

**Wisdom 6:12-16**

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

**Psalms 62:2-8**

*For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.*

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.

On my bed I remember you.

On you I muse through the night

for you have been my help;

in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do



**Next Sunday is the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary**

**Time** Scripture readings: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 / Psalm 128:1-5 / 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6/Matthew 25:14-30

*Stepping forward in Faith*

**How do you help those who - unaided - would fall short?**

**For what do you thirst? And those who are nearest and dearest to you?**

not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. *Alleluia!*

**Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

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

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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*

*Stepping forward in Faith*

**G**ospel joy enlivens the community of disciples and is a missionary joy. The 72 disciples felt it as they returned from their mission. Jesus felt it when he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and praised the Father for revealing himself to the poor and the little ones (cf. Lk 10:17-21). It was felt by the first converts who marvelled to hear the apostles preaching "in the native language of each" (Acts 2:6) on the day of Pentecost. This joy is a sign that the Gospel has been proclaimed and is bearing fruit. The drive to go forth and give, to go out from ourselves, to keep pressing forward in our sowing of the good seed, remains ever present.

Pope Francis



**Preparations are well underway. You can now play your part by making donations to the various stalls:**

- CAKES BOOKS TOYS**
- CHRISTMAS GIFTS**
- CHINA/GLASS/ JEWELLERY**
- RAFFLE & TOMBOLA PRIZES (adult & children)**

Gifts for the stalls may be left after Masses in the box in the Church porch.

The School is open from 1100 to 1300 on the Saturday to receive donations for stalls and to get the Hall ready.

Help on the stalls and getting the Hall ready would be appreciated.

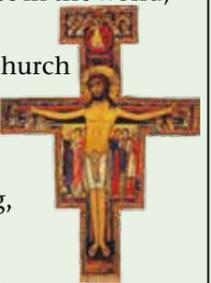
**The proceeds from the Fair will go to St Chads Sanctuary and Kids Centre, Wylde Green**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord, risen and glorified.

Let everyone who approaches the Church feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate all the faithful with its anointing, so that your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen



**Liturgy and Prayer 32nd Week in Ordinary Time**

<b>S 11</b>	<b>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	1700	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession
		1800	Michael Joe Sheridan Ints (Byrne)
<b>Su 12</b>	<b>Psalter Wk 4</b>	0900	Evelyn Coffey RIP Anniv. (Drozd)
		1100	Kevin Daniels RIP (Devane)
		1800	Exposition and Evening Prayer
<b>M 13</b>		1000	Deceased members of Neenan family
		1500	Rosary and Benediction
<b>T 14</b>		1000	Dec'd of Nightingale and Warrallo Families
<b>W 15</b>		1000	Deceased members of Patricia Platt's family
<b>Th 16</b>		1000	Deceased members of Jean Lawlor's family
<b>F 17</b>		1900	Dec'd members of Drozd & McGee families
<b>S 18</b>	<b>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	1700	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession
		1800	Dec'd of Burke and McDonnell families
<b>Su 19</b>	<b>Psalter Wk 1</b>	0900	Jessie Mary Redmond RIP Anniv (Redmond)
		1100	Mary Hourigan RIP Anniv (Hennessy)

**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:** livingeucharist.wordpress.com/

**Please pray for sick parishioners** including Josie Garvey, Peter and Olwen Foster, Mary Gavin, Frank Kemp, Josie Newman, Betty Sawbridge, David Freeman, 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** and for Stephen Yates, Bridie McGinness, Leslie Cecil, Evelyn Coffey, Hugh Douglas, George Hart, Brian Hill 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.**

## Parish

**Thank you** for your contributions to last Sunday's Retiring Collection today for the Johnson Fund for needs of clergy in sickness and old age. The collection raised £325.04

**Repository.** Advent calendars, Christmas cards and all sorts of season gifts. Check them out!

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

Meeting for those ministers who presently take communion to the sick, and those who would like to. Today in Benedict Room, 5.30pm - Important but brief meeting (just 30 minutes). (NB *New rota for all ministers of Holy Communion on website*)

**Tea and Coffee** after Sunday morning Masses today. All are welcome. Thanks to all those who make the teas!

**Travelling Solo** Next meeting is after the 11am Mass, on December 3rd. Come for lunch in the Park Hotel. All who 'travel alone' - single, the divorced or separated, widows and widowers - are welcome.

