

# Readings for Mass today

## Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power.

He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer.

Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him.

For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

## Psalms 118:1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34

*They are happy who follow God's law!*

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts.

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes.

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may see the wonders of your law.

Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart.

## 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. *Alleluia!*

## Matthew 5:17-37

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the

least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

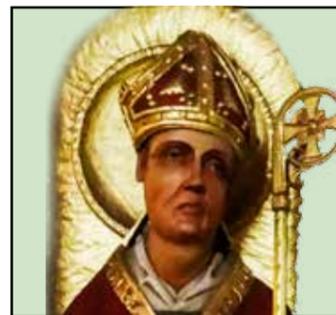
'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

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

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## 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*

## Church Car Park

The management of the Church Car Park has been a matter of difficulty for some years: Regularly there are difficulties in providing sufficient parking space during the week for funerals and other services. Likewise for weddings on Saturdays as well for less frequent events at other times.

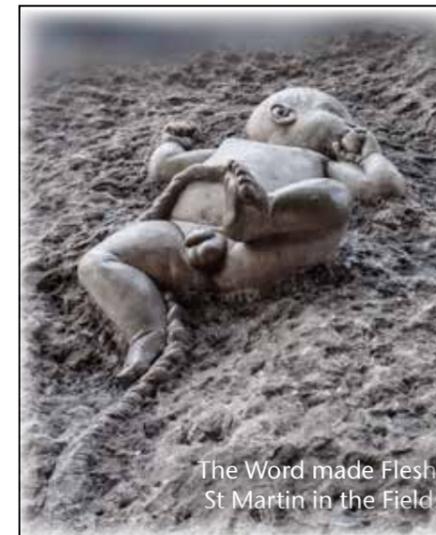
Without a management system there is no way of controlling parking - and ensuring there is parking space for those attending services etc. in the church and its meeting rooms.

It is proposed to introduce such a system shortly, which will mean those parking without permission - i.e. when not attending a church service or meeting, or not having a parking permit (a number of which will be issued free to school staff) will be liable to receive a parking ticket.

The change will not effect parents dropping off or collecting children at the beginning or end of the school day.

In the meantime I would welcome any comments on what is proposed.

*Fr. Allen*



The Word made Flesh  
St Martin in the Fields

## Called to Communion: Honour Humankind.

The humanity of Jesus is the symbol that manifests his divinity to us - and reveals the dignity of humankind (and its capacity for love and holiness.)

Our Catholic faith recognises an irreducible value in each human person made in the image and likeness of God. Each person is a someone, never a something. Each person is capable of self-knowledge and reflection on him or herself, of making free decisions, and entering into community with others. And we are called to respond to God in faith.

Sometimes the quality of our human life is compromised or circumscribed, by sin, by our bodily or intellectual abilities, even by our culture or upbringing.

But the dignity of a human being does not depend on our abilities, achievements or values. It depends on our being created by God, and bearing his image.

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## Masses Sixth week in Ordinary Time

S	11	1800	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Luke Gill RIP (Gill)
Su	12	0900 1100	<i>Psalter Wk 2</i>	Martin Coffey RIP (Drozd) Danny Scally (Anniv) (Ward)
M	13	1000		Funeral Mass of Cath Cecil
T	14	1000 1300	Ss Cyril and Methodius	Decsd members of Neenan Family (N) Funeral Mass of Gwen Lavelle
W	15	1900		Maggie Hazell - Ints (Brennan)
Th	16			
F	17	1900	St Scholastica	Paul Scully RD (Collins)
S	18	1800	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Gwen Lavelle RD (Wilkinson)
Su	19	0900 1100	<i>Psalter Wk 3</i>	Noel Moffitt RD (O'Gorman) Thomas Smith RIP

**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/](http://liveingeucharist.wordpress.com/)

**Please pray for sick parishioners** including Betty Lordan, 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 Cath Cecil whose funeral is here at 10am on Monday 13th Feb and Gwen Lavelle, whose funeral is here at 1pm on Tues 14 Feb, and. and for Chris Palgrave, Maureen Cleary, Mary McEvoy, Marie Hodgetts 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.**

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

*This week praying for the vocation of Grandparents*

## Next Sunday is the 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings are Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18 / Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 / 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 / Matthew 5:38-48



### 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](http://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/funerals-and-praying-for-the-dead.html)

Copies of the *Preparing MY funeral form* are available in the porch.

### Baptism Preparation.

The next preparation programme begins on Sat 25th Feb 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 on the first Sunday of Lent, March 5th. All who 'travel alone' - single, the divorced or separated, widows and widowers - are welcome.

**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.

### Diocese

**Remembering the Church in your will** The Diocese has made a new leaflet available in all its 227 parishes to assist

### 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.*

people who may want to consider leaving a legacy to the Church. At the back of the Church you will find copies of the new leaflet. Please do take one for yourself and consider whether you, or someone you know, may wish to support the Church in this way. Thank you.

