

HELPING GOVERNMENT TO LISTEN

Officials of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government are anxious for individual Catholics to respond to the current Government *Consultation on Faith Engagement*, on the way Government engages with faith communities.

If you wish to respond – even anonymously – please go to <https://bit.ly/3o5hDhr> to make your submission on-line.

There is interest in hearing, in particular, from the following groups of people: Members of the public who identify as having a religion, or people who have a faith; Faith and Religious leaders; Public sector workers such as civil servants, teachers, the police and those who work in healthcare; Anyone who is or has been engaged with the British Military in any capacity, or who is or has been engaged in the Criminal Justice System in any capacity.

The call for evidence opened on 13th November and will run for a period of 4 weeks closing at 11:45pm on 11 December 2020.

Resources to help support your prayer during Advent and Christmas

- The Advent Wreath and prayer
- Blessing your Christmas Tree
- Blessing your family Crib
- A table grace for Christmas Day



Parish Gardening Club

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

Thank you very much to the team, who have worked so hard over the past months to make the front of the church and the car park look tidy and presentable. New volunteers always welcome – either when the group next meets on 12th Dec at 10am or when they start up again in March.!



PS Don't forget the invitation to take part in Doorstep carols.

There are two options - the National event which takes place on Weds 16th December at 6pm - supported by BBC Radio WM (Tune in to 95.6 FM), which allows you and others to use your radio to support your singing (www.doorstepcarols.co.uk); or the one organised by local Churches Together for Monday 21st December at 8pm (DoorStepCarols.com) – this requires use of a PC or smartphone, and probably separate audio speakers.

A FRESH APPEAL FOR HELP

Thank you to all the parish volunteers who have already come forward to ensure that we are able to continue to meet for Sunday Mass, and with our Christmas Masses.

We need more help if we are to continue to open for Sunday Mass.

It is only with the help of parishioners that we are able to open the church for any Masses. **And at the moment we are relying on the generosity of just a few parishioners.**

So if you are able to help -even once a month - please email Fr Allen (e-mail address above) who will let you have a form so you can sign up to help can offer will be a real help.

WHAT DO WE NEED HELP WITH?

- Stewarding - i.e. signing people in, and helping them find a place in church;
- Cleaning, as part of a team of 4 who wipe down benches and mop the floor after each Mass (takes about 20 minutes).

On-line Support for Prayer

- Morning Prayer of the Church at 8.30am.
- Weekly parish Zoom prayer meetings - Sun at 4pm for Lectio Divina and Mon at 7pm for Rosary.

Zoom links are posted on the parish website. 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.

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.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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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); Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)
Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216



MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

Because of COVID restrictions, and because we know many more people will want to come to Mass this Christmas time: than our regular Masses can accommodate

1. Additional Masses have been added to our regular schedule

2. Admission to these Masses will be by ticket only (for children and adults) so as to help people with their planning. **These tickets have to be booked on-line**, and links are given on our parish blog and on the parish website.

3. An on-line Liturgy of the Word has been scheduled for 4pm on Christmas Eve for those who are unable to obtain tickets, or are not yet ready to return to Mass because their own vulnerability to infection, or the vulnerability of those in their 'bubble'. Details of how to access this on-line Liturgy of the Word will be confirmed nearer to the time.

THE POOR MISSION FUND

A retiring collection will be held today to help the poorer parishes of the Archdiocese, many of which will have been particularly badly hit this year.

Donations can also be made directly and electronically to the fund via the link on our parish blog of 27/11/20.

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 relieving you of this obligation please confirm in advance with Fr Allen. This will allow 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. *If there is already someone in the bench you choose, please sit in the middle space, and leave any remaining space on the aisle for the next to arrive. Do not make people climb over you to get into the bench.*

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.

Day	Time	Event	Remarks
Sa 5	4pm	2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: <i>Psalter Week 2</i>	For all the First Communicants
	6pm		Tommy Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su 6	9am		For the parish
	11am		Phil Hayes RD (Hickey)
M 7	10am	ST NICHOLAS	Dec'd members of Cassera family
T 8	10am	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	Dec'd of Michael & Barbara Hodgetts
W 9			Dennis Kelly RIP (Cummings)
Th 10			
F 11	7pm		Dec'd of Foster, Hodgetts, Powell families (Foster)
Sa 12	4pm	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: <i>Psalter Week 3</i>	Thomas Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
	6pm		Evelyn Coffey RIP (Drozd)
Su 13	9am		For the parish
	11am		

Confessions The current restrictions mean confessions cannot be heard in the church, or indoors. However, if you wish to celebrate Reconciliation please contact Fr Allen who will be happy to arrange a time and place (outdoors) 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 Clare Banks, Anthony McCorry, Joan Morris, John Bryan and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Mass of the **2nd Sunday of Advent**

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 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 40:1-5,9-11

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God.
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Psalms 84(85):9-14(Advent)

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace,

peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. *Alleluia!*

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

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

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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.
Families with children in primary school are strongly urged to make use of the Wednesday Word to prepare as a family. wednesdayword.org/parish/resources.htm

In an age which offers a variety of escapes from the human condition, Christians are more than ever a sign of contradiction. They continue to believe that the search for God must begin with the acceptance of the human. They believe this because it is in the stable of humanity that God has come in search of us.
In the human experience of Jesus, God became available to us as the depth of human life. Thus a Christian believes that the experience of ultimate meaning comes not from a leap out of the human condition, but a journey through its dark waters.
John Heagle