

## Colour and Light

*A gathering space for all those who want to enjoy making art (of all sorts and at all levels)*



Colour and Light will meet in the Benedict Room each Wednesday afternoon from 1-3pm beginning on 8th March. All are welcome.

Each week there will be a very brief 'lesson' especially for beginners - one on drawing, one on painting. Less frequently - if we are lucky - we will have visits from local artists to talk of their work and maybe give a demonstration.

You and everyone are welcome to come and simply do whatever you want - paint, draw, sew, knit, doodle, use a colouring book. Just come and create, and enjoy the company.

Basic artists materials are available for anyone to use for free - but you are welcome to bring your own materials.

For more information please speak with Geraldine Foster or Fr Allen.

## Exploring Vatican II



How to explore the Church's teaching at Vatican II amongst ourselves and take fresh ownership of what it calls us to? And how to live out our baptismal calling to be witnesses to faith?

Pope Francis' letter, *Fratelli Tutti*, explores the challenges of conversation and social exchange in a society that is used to talking but not so used to listening. Our parish group, *EVII*, is re-reading the letter to see what it might offer as we seek to offer answers to the opening questions above.

If you are able to come to the meetings - Mondays at 7.30pm in the Benedict Room, please do - you will for sure have thoughts and experiences to share. And if you can't then why not read the Letter (just google the title to find it on line) along with us. This week we read the introduction.

**Summary of Fratelli Tutti's 'Introduction'**  
Pope Francis writes: *It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Fraternity between all men and women (8).*

From the very first words of this encyclical — this pastoral letter to the Church and to the world — Pope Francis teaches us the way of

## CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

Thank you for your generous response to the recent emergency appeal. This Friday we had the annual CAFOD's Family Fast Day, and **NEXT** Sunday the annual Lenten appeal.

The annual collection will help CAFOD support those at risk because of the climate crisis and ensure that CAFOD can quickly respond to other less publicised emergencies. Give today using the envelope or at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

Also this year one of our parishioners, Matteo, is part of the National CAFOD Team running in the London Marathon. If you want to sponsor him please visit his Just Giving page at <http://bit.ly/3Z3L06Dor> use the link on our parish blog for 20th February



St. Francis of Assisi, who called all people his brothers and sisters (*fratelli tutti*), and was a "saint of fraternal love, simplicity and joy" who inspired this encyclical, as he did *Laudato Si'*.

By calling for a love that "transcends the barriers of geography and distance" and by crossing Crusade lines to meet with the Sultan of Egypt, St. Francis demonstrated his openness of heart and commitment to peace at a time of great power struggles and violence – not unlike today.

Just as St. Francis sought to live in harmony with all, Pope Francis calls us to value fraternity and friendship across all boundaries and division, as he and the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb demonstrated when they signed the *Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together* in Abu Dhabi in 2019.

While Pope Francis started writing this encyclical before the pandemic, the urgency of his teaching on fraternity became even more clear given the inability of countries to work together to resolve yet another problem that affects us all. Anyone who thinks the only lesson to learn from this time is to improve or reform current systems "is denying reality," the pope says. We need something more, a rebirth of "universal aspiration to fraternity."



## St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

**Address:** 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

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**Parish Blog:** [www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com](http://www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Allen Morris **Deacon:** Rev John Garvey

**Parish Safeguarding:** Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

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

## Parish Car Park

The new car park arrangements come into effect this week.

A reminder that a single-period free parking permit is automatically issued

- On Saturdays for those arriving after 5.30pm and leaving before 7.30pm,; and on Sundays for those arriving after 8am and leaving before 2pm a free permit covering those hours is automatically issued. **This means that the vast majority of those coming by car to Sunday Mass need do nothing other than arrive and leave within the given times**
- On Mondays to Wednesdays for those arriving after 9.30am and leaving before 11.30am and on Friday for those arriving after 6.30pm and leaving before 8.30pm a free permit covering those hours is automatically issued. **This means that the vast majority of those coming**

**by car to Weekday Mass need do nothing other than arrive and leave within the given times**

Permits will be automatically issued in this way for our Masses at other times too - e.g. funerals and Holy Week services. The times of eligibility for permits for these other events will be confirmed well in advance.

These automatic permits are automatically issued each time a vehicle enters drive onto the car park during the 'privileged' times. You need do nothing more.

**At other times free parking is automatically permitted for ONE HOUR. So long as you arrive and leave within a period of 60 minutes you do not need to do anything more.**

However, if you are attending an event in the church or meeting rooms that is **not** covered by the automatic permit then **when you arrive** please use a smart-phone to scan **the QR code which will be available where your meeting takes place**, and enter your vehicle registration number. If you do not have a smart phone, meeting organisers will be asked to ensure one is available for your use.

