

Baby Loss Awareness Week 9-15 October 2020
 The aim of the week is to raise awareness of baby loss in the UK. These children and their families will be remembered and prayed for at our parish Mass at 7pm on Friday 16 October at 7pm. All welcome. Life's *Pregnancy Matters* offers support to parents who have lost a baby in what ever way.
<https://babylossmatters.lifecharity.org.uk/>

Continued from page 1

visits and pray. Prayers to use on these visits will be provided at Mass on Sunday 31 October/1 November. That Sunday, also, Mass will begin with the blessing of water - including water to use in the blessing of graves, and in our homes, over the following weeks, especially during Advent - so bring a bottle of water with you - and possibly another too, for a housebound neighbour!

Christmas



Present limits on the number of people that can be welcomed into the church at any one time make our usual packed family services on Christmas Eve afternoon impossible. In addition, the restrictions of sharing costumes rule out our regular Nativity mimes.

- The usual afternoon Masses - especially for younger children - will be replaced by a Zoom Liturgy. More details of this will be given nearer the time. However some parts of it will be videoed in advance and using lots of children. St Nicholas School will be working with the parish on this. Of course, children of the parish who do not attend St Nicholas school are also warmly invited to take part also - their parents are asked to contact Fr Allen as soon as possible so all our parish children can play their part.
- Mass will be offered at 6pm and 9pm on Christmas Eve; and at 9am and 11am on Christmas Day (*subject to the availability of stewards and cleaners*). However, social distancing regulations will limit the numbers able to attend these Masses. I am loathe to make Christmas Masses 'ticket-only' and require people to book in advance. Apart from the administration nightmare that is likely to involve, there are many people who come at Christmas but who will not know to book. We need to think about them too. So, shortly, I will ask us 'regulars' to indicate our likely preference for coming to a Christmas Mass, and see what that suggests might be the best way of addressing everyone's various preferences/needs.

Parish Art Club

Next meeting is 13th Oct at 11am, meeting socially distanced in Miller & Carter car-park (Boldmere Gate, for a little input and then spreading out to draw trees. Please bring your own pencils, pens, paper etc. *Newcomers - especially beginners - always welcome.*

Tutti Fratelli Is not a new flavour of icecream but a new Encyclical from Pope Francis. It is a timely and hopeful reflection on how our world is and how it is called to be - and on our proper part in it all.

It is published by CTS at £6.95 (order today from Fr Allen), and it can be read, free, at <https://bit.ly/3l-rHApT>.

A parish ZOOM group is planned to help us read and reflect on it. More details next week.

The local Catholic Secondary Schools in the St John Paul II MultiAcademy



are unable to invite prospective pupils and parents to visit for Open Evenings this year because of the Covid situation - but information is available on their websites.

www.bishopwalsh.net/open-evening-2020
www.stedcamp.bham.sch.uk

Healing the trauma of abortion one weekend at a time:

Rachel's Vineyard offers retreats which are a safe place where those affected by abortion can grieve and seek the healing they need in a confidential and supportive setting. The next is 27th-29th Nov.

For more information go to www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk or call 07734 059 080.

On-line Support for Prayer

- Weekly parish Zoom prayer meetings - Sun at 4pm for Lectio Divina and Mon 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.

- Reflections on the Readings and Prayers of the following Sunday's Mass are posted daily on the parish Blog (Weds to Sun).

Spending time with the readings and prayers before Mass is a good way of helping Mass be more fruitful for us.

NB Sunday now begins in Boldmere at 4pm on Saturdays!

Our experiment with a 4pm Mass on Saturdays (1st Mass of Sunday) has proved successful. It will continue for the foreseeable future. Thank you to those who have volunteered for stewarding and cleaning, and who make this possible.

However there will not be a 4pm Mass on 7th, 14th or 21st November as there are going to be, God willing!, First Communion Masses at 11am and 1pm on those days. Those Masses are only for the first communion families, and numbers are strictly limited.

