

Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Psalms 32:1-2,4-5,18-19

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.' *Alleluia!*

John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.'

'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'



Next Sunday is the 6th Sunday of Easter.
The readings are Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17 / Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 / 1 Peter 3:15-18 / John 14:15-21

The Ordinary of the Mass is found on p200 ff of Laudate. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible are published and copyright © 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.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** frallenmorris@gmail.com
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

Supporting each other to deepen our Communion with Christ

Over recent months I have met with various ministry groups - including readers, ministers of Holy Communion and musicians. We have talked about how best to support our current ministers and how best to help new people come forward to serve our parish as ministers.

Once we have stepped into a ministry most people find it enriching and helpful for their own faith and

relationship with Christ in the Church. But to take the first step can be daunting. Sometimes those who like to help are deterred by not knowing exactly what they would be saying 'yes' to, and afraid of it making too great a demand on their time. Recruiting new members is a challenge and concern for our music groups, and something I have promised to try and help them with.

I am delighted to say that over the coming months Jo Boyce of *CJM Music* is going to work with us to help us move forward with these things. She help us see how best we can support what we do at Mass, and help us identify and resolve some of the challenges. She has great experience, skill and enthusiasm. She will be a very encouraging and friendly companion to our parish and minister in this work. Jo and I have already met and begun to work on a process and short and long-term objectives for this work.

Jo will first join us at all Masses on Trinity Sunday. After the 11am Mass on that day, 11th June, all our parish musicians and ministers of the word - *and those, young and older, who are interested to explore the possibility of their being helped to join in music-making at Mass* - are warmly invited to drinks and snacks to meet with Jo. At that meeting we will welcome Jo and talk about how best to proceed over the coming months.

Please do keep this work in your prayers! It holds great promise for the future life of our parish.

Fr. Allen

Take fresh heart

A new parish group to which all who are bereaved or grieving are warmly invited.

The group is not about counselling or therapy - but offers a 'safe place' for people to come to be with others, who are not going to be embarrassed as they struggle with the pain of loss, or celebrate what has given them joy and for which they are grateful.

If you would be interested in learning more about what such a group might do and how you could contribute to it, please come to a meeting in the Benedict Room at 2pm on Monday 22nd May.

Masses Fifth Week of Easter

Sa	13	1800	5th Sunday of Easter	Teresa Gill (Gill)
Su	14	0900 1100	<i>Psalter Wk 1</i>	Aidan Redmond RIP (Birthday) (Redmond) Brian Healy RD (Maxwell)
M	15	1000		Tony Lawlor RD (Wilkinson)
T	16	1000		Tony Lawlor RD (Rhodes)
W	17	1000		Agnes Sawbridge (RIP) (Memorial Mass)
Th	18			
F	19	1900		Newman Family Ints
S	20	1800	6th Sunday of Easter	Pauline Handscomb RIP Anniv (Robotham)
Su	21	0900 1100	<i>Psalter Wk 2</i>	Betty Lordan RD (Brennan) Michael Ward RIP Anniv (Ward)

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 Ray Finn, Diane Jukes, David Freeman, Margaret Knowles, Brenda Davies; Leah Burke, Tess Carnero, Joan James, Sarah Johnston, Bridie Moffatt, Bernie Morton, Danuta Evans, Michael McDermott, Mary Gavin - and also for Fr Gabriel Maguire, our Dean, who is not well. **Please pray for all who have died**, including Monica Brugger, Eileen Bartropp, Peggy Brookes, Christopher Doyle, Paul Barry, Daniel Murray, Percy Bartrop 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.**

In Lent/Easter we use the Church's Baptismal Creed, the Apostles Creed, at Sunday Mass - *Laudate* p205.

Parish

Thank you for your generous support of the collection to support students going to Lourdes: you raised £825.41. Thank you also for your support of the Clergy Training Fund: you raised £334.18

Help needed *Would you be willing to volunteer to be 'trained' to open up the Carpenter's Arms as they are letting us open up/lock up. It would be good to have a rota of four or more people willing to do this. It would mean one person opening up before the end of 9am Mass and another locking up at 1pm after the 11am Mass. If you can help please let Fr Allen know.*

Please pray for the children of our parish, and others who attend St Nicholas School, who are celebrating the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist this week and next.

