

Meditations from Anthony de Mello SJ

Said a preacher to a friends, 'We have just had the greatest revival our church has experienced in many years.'

'How many did you add to your church's membership?'

'None. We lost five hundred.'

Jesus would have applauded!

Experience shows, alas, that our religious convictions bear as much relation to our personal holiness as a man's dinner jacket to his digestion.

Disciple: What's the difference between knowledge and enlightenment.

Master: When you have knowledge you use a torch to show the way. When you are enlightened you are a torch.

Parish Gardening Club

Meeting monthly on second Saturdays at 10:00am in the Church car park to keep the church grounds in good order..



The Club is being coordinated by Teresa Leese and Maggie O'Sullivan (to whom many thanks!)

All welcome. Please bring hand tools and gloves!



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

Mass of the **22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The Introductory Rites

The Introductory Rites help the faithful to come together as one, establish communion and prepare themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

The Penitential Act

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

By hearing the word proclaimed in worship, the faithful again enter into the unending dialogue between God and the people of the covenant shared in Christ, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. The proclamation of the word is essential to the Mass

A brief time of quiet after the readings allows those present to take the word of God to heart and begin to prepare a prayerful response to what we have heard.

Jeremiah 20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me

Face coverings during Mass

Government regulations require members of the congregation to wear face-coverings which cover their nose and mouth throughout the time we are in church.

Thank you for your cooperation

insult, derision, all day long.
 I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.'
 Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
 imprisoned in my bones.
 The effort to restrain it wearied me,
 I could not bear it.

Psalms 62(63):2-6,8-9

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
 for you my soul is thirsting.
 My body pines for you
 like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
 to see your strength and your glory.
 For your love is better than life,
 my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life,
 in your name I will lift up my hands.
 My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
 my mouth shall praise you with joy.

For you have been my help;
 in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
 My soul clings to you;
 your right hand holds me fast.

Romans 12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. *Alleluia!*



Confirmation

Registration for Confirmation for children in Year 6 - or older - has begun.

It is not yet clear when and how the Sacrament will be celebrated - though we are presently aiming for Masses in May next year. However all those who wish to be part of the programme - *whether or not children will do part of their preparation with St Nicholas School* - should complete an application form as soon as possible. The closing date for applications is October 1st.

First Holy Communion: 2019-20 group

Plans are being made for children who were scheduled to make their First Holy Communion during May of this year to have the opportunity of making their First Communions after the October Half Term. Emails will be sent shortly confirming the arrangements for this

First Holy Communion: 2020-21 group

The expectation is that children in Year 3 or above who have not yet begun their preparation for Holy Communion will begin their preparation after shortly. All those who wish to be part of the programme - *whether or not children will do part of their preparation with St Nicholas School* - should complete an application form as soon as possible. The closing date for applications is October 1st.

We are in urgent need of additional volunteers so that we can continue to open the church for Sunday and Weekday Mass

Thank you to all of those who have been helping us to meet the safety requirements for opening the church for Mass. Some volunteers have been helping every week and some several times in the week. Their service has meant that the church has been open again for almost two months. However, a number of our volunteers are away for holidays shortly - and in any case could do with some more help. **So can you help, please?**

We need volunteers to help with the cleaning of the church (wiping down benches, mopping the floor where people sit and vacuuming). We work with teams of 4 people after each Sunday Mass (and 2 after weekday Masses where there is much less to do). Each session takes about 20 minutes.

If you can help in September/October please delete any days below that you cannot do, and place it in the offertory basket at the entrance to the church - or email details to Fr Allen by 6pm on Sunday 23 August. Thank you.

- Sat 6pm 5/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10; 10/10
- Sun 9am 6/9; 13/9; 20/9; 27/9; 4/10; 11/10
- Sun 11am 6/9; 13/9; 20/9; 27/9; 4/10; 11/10
- Mon 10am 7/9; 14/9; 21/9; 28/9; 5/10; 12/10
- Tues 10am 8/9; 15/9; 22/9; 29/9; 6/10; 13/10
- Weds 10am 9/9; 16/9; 23/9; 30/9; 7/10; 14/10
- Fri 7pm 11/9; 18/9; 25/9; 2/10; 9/10; 16/10

Name

Telephone

Email

(Block capitals please)

Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord;' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful (omitted at the Bishop's request)

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

For Catholics, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.

There is no offertory collection at this time. Instead, you are invited to place your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer, the centre and summit of the entire celebration is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father

The Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The eating and drinking together of the Lord's Body and Blood in a Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are the mutual love and reconciliation that are both the condition and the fruit of worthy communion and the unity of the many in the One.

