

Job 7:1-4,6-7

Job began to speak: Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Psalms 146:1-6

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

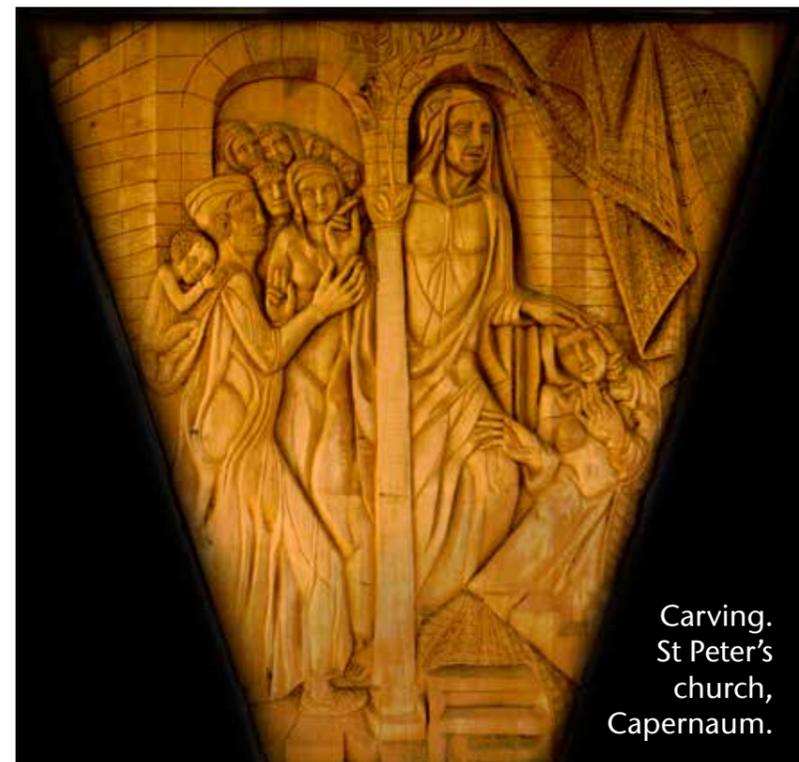
Praise the Lord for he is good; sing to our God for he is loving: to him our praise is due.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles, he heals the broken-hearted, he binds up all their wounds. He fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name.

Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured. The Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust.

1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my



Carving. St Peter's church, Capernaum.

Next Week: Sunday of 6th Week in Ordinary Time

Scripture readings: Leviticus 13:1 - 2, 44 - 46 / Psalm 32:1 - 2, 5, 11 / 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1 / Mark 1:40 - 45

Stepping forward in Faith

- In what way is the Lord light for your path in life?
- Where is healing needed in your life and for family and friends? And our society more generally?

preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

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!*

Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

Please bring to Mass NEXT Sunday your Palms from last year's Palm Sunday Mass. We collect them for burning on Shrove Tuesday to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

The palms are burnt in a simple service at 5pm on Tuesday 13th February. All are welcome.

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St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

We incarnate the duty of hearing the cry of the poor when we are deeply moved by the suffering of others. Let us listen to what God's word teaches us about mercy, and allow that word to resound in the life of the Church. The Gospel tells us: "Blessed are the merciful, because they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7). The apostle James teaches that our mercy to others will vindicate us on the day of God's judgment: "So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy, yet mercy triumphs over judgment" (Jas 2:12-13). The idea is expressed even more graphically by Sirach: "Water extinguishes blazing fire: so almsgiving atones for sin" (Sir 3:30). The same synthesis appears in the New Testament: "Maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Pet 4:8). This truth greatly influenced the thinking of the Fathers of the Church and helped create a prophetic, counter-cultural resistance to the self-centred hedonism of paganism. We can recall a single example: "If we were in peril from fire, we would certainly run to water in order to extinguish the fire... in the same way, if a spark of sin flares up from our straw, and we are troubled on that account, whenever we have an opportunity to perform a work of mercy, we should rejoice, as if a fountain opened before so that the fire might be extinguished".

The worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care. The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must not fail to offer them his friendship, his blessing, his word, the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith. Our preferential option for the poor must mainly translate into a privileged and preferential religious care.

Pope Francis



Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured. The Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust.

Psalm 146

Liturgy and Prayer

S	3	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	1700 1800	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> Patsy and Marie White RIP (Meehan)
Su	4	<i>Psalter Wk 1</i>	0900 1100	Peter Baird RIP (Serafinas) Luca Aizori RIP
M	5	St Agatha	1000 * 1500	Muriel Clarkson Ints (Lawlor) <i>Benediction and Rosary</i>
T	6	St Paul Miki and Companions	1000 * 1430	Fr Jonce Ints (Fegin) For the parish
W	7		1000 *	Mary Sexton RIP (MM)
Th	8		1000 *	Funeral Mass of Mary O'Horo Cathy Miles (Health) (Miles)
F	9		1900 *	Ints of Senior Leadership Team of Hagley Catholic High School
S	10	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	1700 1800	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> Luke Gill RIP (Gill)
Su	11	<i>Psalter Wk 2</i>	0900 1100 1800	Rita Maxwell RIP Velia Iafrate RD <i>Exposition and Evening Prayer</i>

Morning/Evening Prayer 20 mins before weekday Masses as indicated above*
Exposition & Vespers 2nd & 4th Suns, 6-7pm (resumes 14th January)
Rosary and Benediction Mondays at 3pm (except 1st January)

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

Baptism, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick: by arrangement.

Nourishing prayer at home: livingeucharist.wordpress.com/

Please pray for sick parishioners including Philip Redmond, Jude Turner, Margaret O'Gorman, Peter and Olwen Foster, Mary Gavin, Frank Kemp, Josie Newman, Brenda Davies; Leah Burke, Tess Carnero, Joan James, Sarah Johnston, Bridie Moffatt, Bernie Morton, Danuta Evans, Michael McDermott - and Fr Gabriel Maguire, our Dean. **Please pray for all who have died** including Mary O'Horo Bates whose funeral Mass is at 10am on Thurs 8th Feb and Linda Bradley, Paddy Bryan, Elizabeth Durack, Michael Durrack, Noel Moffitt and Timothy O'Leary. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Thank you to the members of the parish who came to the meeting on Sunday afternoon to reflect on parish life and how we respond to our responsibility for bearing witness to the Gospel and sharing the invitation to the fullness of life with those who live around us.

The meeting was very positive, honest and energising. Posters in the church offer some idea of the stories engaged with to focus us on the task in hand. If you want to read more about the background to the points raised please go to the parish blog and download the handout available there.

The group has decided it would like to stay together to progress the reflection and monitor the work. But it is not a closed group others are welcome to come along and join in the reflection.

We agreed to action the three proposals on the table, and previously noted in the newsletter. But a couple of other things came up too, which can be actioned straight away.

- **Helping people to come to Mass - on Sundays or during the week.** At Sunday's meeting it was suggested that there may be parishioners who need help to come to Mass, and other parishioners who would be willing to help. Of course this is something that already happens informally with friends and neighbours helping out, and with others helping from the SVP. But if you would like to help or would like to help, either contact the SVP or Fr Allen so that we can keep a record of those offering help and those who would appreciate it.

- **Flower Festival.** We are regularly invited to take part in the flower festival at St Chad's Cathedral but the invitation has not been taken up. However, as a way of engaging talent, new and old, and offering us a way to encourage people through the doors of the church, what about a flower festival of our own. Interested? Come and have a chat in the Benedict Room over a cup of tea after the 6pm or 9am Masses on Sat 3rd/Sun 4th of March.

The three initiatives for Lent 2018 More help is needed to help us make best use of these initiatives for sharing the Gospel with others. Every one can help by passing on details - by putting up a poster on a notice board or passing a leaflet to a friend. Others can help on the day or in preparing - see the notice board in the porch to sign up to help.

