Naz has written to each of us this weekend asking our help in forming a **Pastoral Advisory Council** for the combined parish of Our Lady & St Alphonsus, Blackmore Park with St Joseph's, Upton – a copy of his letter is attached. We had a consultation with the whole parish some months ago and now the time has come for the next formal step.

The first of two **Penitential Services** is at St Wulstan's **this Sunday 15/03 at 3pm**; and the second, at St Joseph's, Malvern on Friday 27/03 at 7pm – with the opportunity for individual confession.

The series of five Lenten Reflections – **The Beatitudes – A Way of Christian Living** – continues this week at Our Lady & St Alphonsus, Blackmore Park on **Tuesday 17th March** with the focus, 'Blessed are the pure in heart; and the peacemakers'. The cycle of reflections will conclude at St Joseph's, Malvern on Tuesday, 24th March – refreshments at 6.30pm for a 7.15pm start – concluding at 8pm.

**Our Lenten Lunches** continue this **Friday (20/03) from 12-1.30pm** in the 'Church Room,' Old Street, with our own Super-Soup-Team working their magic in the kitchen, conjuring tremendous tastes from the tureens and laying about them with the ladles, much to the delectation and delight of those fortunate enough to be there to enjoy their various offerings – don't be bashful, come and share in a bit of fellowship: give your tum a treat! All in aid of **The Friends of the Holy Land**

**Dementia Prayer Week** continues to Thursday (19/03): an opportunity to pause, pray, and stand in solidarity with those living with dementia, their families, and all who care for them. It highlights the dignity of every person, reminding us that each life remains precious and loved by God, even when memory fades. You may want to use this prayer:

Loving Father,
You hold each of us in Your tender care,
even when memories fade and words are lost.
We pray for those living with dementia,
may they feel surrounded by Your peace and know
that they are always known and loved by You.
Bless those who care for them with patience, strength, and gentleness.
In moments of weariness, give them comfort;
in times of sadness, grant them hope.
May every act of care become a reflection of Your enduring love.
Through Christ our Lord.
**Amen**

Please pray for the sick of the Parish and all who are housebound; and for the needs of the **Malvern Hills Food Bank** – listed on the noticeboard and at:
https://malvernhills.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/donate-food

Health & Safety: If at any time you come across anything which is a danger to the public, in either of the Churches or grounds, please contact our Parish Health & Safety Representative Mark Fisher (07960 077117) or, if he is not available, Deacon Seán. Thank you.

Emergency contacts: Anne Rasile 01684 310317; St Wulstan's, Little Malvern 01684 574658; St George's Worcester 01905 963712

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance & the National & Archdiocese's policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Kevin Douglas. He can be contacted at: sg.stjoseph.malvern@rcaob.org.uk / 01886 832468 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk, if you have any concern.

**FORMING A PASTORAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)**

*Friday, 13 March 2026*

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady & St Alphonsus, Blackmore and St Joseph's, Upton

**Shaping Our Future Together: The Pastoral Advisory Council**

As our vibrant communities continue to grow and evolve, we are at a pivotal moment. To ensure we are truly listening to the Holy Spirit and the needs of every parishioner, we are officially beginning the process of forming a **Pastoral Advisory Council (PAC)** for our linked parish.

**Why do we need a Council?**
The mission of the Church doesn't rest solely on the shoulders of the clergy; it is a shared responsibility of the entire "People of God." The Vision Statement of the Archdiocese of Birmingham encourages all of us to be missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith. A Pastoral Advisory Council provides a formal structure for **consultation and collaboration**. It ensures that the wisdom, professional skills, and diverse perspectives of our lay community are directly integrated into the life and direction of our parishes.

**What is the Role of the Advisory Council?**
The PAC is not a "*board of directors*," but rather a visionary body in support of the Parish Priest rooted in prayer. Its primary roles include:

- **Visioning & Planning:** Identifying the long-term spiritual and social needs of Blackmore and Upton and helping to set pastoral priorities.
- **A Sounding Board:** Serving as a consultative body for the Parish Priest, offering honest feedback and diverse insights on parish initiatives.
- **Fostering Unity:** Bridging the gap between our two distinct communities to ensure we work in harmony while respecting our individual identities.
- **Empowering Ministry:** Growing and supporting parish groups—from liturgy, Sacramental programmes, Extra-ordinary Ministers of Communion, Readers, reaching out to young families, social justice and maintenance.

**How Can You Help?**
Be on the lookout for individuals who are committed to the life of the Church, who possess a "listening heart," and are willing to contribute their time to help our parish thrive. Whether people have a background in management, education, community service, or simply a deep love for our faith, their voice matters.
"The Church is not a museum, but a garden that needs to be cultivated." — *Pope Francis*

This weekend and next identifying members of the PAC will begin with the process of nominations. Slips of paper will be available to kick off the process.

I ask you to please join in prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we take this exciting step forward together.

Yours faithfully,

Fr Nazarius Mgungwe
**PARISH PRIEST - BLACKMORE AND UPTON**