

Readings for Mass today

Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord:
Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and do not turn from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

Psalms 111:4-9

The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:

he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.

The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. *Alleluia!*

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples, 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'



Light. Church of St Nicolas, Nantes.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US
Telephone: 0121 354 1763 **Email:** stnicholasrc@btinternet.com
Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk
Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** frallenmorris@gmail.com
Parish Safeguarding contact: Mrs Ann Foulds (0121 355 7892)
Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

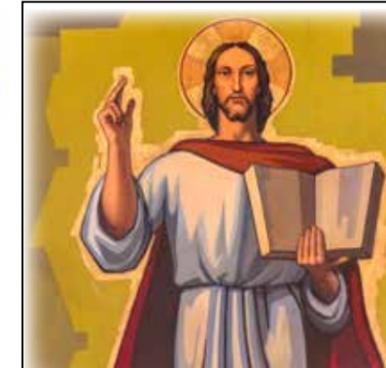
School Sign-In

Schools in the St. John Paul II Multi-academy, including St Nicholas and Bishop Walsh schools, give priority to applications from practicing Catholic families. They invite families to submit a letter of recommendation from their parish priest to evidence their Catholic practice.

To ensure that there is some objective record to support such letters, those who will apply to these schools are invited to 'sign-in' on occasional Sundays during the 2 years before they submit their application for Primary or Secondary School.

- At present those who will apply for admission up to 2019 are invited to sign-in.
- If signing in to support applications for Secondary School, both a parent and the child concerned should sign in
- 'Sign-In Sundays' are always announced at the end of Mass.
- Signing in books for those already registered are available in the McEvilly Room.
- If signing in for the first time please use one of forms provided, but DO NOT put them in the book, but in the basket provided.
- For more information regarding admission please check the schools' websites.
- If particular circumstances mean a family is not at Mass at St Nicholas weekly they are invited to meet with Fr Allen at the earliest opportunity so that note is made of this.

ROSARY & BENEDICTION
PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS IN THE CHURCH
Mondays at 3pm.
St Nicholas Catholic Church, 243 Jockey Road, B73 5AA



Called to Communion:

Hear the Word of God: It is closer to you than yourself.

The Church is secure in her faith that God is present to us in the Scriptures - personally present to us in the Scriptures.

This is true when the word of God is proclaimed at Mass, and it is also true when we read the Scriptures by ourselves.

The Bible is not understood by us to be the literal word of God. But it is written by people of faith, directly inspired by God, so that he might speak to us. God inspired the writers of scripture - story-tellers, historians, letter writers, gospel writers, poets and hymn writers - in order that he might speak heart to heart to us, now.

The Scripture can teach us theology, and teach us the history of Jesus and the early Church. But most importantly, and still more profoundly, it allows God to speak to us, and provides space for us to speak with God.

So when we read Scripture we read less to read the words but to meet the Word; less read the Book, more meet the one whose life and love inspired the Book and breathes through it. All this so we might be drawn into Communion with him.

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Masses Fifth week in Ordinary Time

S	4	1800	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Ints of the Bell Committee
Su	5	0900 1100	Psalter Wk 1	Gwen Lavelle RD (Drozd) Decsd of Kennedy and Connolly Families (K)
M	6	1000	St Paul Miki and Cmpns	Mrs O'Sullivan RIP (Brennan and Vowles)
T	7	1000		Gwen Lavelle RD
W	8	1900		Holy Souls
Th	9			
F	10	1000 1900	St Scholastica	Funeral Mass of Noel Moffatt Kathleen Cecil RD (O'Gorman)
S	11	1800	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Luke Gill RIP (Gill)
Su	12	0900 1100	Psalter Wk 2	Martin Coffey RIP (Drozd) Danny Scally (Anniv) (Ward)

Morning/Evening Prayer 15 mins before weekday Mass.

Exposition & Vespers 2nd & 4th Suns, 6-7pm

Rosary and Benediction Mondays at 3pm

Reconciliation Sat. 1700-1730 (Exposition until 1740) and by arrangement.

Baptism, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick: by arrangement

Nourishing prayer at home: liveingeucharist.wordpress.com/

Please pray for sick parishioners including Sara Gallagher, Ray Finn, Viv Everitt, Diane Jukes, David Freeman, Peggy Gallagher, Margaret Knowles, Brenda Davies; Tony Lawlor, Leah Burke, Tess Carnero, Joan James, Sarah Johnston, Bridie Moffatt, Bernie Morton, Danuta Evans, Michael McDermott - and also for Fr Gabriel Maguire, our Dean, who is not well. **Please pray for all who have died**, including Noel Moffatt whose body is received into church at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th Feb and his funeral is at 10am on 10th February, Gwen Lavelle, whose funeral is here at 1pm on Tues 14 Feb, and Cath Cecil whose funeral is here at 10am on Monday 13th Feb. and for Michael Durack and Chris Pagrave and all whose anniversaries are at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.**

Next Sunday is the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings are Sirach 15:15-20 / Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 / 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 / Matthew 5:17-37

The Ordinary of the Mass is found on p200 ff of Laudate.