This new system is designed to inconvenience as few parishioners as possible! And to ensure our car park is fully available for parishioners use. **If it presents you with practical difficulties, please see Fr Allen to see what more can be done.**



QR Code

MARCH 2023		PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK	
Sa	4	6pm	Patrick O'Sullivan Ints (O'S)
Su	5	9am	For the parish
		11am	Rachel Upham RD (Ord)
M	6	10am	
T	7		
W	8		
Th	9		
F	10	7pm	Jeremy Foster RD (O'Sullivan)
Sa	11	6pm	For the parish
Su	12	9am	Sean Butler RIP (McGrath)
		11am	Maria and Jan Szambir RIP (S)

**Sacrament of Confession:** Friday 19.30 (after Mass), until 8pm; and Sat 5-5.30pm. **Anointing of the Sick:** 11am, last Friday of month

**Please pray for parishioners who are sick** including Gino Mastroianni, David Cotton, Rita Rhodes, Stephen Burke; Brenda Davies; Lesley Devlin; Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Jean Lawlor; Joanne McShane & Teresa Monteiro. **Please pray** for Rachel Upham whose funeral mass will be at 11am on March 14th and for John Banks, Margaret Farrell, Christopher Coxall, Maria Szambir, Ronald Matthias and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **May all these enjoy the gift of peace Christ offers to us.**

### RESOURCES FOR PRAYER

1. Parish prayer on Zoom (links on parish website homepage)  
**Morning Prayer:** Zoom meeting Monday to Saturday at 8.30am; **Lectio** Sunday at 4pm; **Rosary** Mon at 7pm.
2. Readings of the day and much more at **Universalis.com**
3. Sunday's **Scripture readings:** food for prayer during the week.

**Teas and Coffees in the Benedict Room**  
after Wednesday Morning Mass — all are welcome

**Ready to begin to prepare for your child's baptism?** The next parents' preparation sessions begin on Saturday 11th March at 12noon. For more information please speak with Fr Allen.

**Want to explore faith for your own sake** - perhaps to be baptised or received into the Church? Please speak with Fr Allen, or just come to the parish house for brief chat over coffee on Tues 21st March.

## The Introductory Rites

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:  
I will curse those who slight you.  
All the tribes of the earth  
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

### Psalms 32(33):4-5,18-20,22



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.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.

### 2 Timothy 1:8-10

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Glory and praise to you, O Christ!* From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' *Glory and praise to you, O Christ!*

### Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

## Homily

### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
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.

### Prayer of the Faithful

Priest: We pray to the Lord.  
All: Through our lives and by our prayers,  
your kingdom come.

## The Liturgy of the Eucharist

### The Offertory

*NB Our next collections for the Bethany Food Bank are today and 19th March*

Be still and know I am with you,  
be still I am the Lord.  
I will not leave you orphans.  
I leave with you my word, be one.

You fear the light may be fading,  
you fear to lose your way.  
Be still and know I am near you.  
I'll lead you to the day, and the sun.

Be glad the day you have sorrow,  
be glad for then you love.  
The stars shine only in darkness,  
and in your need I give my peace.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

**S**anctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dóminus Deus Sáb-oth. Pleni sunt cæ-li et terra gló-ri-a tu-a. Hosánna in excélsis. Benedíctus qui ve-nit in nó-mi-ne Dómini. Hō-sánna in excélsis.

## Mystery of faith

R. Mortem tu-am annunti-ámus, Dómi-ne, et tu-am re-surrecti-ónem confi-témur, do-nec vé-ni-as.

## The Communion Rite

### The Lord's Prayer

### Communion thanksgiving

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

## Prayer after Communion

## Concluding Rites

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**Sunday Friends** are meeting on Sunday 12th March 2-4pm in The Newman Community Centre. All are welcome to join us for an inclusive and fun afternoon, particularly people with learning disabilities/special needs and or autism and their family/ carers. The activities will be about 'Preparing for Easter'. Refreshments will be provided.

## HELP BUILD UP COMMUNITY IN BOLDMERE.

Inspired by Pope Francis in Fratelli Tutti we are all invited this Lent to step beyond the familiar and have one decent conversation with someone we know but don't really know...

**LEARNING CONVERSATIONS** are designed to help us to find what gives life to those we speak with...

We speak to get to know better someone who is part of our life but who we may not know very well at all.

Say to them that we're doing this because there is so much in our society that divides us from one another. And we are doing this to help build up the sense of community between us.

If they say 'yes' to having the conversation, be ready to talk about yourself, but especially be ready to explore what is it that gives passion to their lives... What do they care about, and what concerns them; what gifts do they draw on to respond and how do they respond.

Here are some hints for things to listen for, to help the conversation go beyond 'Where are you from?' and 'What do you do?'

1. **What do they CARE about?** This is about what they are MOVING TOWARDS.
2. **What gives them CONCERN?** What are they wanting to MOVE AWAY FROM.
3. **GIFTS and TALENTS.** Do they have gifts that they are ready to share with others. "We need your gifts! Come and join us!"
4. **MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH OTHERS.** Are there particular ways in which they find they can engage with society beyond their immediate family/social group?
5. **CONCERN FOR JUSTICE** – where do they ask, 'is it just?'

As we learn from each other, we can go deeper!