The next 4pm Masses will be on 18th, 25th and 31st October - and they will resume on 28th November.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding: Ann Foulds (0121 355 7892) and Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)
 Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

Adapting to changed circumstances

Who knows how things will be tomorrow, let alone come November, or come Christmas. But some plans need putting into place for the future. They can be changed if restrictions are relaxed, or tightened. But the following are key moments in our lives and so it is probably helpful to have an idea as to what is planned (on the basis of how things are at present).

November Masses for the Dead.

- Envelopes are available at the offertory table for those who wish to arrange a 'November' Mass for deceased family and friends.
- In addition Mass on Friday 6th November at 7pm will be offered for everyone who has died during the past year: parishioners, family, friends - everyone. The circumstances of the year have meant that often people have not been able to attend funerals. This Mass is an opportunity to come together to spend time together and with the Lord and pray for them.



Blessing of Graves

- The usual Deanery services for the Blessing of graves cannot take place this year. However people are free to make their own private

Continued on page 4

Retiring collection for CAFOD

CAFOD's Family FastDay helps us come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of the envelopes.

God, you call us out of darkness.
 May we hear your voice in the cry of our brothers and sisters in crisis.
 As you walk alongside us always, may we walk beside one another listening and responding in love.
 Shine the light of your compassion through us, dispelling chaos, fear and despair.
 Breathe hope and courage into all our hearts as we work together to rebuild once more.
 Strengthen us, Lord, and keep us steadfast.
 Bring healing and comfort to all and lead us renewed into your marvellous light.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Present Arrangements for Mass

Face coverings: Regulations require members of the congregation, aged 5 and over, to wear face-coverings over their nose and mouth throughout the time we are in church. *If you have an exemption certificate please confirm in advance with Fr Allen, so that appropriate seating to be arranged for you and to safeguard others.*

Social distancing: If you are attending Mass with others, then the group you attend with should not exceed more than six people. This group of six can be made up of people from outside your household, but strict social distancing must be maintained between members of different households at all times.

Offertory: There is no offertory collection at present, but there is a basket for your offerings on the table just inside the church.

Thank you for your cooperation

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	10	4pm 6pm	28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Psalter Week 4</i>	Olwyn & Peter Foster RIP (Foster)
Su	11	9am 11am		Mary Gavin RD (Sterling) For the parish
M	12	10am		Brenda and John Corbett RIP
T	13	10am		Phil Hayes RIP (Wilkinson)
W	14			
Th	15		St Teresa of Jesus	
F	16	7pm		Lost Babies Mass
Sa	17	4pm 6pm	29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Psalter Week 4</i>	Anne Gallagher RIP (Evans) For the parish
Su	18	9am 11am		Gahan Family Ints

Sacrament of Reconciliation The current restrictions make it impractical to celebrate the Sacrament in the Confessional room. However, if you wish to celebrate Reconciliation, please contact Fr Allen who will be happy to arrange a time and place to celebrate this sacrament of mercy with you.

Please pray for sick parishioners including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke. Please pray for Mary Gavin and Phil Hayes who have died; and for Bridget Foster, Val McDonald, Joseph Finnegan, Esther McGovern, Cornelius Lennon and Thomas Calaghan whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

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.

Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

Psalms 22(23)

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.
You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.
Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Philippians 4:12-14,19-20

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us: to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

Matthew 22:1-10

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.'

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

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.

The Offertory

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.

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

THE COMMUNION RITE

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

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

As you approach the priest, please do so with arms at "full stretch" to keep 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.)

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

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. **Text of the Psalms:** Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England). All rights reserved. **Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal** © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

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 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 or those in the Gift Aid scheme who still use the envelopes.

Preparing for Mass

Reflections on readings and prayers from next Sunday's Mass are posted daily on the parish Blog (Weds to Sun). *Spending time with the readings and prayers before Mass is a good way of helping our time at Mass to be more fruitful.*