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

*After the prayer and its response "Behold the Lamb of God...Lord I am not worthy," the priest holds up the Host to the Congregation and says **The Body of Christ** to which the people respond **Amen**.*

*In the same way, he elevates the chalice and says, **The Blood of Christ** and again the people respond **Amen**.*

For the distribution of Holy Communion to the Faithful a small table has been placed before the Sanctuary to socially distance the priest distributing Holy Communion and communicants.

Please wait in your pew until instructed by the Stewards to move forward to the priest for Holy Communion, always aware of the regulations on social distancing in the orderly queue.

When you approach the priest, please do so with arms at "full stretch" so that there is a good distance between you and the priest.

Communion will be given silently, and in the hand only. (Your hands, palms upwards, one of top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible.)

Having received Holy Communion, please return to directly to your place.

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites

The brief Concluding Rite sends the people forth to put into effect in their daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. Their mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

Blessing

Dismissal

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Parish Art Club

Our next meeting will be on 1st September at 11am, *en plein air*, meeting in the car-park of the Miller and Carter's restaurant at Boldmere Gate, for a little input and then spreading out to draw trees. Please bring your own pencils, pens, paper etc.

The following meetings will be on 15th Sept and 29th Sept, in the Benedict Room at 1030am, and will continue the work on 'trees'.

Financial support for the Church

You will appreciate that parish income has been cut right back over the past months, but our bills have not reduced by anything like as much!

If you are in a position to help, you might like to consider the following.

- **GIFT AID** allows the Church reclaim tax paid on your offering, to raise a further 25% for the church at no further cost to you.
- **STANDING ORDERS** are a very helpful way of making your offering. *Forms for GA and SO are available from Fr Allen or the parish website.*
- **GIFT AID OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** Numbered envelopes are available from the Stewards for those in the Gift Aid scheme who still use the envelopes.
- **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES**, too, are available for other parishioners - who are not in the gift aid scheme. Again, please speak to a steward.

MAKING THINGS MORE SECURE FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

To help our cooperation with the Government Track and Trace processes we ask each individual or group that attends Mass to leave with us a contact name and telephone number.

If NHS Track and Trace tells us that a member of the congregation falls ill with the Corona-virus after attending Mass we will pass to them details of those others who attended the relevant Mass.

- **Only a name and phone number is needed - for an individual or 'bubble'.**
- **Anyone is free to decline to provide details and still attend Mass.**

Your information will be kept secure for 21 days, and only passed to NHS Track and Trace should they request it.

21 days after the information is provided it will be securely disposed of.

If you are able, please come to Mass with a piece of paper with your name and phone number, or give the details to the steward.

A date for the diary: All other things being equal, the simple monthly services of Exposition and anointing of the sick will resume on Friday 4th September at 11am.

The current restrictions designed to keep us all safe mean those attending have to wear face-coverings, and we cannot offer refreshments after the service.

On-line Support for Prayer: During lockdown began a series of weekly parish Zoom prayer meetings - on Sunday afternoons at 4pm for *Lectio Divina* and on Mondays at 7pm for Rosary.

Zoom links are posted on the parish Blog on the day.

Do join us - especially if you are not confident in returning to church for Mass

MASS DURING THE HEALTH CRISIS

On days when there is no public Mass (because no volunteers for stewarding/cleaning) Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the church usually at 0830.

Sa	29	6pm	22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Psalter Week 2</i>	For the parish
Su	30	9am 11am		Sadie Hamett RIP (Steele)
M	31	10am		Margaret O'Gorman
T	1	10am		
W	2			
Th	3			
F	4	7pm		
Sa	5	6pm	23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Psalter Week 3</i>	For the parish
Su	6	9am 11am		Thanksgiving (D)

Sacrament of Reconciliation The current restrictions make it very difficult to celebrate the Sacrament in doors. However, if you wish to celebrate the Sacrament and wish to contact Fr Allen arrangements can be made to celebrate the Sacrament out of doors and in a private place - eg a garden.

Please pray for sick parishioners including Frances Raczka, Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke. Please pray for Peggy Gillagher who died recently and all whose anniversaries of death are at this time, including Peter Foster, Brian Short, Joan Hudson, Fazia Caulfield, Denis Joyner, Iris Gately, Tadas Serafinas, Agnes Collings, Ben Quirke, Robert Harrison, Maria Twardowicz. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**