- **Know that the Lord is good:** Sundays 25 February; 4, 11 and 18 March 5-5.30pm, followed by refreshments. Times of prayer to which we can welcome the local community. Each will focus on one of the parables and the direct guide to faith that Jesus provides there. *Particular opportunities to help include welcoming those coming; assisting with readings or music; serving refreshments.*

- **Church Open Day: Saturday 17th March, 11am-3pm** *Particular opportunities to help include cleaning and preparing the church for the event; handing out invitations on Boldmere Road; welcoming visitors to the church; serving refreshments.*

- **Stations of the Cross on Good Friday morning at 11am.**

A service for families with younger children, and for all. Help with music, readings, and refreshments.

Make one of these initiatives your Lenten penance. Use Lent to witness to our faith and share it with others.



Parish

Thank you to those who contributed to the collection for LEPR, which raised £307.91

Mass Intentions. Please be aware that the Mass intentions diary is full for February and filling fast for March. If you wish to have Mass offered for particular intentions in March, April or May you are advised to put in your request as soon as possible.

Refreshments in Benedict Room after 9 and 10am Masses on Sundays. All welcome.

St Nicholas World Development Group: AGM on Mon 29th Jan, 7.30pm, at 9 Brooks Road – all are welcome

Preparation for Baptism of Infants. The next preparation programme begins Saturday 24th Feb from 11-12noon, in the Benedict Room. Pl see Fr Allen before hand and complete an application form.

Parish Scripture Study Group. The next meeting is on Weds 21 Feb at 7pm to

conclude our reading of St Mark's Gospel. During Eastertide we will resume meeting and begin a reading of the Book of the Psalms.

Parish Book Club. The book for the next meeting is Annie Dillard's *Teaching A Stone To Talk*. Mon 19th March at 8pm in the parish house.

Travelling Solo Next meeting this Sunday after 11am Mass. All who 'travel alone' - single, the divorced or separated, widows and widowers - are welcome.

Women's World Day of Prayer will be held on 2nd March at 10.30 at All Saints Church, Belwell Lane, B74 4TR. The theme is 'All God's Creation is Very Good' as prepared by the women of Suriname.

Diocese

Serving the local community Local schools, including Catholic schools, are regularly in need of new governors. The role of Governor has changed significantly

over recent years. What is especially needed is people with knowledge and experience in business, finance, HR or with a legal background. But if you don't have any of these specific skills, you may have other qualities that would be beneficial to a school. Training is provided to help individuals carry out the role. More detail at www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/governors

Pilgrimage to Lourdes with Archbishop Bernard. 26 May to 1 June Poster and application forms in porch and on website.

Other

Leadership roles for women in the Church- is anything changing? A talk by Dr Oonagh O'Brien, Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge. Sun, February 25th, 1.30, St Mary's Parish Centre, Harborne B17 0DN. An ACTA event. Info from mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk

World Meeting of Families

Dublin, Ireland, has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018, guided by the theme *The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World*.

Held every three years, this international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church.

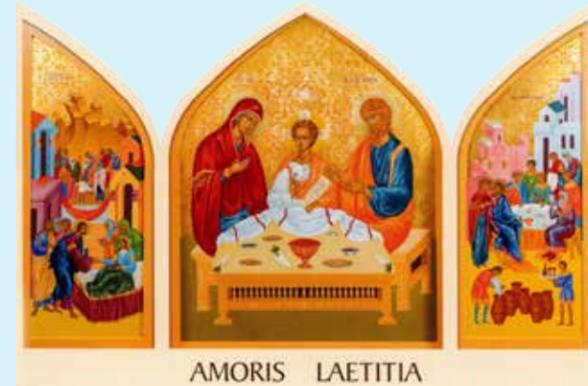
Birmingham Archdiocese is anxious to make full use of this event to help us reflect on family in the life of the Church., and the Church's place in the life of families. It includes the situation of particular families, and how they live and share and foster faith in themselves, and share in the life of faith in the Church . But it also is concerned about how all of us together relate in the Church, and as Church in the world. So the focus is both narrow and very broad - and is something which it is hoped that all of us will engage in and contribute to.