**Preparation for Baptism of Infants.** The next preparation programme begins on **Sat 2 December** from 11-12noon, in the Benedict Room. Please see Fr Allen before hand and complete an application form.

**Parish Musicians** There is a celebration of your ministry - and a rehearsal for Advent/Christmas after the 7pm Mass on Fri 17 Nov. All are welcome - and those others who would like to take part in music-making over the Christmas period.

**Parish Scripture Study Group.** Next meeting: **Weds 6th Dec** after the 7pm Mass. We are having a slow read through St Mark's Gospel. All welcome. 'Homework' for the next meeting: read Chapters 7-8 of the Gospel of Mark;

and think about the various ways people respond to Jesus in the chapters.

**Journey of Faith** is for those adults who are not Catholic, or who *are* Catholic but have not been confirmed or made their First Communion. To learn more please come along to the Benedict Room on Mondays at 6.30pm to have a coffee, and a chance to consider the life and ministry of Jesus and how it connects with our lives...

**Car Park.** A reminder that the school car-park is open for use by those attending the Sunday morning Masses. Access is from Wakefield Close. Please use this car-park rather than the church's own car-park if you can.

## Diocese

**Godspell** Our Lady of the Assumption from Thursday 23rd November to Saturday 25th November 2017. Details in the porch.

**Bishop Walsh Christmas Market and**

## Can you help?

**To keep an eye on the upkeep of the Church.** This involves checking the church plant once a month - inspecting fire extinguishers, noting whether maintenance work is necessary. Also helping supervise maintenance work carried out by outside contractors?

**Decorate the church for Christmas** This involves decorating the Christmas tree, preparing Advent wreaths, and helping with Christmas Crib.

**Chairing the Finance Committee** Helping the Finance Committee keep to its brief and having oversight of the parish finances.

**If you would be interested in assisting with any of these works, please see Fr Allen, who can give you more details.**

## Praying with Mary

The planned time of prayer to give thanks for Our Lady's Immaculate Conception has traimeed back.

It will begin at 6pm with the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, continue with Mass at 7 and then continue with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 9pm.



**Beauty Spa** Weds 29 Nov. Over 35 stalls offering great deals on gifts, luxury items and treatments. Refreshments served all evening. Doors open from 6.

**Chief Operating Officer** sought. To work closely with Archbishop and Area Bishops etc, and responsible for all lay personall and financial and property resource management of the Archdiocese. Salary £80-100K. For more details visit [www.gatenbysanderson.com/job/GSe36009](http://www.gatenbysanderson.com/job/GSe36009)

## Boldmere Winter Night Shelter

Initiated here at St Nicks the Boldmere Winter Night Shelter is now preparing for its third year. And this year the Shelter is going to be run for 12 weeks, not 6, and will operate from two Centres - for the first six weeks it will operate from Wylde Green's URC church, and then for the second 6 weeks from the Carpenter's Arms as previously.

Volunteers are now urgently needed, and the sheets to indicate your availability are available to collect from the porch. Please return them to Fr Allen by December 3rd at the latest.

## Masses for the Dead

If you wish to arrange a 'November Mass' for deceased family and friends please use one of the new November envelopes available in the porch. They explain the process.

**November Masses for the Dead**  
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.  
Please use this envelope if you wish to have a November Mass said for all your deceased family and friends.  
If you wish to have a November Mass said for a particular person please use one of the regular Mass Intention envelopes.  
Please celebrate a Mass for the deceased family and friends of  
An offering of £10 is suggested for a Mass offering.  
If you cannot afford this, please know that you are welcome to offer what you choose.  
Please hand completed envelopes to a priest, or place in the regular Sunday Collection.

