



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

Today, as the Church seeks to experience a profound missionary renewal, there is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility. It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they be our neighbours or complete strangers. This is the informal preaching which takes place in the middle of a conversation, something along the lines of what a missionary does when visiting a home. Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.

In this preaching, which is always respectful and gentle, the first step is personal dialogue, when the other person speaks and shares his or her joys, hopes and concerns for loved ones, or so many other heartfelt needs. Only afterwards is it possible to bring up God's word, perhaps by reading a Bible verse or relating a story, but always keeping in mind the fundamental message: the personal love of God who became man, who gave himself up for us, who is living and who offers us his salvation and his friendship. This message has to be shared humbly as a testimony on the part of one who is always willing to learn, in the awareness that the message is so rich and so deep that it always exceeds our grasp.

Pope Francis



Let us too stand in the Temple and hold God's Son and embrace him; and that we may deserve leave to withdraw and start on our way towards a better land, let us pray to God, the all-powerful, and to the little Jesus himself, whom we so much want to speak to and hold in our arms.

His are glory and power now and always.

Origen

Liturgy and Prayer

S	30		1700	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i>
		Feast of the Holy Family	1800	Peter Moran RIP (Kenny)
Su	31	<i>Psalter Wk 1</i>	0900	Decsd family of Robert and Margaret Perks
			1100	Brian Kerins RD (Egan)
			2300	For the parish (New Year's Eve Mass)
M	1	Mary, Mother of God	1100	Dec'd of Wilkinson and Wulfe families
T	2	St Basil and Gregory	1000	Peace in the Middle East
W	3	St John	1000	Colette Hughes RD (Redmond)
Th	4	Holy Innocents		
F	5	St Thomas Beckett	1100	Exposition and Anointing of the Sick
			1900	Danuta Evans and Anna Smith - health
S	6	Epiphany	1700	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i>
		<i>Psalter Wk 2</i>	1800	Peter Moran (Gynon)
Su	7		0900	Delores Redmond - health (Redmond)
			1100	Thomas Smith RIP

Morning/Evening Prayer* 15 mins before weekday Mass.

Exposition & Vespers 2nd & 4th Suns, 6-7pm (*resumes 14th January*)

Rosary and Benediction Mondays at 3pm (*except 1st January*)

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 Peter and Olwen Foster, Mary Gavin, Frank Kemp, Josie Newman, 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** including Audrey Waterson, , Mary Smith, Eugene Harder, Gwen Lavelle, John Lynch, Brendan Carroll, Jerome Harrington, Ken Hearne and all whose anniversaries are at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Ecclesiasticus 3:3-7,14-17

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Psalm 127:1-5

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

Colossians 3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our

Stepping forward in Faith

- What threatens healthy family life?
- What support might our parish - and you - offer?

ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. *Alleluia!*

Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Epiphany

Scripture readings: Isaiah 60:1 – 6 / Psalm 72:1 – 2, 7 – 8, 10 – 13 / Ephesians 3:2 – 3a, 5 – 6 / Matthew 2:1 – 12

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

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