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Preparing a funeral

Whether you want to leave some details of your preferences for your own funeral or if you are looking for help in preparing for the funeral of a family member or friend you will find some help on our parish website. www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/funerals-and-praying-for-the-dead.html
Copies of the *Preparing MY funeral form* are available in the porch.

Readers The new rota is available on the website and at the back of the church. Please sign up as soon as possible if you are available to help on Palm Sunday and during the Triduum, so the most helpful rota can be prepared.

Baptism Preparation. The next preparation programme begins on Saturday 25th February from 1130 to 1230, in the Benedict Room. Parents are asked to complete an application form and see Fr Allen before hand.

Travelling Solo The next gathering of the Travelling Solo Group will take place in the Sutton Park Hotel on corner of Jockey Rd/Boldmere Rd after the 11am Mass this Sunday. All who 'travel alone' - single, the divorced or separated, widows and widowers - are welcome.

Bigger Picture Group; Coming to next meeting of the parish scripture group? Weds 22nd Feb, 7.30pm in the parish house - please note change of date... Please read 1 & 2 Maccabees to prepare.

Society of St Vincent de Paul Information meeting for all interested in

Holy Daring

If you work with young people, Archbishop Bernard Longley warmly invites you to attend a conference exploring a vision for youth ministry in the Archdiocese of Birmingham at Alton Castle from 10am - 6.30pm on Sat March 25th .

- Key speaker David Wells will explore the theme of discipleship.

It would be great to have at least two or three people who are involved in this work, in the parish, local schools or elsewhere taking part in the Holy Daring event. If you are interested please let Fr Allen know as soon as possible so a ticket can be reserved for you.

sharing in the work of the SVP. 7th Feb at 7.30pm in the Benedict Room.

Alpha in a Catholic Context 18th February in the Grimshaw Rooms at St Chad's Cathedral, B4 6EU. 10.30-3.30pm.

Guild of St Stephen's Mass of Thanksgiving on Sat 25th March takes place at St Chad's Cathedral at 12 noon.

World Development Group: AGM Tues 7 Feb, 7.30pm at 9 Brooks Road - all welcome.

Boldmere Night Shelter - a reminder of the training meeting for all this year's volunteers - Monday 6th February 7.30pm to discuss the changes to this year's night shelter.

Diocese

Cathedral Flower Festival, 9-11 June It would be nice to have a parish display at the Cathedral this year. Would you be interested in joining a group to prepare something? The themes are Blessed Dominic Barberi and Blessed John Henry Newman. If you are interested please let Fr Allen know as soon as possible so we can register...

Bright Lights: Catholic Festival for Young Adults. 23-25 Alton Castle. www.brightlights.org.uk

Young Men's retreat. 10-12 February, Alton Castle. www.bcys.co.uk

Job Vacancies: Vacancy for an RE Teacher, St Paul's School for Girls Ring 0121 454 0895; Deadline: Wednesday 8th February at noon; Father Hudson's Care is looking for a **Deputy Community Projects Manager** (Coleshill, 37 hrs pw; Salary, £28-31K) www.fatherhudsons.org.uk

Other

Part Time shop assistant at St Paul's Bookshop in C. Birmingham. 2-3 days pw. Details from Lorenzo at 0121 236 6336.

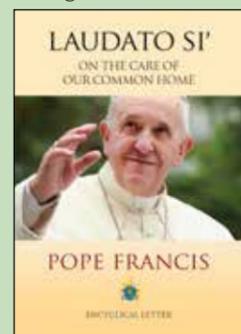
Have you read *Laudato Si'*?

Laudato Si'? - It is the encyclical which Pope Francis issued last year on the need for responsible care or the environment, the world we live in here and now, and that we leave to those who come after us.

If you have, do you have any thoughts as to how we might respond to the challenge in our parish?

If you haven't would you be interested in being part of a study group that will read it together, and see what sort of way forward we might find.

Comments, suggestions etc to Fr Allen please, so they can be fed into our parish plans and to a February meeting of priests and deacons of the Deanery.



Starting to think about Lent?

A few opportunities to consider...

- Why not read your way through Matthew's Gospel - the primary Gospel for the Sundays and major feasts of this Liturgical Year. You can of course use your own Bible or Gospel booklet, or get a chapter emailed to you direct from our Parish Blog.
- Come to Mass one day during the week. The 7pm Masses on Wednesday and Friday evenings offer an opportunity for a celebration which is quieter and more reflective than the usual Sunday celebration.
- Come to the CAFOD meeting which is being held after the 7pm Mass on the first Friday of Lent, and which will give a fresh opportunity to learn how we can offer support and encouragement to people whose life circumstances are more constrained than ours.