Travelling Solo The next lunch is after the 11am Mass on 4th June, Pentecost Sunday. All who 'travel alone' - single, the divorced or separated, widows and widowers - are welcome.

Rosary and Benediction. Each Monday from 3-4pm - praying for parishioners and for faithfulness in our various vocations.

Parish Scripture Study Group; Next meeting: Weds 17 May at 7.30pm. NB **Change of Date!!!** 'Homework' for the meeting is to read Chapters 1-15 of the Acts of the Apostles. *All are welcome - especially Parish ministers of the word (Catechists, readers, etc). The group will help us deepen our knowledge of the Scriptures.*

Baptism Preparation. The next preparation programme begins on **Sat 10 June** from 11-12noon, in the Benedict Room. Parents should see Fr Allen before hand and complete an application form.

An Ecumenical Pentecost service 4th June, 6.30pm at Chester Road Baptist Church. Come and build on the good experience of our working together to support Taize: Birmingham

Pilgrimage to ASSISI for the Feast of St Francis Led by Fr Allen Morris

Tues 3rd - Fri 6th Oct 2017

Full details and application forms are available in the porch and on the website.



Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention this month is:

That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.

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



Diocese

Diocesan Vacancies: *Press & Media Relations Officer* £27,000 to £31,000 p.a.; *Head of Communications & Community Engagement* £34,000 to £40,000 p.a. For an informal discussion/job description for either role please contact Gerry Dryden, Director of Human Resources via email (gerry.dryden@rc-birmingham.org) or telephone (0121 230 6224). Closing date for applications 2nd June.

Father Hudson job vacancies: *2 part-time Project Co-ordinator's* at Tabor House (the new night shelter in Digbeth); *A full-time Project Manager* at New Heights in Kingstanding. Full details at www.fatherhudsons.org.uk

CAFOD School Volunteers needed! Could you talk about the work of CAFOD in our school, other local Catholic schools and parish youth groups? CAFOD Birmingham are looking for volunteers in our area to give a short talk or presentation to children and young people to help them learn about the world and to inspire them to take action on poverty with CAFOD. Full training and resources supplied. For further information please email birmingham@cafod.org.uk.

Maryvale Novena and Pilgrimage to the Sacred Heart. Thurs 15 – 23 June.

- Mass, Sermon and Novena each evening at 8.00 pm.
- Sun 25 June 3.00pm Pilgrimage Afternoon with Canon David Oakley. Open air Mass and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament Heart

Other

You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This programme has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about, or to register for, the next programme commencing with a residential weekend on 9th-11th June email info@retrouvaille.org.uk; call or text 0788 729 6983 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Poland 2017 Fri 25 Aug - Sun 3 Sept: A great opportunity for 16-30 year olds to experience faith, new cultures, sight seeing and prayer opportunities with

Do you have a connection with a church or mission overseas?



Can you bring a greeting from them to our Ecumenical Pentecost Service?

Are you able to pass on the greeting in their own language as well as English?

It is hoped that many people will be able to bring Christian greetings in English and different languages to our joint Pentecost service.

If you can let Fr Allen know you are bringing a greeting to share that will be helpful: stnicholasrc@btinternet.com

young people from Poland and Israel. The group will stay in Mogilno, Poland and explore the theme of vocation. This opportunity is funded by the Erasmus scheme, so will incur very minimal costs to participants. Only 20 places are available so please act soon to avoid disappointment. Deadline for applications 26th May. For an application form please email Christopher.pell@bcys.co.uk.

Friends of Fotherley Summer Fete. Sunday 4 June, from 12.30. Fotherley Lane, Shenstone. WS14 0HG

Celebrate Birmingham is a lively faith-filled weekend for the whole family. Inspiring talks, children streams, Masses,

In Hospital or going into Hospital?

Roman Catholic Chaplains are appointed to all of the local hospitals.