## Some Advent and Christmas dates...

- Advent Reconciliation Service** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm

Christmas Eve this year coincides with the 4th Sunday of Advent. After consultation it seems likely that many families with children, and the less mobile will not come to Mass on Sunday morning, but to a Christmas Eve Mass. Last year this Mass was seriously overcrowded. So, to help us make best meet likely needs the following provision has been put in place.

- 4th Sunday of Advent:** Mass on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6pm and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 10am only.
- Christmas Eve Mass for KS1 children,** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2.30pm
- Christmas Eve Mass for KS2 children,** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm
- Mass in the Night, Christmas Eve,** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 10pm
- Christmas Day Mass at 9am and 11am**

- Holy Family Sunday, Dec 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>.** Sunday Masses at usual times.
- New Years Eve,** Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 11pm
- New Year's Day,** Monday January 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am



## Christmas Eve Masses

**The 2.30pm Mass** is being designed for KS1 children and younger. **ALL** KS1 children and younger are invited to come as their favourite Christmas story character. No rehearsal needed.

**The 6pm Mass** is being designed to KS2 children and will include a nativity mime as last year, with children being cast in particular roles. Details of rehearsal and how to volunteer very soon!



## Blessing of Graves

Deanery of Birmingham (North)



**Oscott: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 3pm**  
**The Abbey, Erdington: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1pm**  
**New Hall: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 3pm**  
**Rectory Road: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 3pm**  
**Witton: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2pm**

## Parish Book Club

*How Far Can You Go?* is a classic novel by David Lodge. Written in 1980 it deals with the intersecting lives of a group of English Catholics from their years as students at University College London in the early 1950s up to the late 1970s. The characters are confronted with a wide range of issues and experiences including marriage, contraception, adultery, illness, grief and, most important of all, the changes in the Catholic Church brought about by the Second Vatican Council and the papal encyclical against contraception, *Humanae vitae* (1968).

The title's meaning is twofold: it is on the one hand a reference to how far you ought to go with a member of the other sex before marriage, but also to the question of disorientation in the face of abrupt changes in the Church within only a few years.

**The novel is already prompting some lively discussion in the parish. Come and discuss it over a glass of wine, and share memories and thoughts about those days! Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November from 8-9pm in the Presbytery.**



## Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for November is that Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

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



## Want to help make Christmas special?

**Volunteer musicians of all ages and abilities wanted to help with our various Christmas liturgies. If you would like to be part of joyful music-making please see one of our music groups or Fr Allen to register your interest.**



## The St Nicholas 'out and about' group...

**11am, Saturday 18th November**

**Visit to Käthe Kollwitz exhibition at the IKON Gallery, Brindley Place, followed by coffee and discussion. And then an optional visit to the German Market in Victoria Square and New Street.**

The life and work of Kollwitz instills hope, that is inspiring and life affirming, despite the burden of hardship and sorrow carried by so many of her figures and by herself. She was an intensely passionate individual, in personal relationships and politics, an artist who pushed hard in the direction of equality for women in all walks of life. Her emphasis was often on what was distinctive about women's experience, including the fundamental nature and potency of maternal love. She believed that art could be a force for good in society.

## Boldmere Nativity Parade

Saturday 16th December 4.00pm  
Dress as a shepherd, king, angel, donkey, ox or star or just be yourself.



Starts at St Nicholas Church and then takes a quiet route via Britwell Road URC, Boldmere Methodist Church and finishing at St Michael's Church. *Maybe bring a lantern or a torch.* Real sheep will be participating. Short Christmas reading and a carol at each church.

**Everyone is welcome**

## ROSARY & BENEDICTION

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS IN THE CHURCH

Mondays at 3pm.  
St Nicholas Catholic Church, 243 Jockey Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2SA

**This Monday we pray for parents and grandparents and their vocation**