You can learn more at www.worldmeeting2018.ie

To help our parish engage I am looking for four people to come with me to a meeting being laid on for our Deanery, and with a view to leading a series of 6 parish meetings during Eastertide. It is proposed that one of these will be on Wednesday mornings at 9am, to be accessible for parents bringing children to school at St Nicholas, and another, perhaps on Wednesday evenings, so those at work also have a chance to take part.

Interested? The meeting is at 7pm Thurs, 8 March at St Peter and Paul Parish Centre, 552 Kingsbury Rd, Erdington. Still interested? Please see me. Thank you.

Fr. Allen



God, our Father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, one family, in the Spirit of your love.

Bless us with the joy of love.

Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.

Protect all families with your loving care, especially those for whom we now pray: *[Pause and remember family and others by name].*

Increase our faith, strengthen our hope, keep us safe in your love, make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.

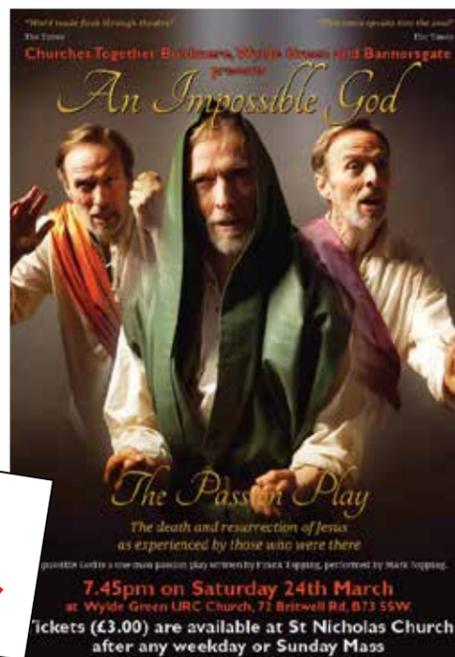
This we ask, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Mary, mother and guide, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us.

Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us.

Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us.



Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for February is that those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

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



Bethany Food Bank

The next 'big' parish collection is today, 4th February.

The St Nicholas 'out and about' group visit to Birmingham's Coffin Works. The Coffin Works is a new heritage attraction on the edge of the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham. (10 mins walk from New Street or Snow Hill stations). The grade II* listed factory and its contents tells the story of Newman Brothers, Birmingham's last coffin-furniture factory who operated from Fleet Street premises for over 100 years until 1998 when workers laid down their equipment, and walked out of the buildin help for the very last time, leaving everything, including personal belongings behind. Explore this unique piece of history on a guided tour: step back in time and experience Birmingham's industrial legacy.

If you would like to come please sign up in the porch. (Places need to be reserved in advance for a tour)

2pm, Weds, 21 February.
Admission: Adult £6.00, Over 60s £5.50, Child (5-16) £4.00, Family (2 adults + up to 3 children) £16.00.

It's time for maintenance and repair of the church...

Last year a quinquennial building inspection was carried out which identified a number of significant works that need carrying out on the church. Some of these have been known about for a good while - like the flooded cellars under the church, and the poor condition of the south porch; others we were not aware of - such as subsidence of one of the flat roofs, and need to replace some of the roofing.

The report has been considered by the parish Finance Committee and the intention is to act promptly on all of the maintenance work to the cellar, roofs and exterior walls and fittings.

We will seek quotes for limited changes to the Benedict Room and to the South Porch so that these works can be done at the same time.

The estimated cost of all these works is c£40,000. Professional guidance is being provided by the Treasurer's Department of the Archdiocese to ensure we get best value for money. More details will follow as we have them.