Patients, and relatives of patients, are urged to make sure that Catholic patients admitted to hospital are registered as Roman Catholic on admission. If they wish to be visited by the Catholic Chaplain, they should ask the ward nurse to arrange this.

Data protection legislation means that unless this is done your details will not be passed to the Chaplain.

If you wish to be visited by Fr Allen as well as the hospital chaplain then please let him know. It is very helpful if you can give details of the ward the patient is on.

Many people find it helpful to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick as they prepare to go to hospital, especially if they are going for a more serious operation. If you would like to receive the Sacrament, please let Fr Allen know.

Reconciliation, workshops. For more information see leaflets at the back of church or go to www.celebrateconference.org Make bookings on website.

Make your mark for unity. A day of Sport and Music Workshops organised by the Focolare Movement. Sunday 21st May 10.30am – 3.30pm. See Blog and to the right for more information or email patriciawhitney@gmail.com

CELEBRATE BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN & YOUTH STREAMS AVAILABLE
1-2 JULY 2017
SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM
Matthew 6:33 (NIV)
SPEAKERS: CHARLES WHITEHEAD, FR PAUL KEANE, MARIA RODRIGUES
A CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC WEEKEND CONFERENCE
For more details, please go to www.celebrateconference.org

28th September. Day outing to Liverpool by coach

Includes visit to the city's two cathedrals. £22.50 inc. of coach. Full details and application form are available in the porch.

An event organised for Churches Together in Boldmere



Bethany Food Bank

The next monthly collection of food for the foodbank will take place on 3rd and 4th June. All dry foods welcome.



Make your Mark for Unity
A day of Sport and Music Workshops exploring the idea of unity based on the Golden Rule
Sunday 21st May 10.30am – 3.30pm
Nishkam High School Great King Street Hockley Birmingham B19 2LF
For info contact: patriciawhitney@gmail.com
Tel no: 0121 406 3650
www.focolare.org/gb
Organised by Focolare Movement registered charity 279072

Tea and Coffee after Mass

in Carpenter's Arms (access from right side of church), after 9 and 11am Masses.

Come and meet with other members of the parish - help build up the community of the parish.



The Bishop Walsh Award Scheme

is open to all Catholic pupils going into Year 7 in September, whether or not they are or are going to be in Catholic schools after September. Those who enrol in the scheme volunteer to two hours of parish service each month for a year (if the service is at Mass the total service time per month will need to include some non-Mass time volunteering). At the end of the year those on the scheme write a short reflection on their experience, and become eligible for the certificate of achievement. There will be two social events for volunteers during the year.

Application forms for the scheme are being circulated to children in Year 6 at St Nicholas, and are also available in the porch. All Year 6 children are welcome.



Bishop Walsh Award 2017/18

For the sick and those who care for them

A new monthly gathering for prayer & social time. 11am First Fridays, from 2nd June. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayer for the sick and for carers, and the offer of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick) followed by tea and sandwiches. If you would like to offer help to those who cannot get to the service under their own steam, or with refreshments, please see Fr Allen as soon as possible.

School Sign-In

Schools in the St. John Paul II Multi-academy, including St Nicholas and Bishop Walsh schools, give priority to applications from practicing Catholic families. They invite families to submit a letter of recommendation from their parish priest to evidence their Catholic practice.



To ensure that there is some objective record to support such letters, those who will apply to these schools are invited to 'sign-in' on occasional Sundays during the 2 years before they submit their application for Primary or Secondary School.

- At present those who will apply for admission up to 2019 are invited to sign-in.
- If signing in to support applications for Secondary School, both a parent and the child concerned should sign in
- 'Sign-In Sundays' are always announced at the end of Mass.
- Signing in books for those already registered are available in the McEvelly Room. (If signing in for the first time please use one of forms provided, but DO NOT put them in the book, but in the basket provided.)
- For more information regarding admission please check the schools' websites.
- If particular circumstances mean a family is not at Mass at St Nicholas weekly they are invited to make an appointment to meet with Fr Allen at the earliest opportunity so that the circumstances can be discussed and understood.