**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 June Alton Castle. [www.brightlights.org.uk](http://www.brightlights.org.uk)

**Young Men's retreat.** 10-12 February, Alton Castle. [www.bcys.co.uk](http://www.bcys.co.uk)

### Other

**SVP Birmingham Central Council** require someone with an aptitude for figures and some spare time to act as Treasurer and attendance at bi-monthly meetings of the Council at Corpus Christi, Stechford. Please contact John Barley on 07801630261. Current membership of the SVP not necessary

**40 Days for Life Launch event: Spiritual Warfare Bootcamp:** Deepen your faith this Lent by coming to learn about the spiritual essentials for the pro-life battle with 7 local priests. Sunday 26th February from 2.30-4.00pm. The Oratory (Upper Cloister Room), 141 Hagley Road, Birmingham. B16 8UE.

**40 Days for Life - Prayerful Witness** Wednesday 1st March to Sunday 9th April. Marie Stopes Abortion Clinic in Arthur Road, Edgbaston from 8am to 8pm daily. People are never left praying alone. To find out more or book your slot please contact Isabel on 07773 501721 or by email [izzysv@gmail.com](mailto:izzysv@gmail.com)

### 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.

### 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 McEvelly 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.*

**ACTA** Celebrating a community of service and love: from John's Gospel to L'Arche. Prof. Thomas O'Loughlin. 1400, Feb 26. Newman House, Birmingham University Catholic Chaplaincy, Edgbaston, B15 3QS.

**Catholic People's Weeks** (CPW) has been around for 70 years, providing 'holidays that make a difference'. 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. See brochure in porch; ring 0161 773 2410; or go to [www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org](http://www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org).

### 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.



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All human beings are made for relationship - with each other and with God. Sometimes we are the active partner in a relationship, sometimes more passive - but always we human beings invite relationship and are called to relationship.

This is important in all aspects of our life - in family life, in our work, in our social life.

It is important too in our celebration of the Liturgy. Jesus said when two or three gather in my name I am there with them. The Church recognises not only recognises Christ's presence with us, but as us. Together we manifest his Body.

So in our gathering for Mass, for example, our presence is not incidental. We ourselves are part of Christ's sacramental presence - in our strength and our weakness, in our youth and our age; in our unity and in our diversity.

One of the places we look to see and contemplate the meaning of Christ is to each other.

### Some quotations for reflection during the week as you consider your encounters with other human beings and with Jesus Christ.

- The most important hour is always the present one. The most important human being is always the one whom you face right now. The most important deed is always love. *Meister Eckhart (1260-1328, German mystic.)*
- We must love our neighbour; either because he is good or in order that he might become good. *St Augustine.*
- There will be more, not less respect for human rights if they can be treated as divine rights. *G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)*
- As you did it to one of the least on these my brothers you did it to me. *Matthew 25: 40*

### 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

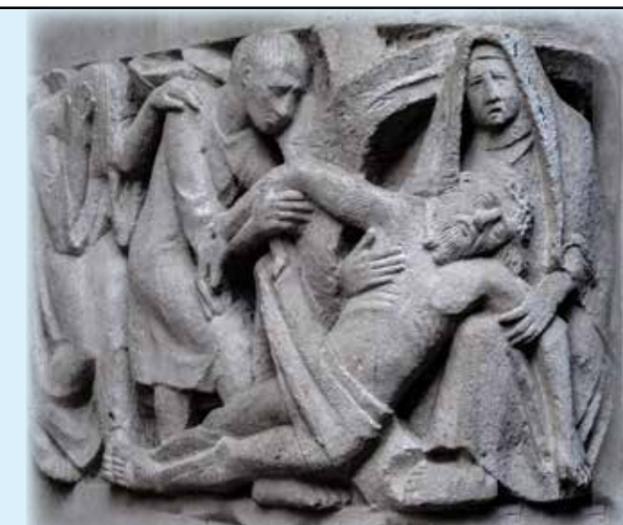
As mentioned by Fr Allen at the recent parents' meeting



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

**Retreat in Daily Life.** The first meeting for all taking part is at the All Saints Anglican parish in Four Oaks on Sunday 26th February at 3pm. (All Saints church, Belwell Lane, Four Oaks B74 4TR). At that meeting we aim to introduce you to the prayer guide who has been assigned to journey with you during Lent. *If you need a lift to the meeting, or further help please let Fr Allen know.*

**Exposition** Apologies, but there is no Holy Hour this Sunday evening, but there will be Exposition and Rosary on Monday afternoon as usual.

**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.

**Bigger Picture Group;** Date of next meeting still needs to be fixed. Apologies for the inconvenience! Please read 1 & 2 Maccabees to prepare.

### Making a difference

Following last week's meetings with the parish's welcoming team, and collectors, we are looking to recruit a dozen or so people to join the current teams of Welcomers and Collectors.

- **Being a welcomer** would involve being on a rota - maybe once a month with a group of other very nice people, and helping people feel welcomed to Mass, and offered any simple practical help they might need.
- **Being a Collector** would involve being on a rota with other very nice people and helping with the collection and offertory maybe twice a month.

If you think you can help with either of these, please see Fr Allen, or sign up on the noticeboard by the repository.

### 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/>