Catholic People's Weeks (CPW) has been around for 70 years, providing 'holidays that make a difference'. CPW weeks are a chance to become part of a small community, learning and having fun together. The Weeks are themed, with talks, activities and workshops. Some Weeks are 18+, others are all-age events with a parallel children's programme. There is plenty of free time, inc an evening social programme. Liturgies are lively and inclusive. See brochure in the porch; ring 0161 773 2410; or go to www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org.

5 Night Pilgrimage to Knock, Ireland, 24-28 April. £649 pp sharing. Details on notice board or from Patricia Ronane on 07740 175557 or knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

A Lifeline for Marriages for marriages that are stressed, unloving, cold. Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking of doing so? Do you want to try again? The Retrouvaille programme can help! Contact Frances and Michael. Tel 0788 7296983 website : www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Bethany Food Bank

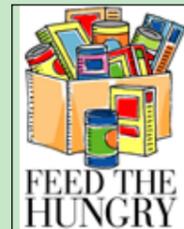
Orphanage Road, Erdington, B24 9HX

Opening Times:

- Tuesday 1130am to 1pm
- Wednesday 1100am to 12noon
- Thursday 1130am to 1pm

Thank you to everyone who regularly supports the Food Bank through our monthly collections.

Next collection is weekend of 1st Sunday of Lent, 4th / 5th March



Are you baptised and now 'grown up' but somehow never got round to being Confirmed - or receiving your First Communion?



If so - and if you want to receive these 'missing' sacraments, please make contact with Fr Allen as soon as possible.

During Lent this year you can receive the help you might need to prepare for these sacraments, and so be confirmed, or make your first Communion at a time that suits you between Easter and Pentecost.



Continued from page 1.

Often when we read books, or even cornflake packets, we read for information. And we keep reading until we find what we are looking for - or until we give up.

But when we read Scripture we read for relationship. And so the quality of our reading is much more important than the quantity.

Often we do best when we read a single passage and then go back over it and ponder it, and ponder on ourselves in the light of what we've read. We read Scripture attentive to what we read, but it is important for us to be as attentive to our response as to what we read.

Why? Because we read Scripture not so much as to learn new facts about God, but to help ourselves - help God help us - into a developing, deepening relationship with God. That relationship is expressed in everything in our life, but it is focused and made available for our prayerful consideration through the reading of Scripture. And then we deepen the relationship by speaking and listening to God in prayer, as in a conversation.

Such attentive, prayerful, reading and conversation, based on Scriptures is what lies at the heart of the *Retreat in Daily Life* which a number of parishioners are taking part in during Lent. But it is also something that anyone is able to have a go at.

Trust to the method, take it slowly, be ready to go back to a passage several times - not looking for results but being patient, waiting and enjoying the stillness of reflection. God plants the seed but it takes time to sprout and grow. Sometimes it takes longer than we expect and sometimes we realise God makes us wait longer, so we might learn patience, trust. And if that's difficult, well, bring that irritation to God in prayer. He is already ready to hear us, to speak with us in the silence of our hearts and minds.

SOME REFLECTION QUESTIONS for during the week to help you think about how you use or might use Scripture as a rich resource for prayer and encounter with Jesus.

- What do you expect of prayer? • What might God hope of you when you pray?
- How might you choose the passages of scripture you pray with? Some use favourite passages; others the Sunday readings. What might you use?

Holy Communion Programme

Shrove Tuesday (28 Feb)

It is hoped to have a short pancake party in school after the parish Burning of Palms service which is being held for First Communion Children and their families at 5pm on 28th Feb. If any parents are willing to coordinate this, please would they contact Fr Allen as soon as possible.

First Confessions

As mentioned by Fr Allen at the recent parents' meeting

arrangements for first Confessions this year have been changed. Parents are now invited to sign up for sessions

which will involve smaller groups of children, and so involve less waiting time for families.

Applications for available services are in the porch and on the website. When choosing your preferred service, please bear in mind, that each child must be accompanied by a parent, and be present for the beginning of the service.



Parish

Special Collections. Thank you for your generous support of recent collections! £549.39 was collected two weeks ago for the **Diocesan Poor Parishes Fund**; and last week £573.32 collected for the **Boldmere Winter Night Shelter**. Also our Christmas Collection raised £89.66 for the **Pastoral Care Project**.

Welcoming Team and those who help with the Collection each week. You are invited to meet with Fr Allen today for just 15 minutes after the end of Mass you usually attend.



Confirmation for Year 6 children NOT in Catholic Schools

Plans are now well underway for this year's programme and will be presented at a meeting for children and their parents on Friday 10th February at 5pm in the Benedict Room.

Details of the programme for children at St Nicholas School will be presented shortly through the school.

- The celebration of Confirmation for all children of the parish will be ministered by Bishop Robert Byrne at Mass on Tuesday 16th May at 7pm
- All children preparing for Confirmation - in parish or school programme are asked to take an active part in the celebration of the Triduum - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention this month is:

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit <http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>

