

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.

Psalm 32:4-5,18-20,22

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

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.

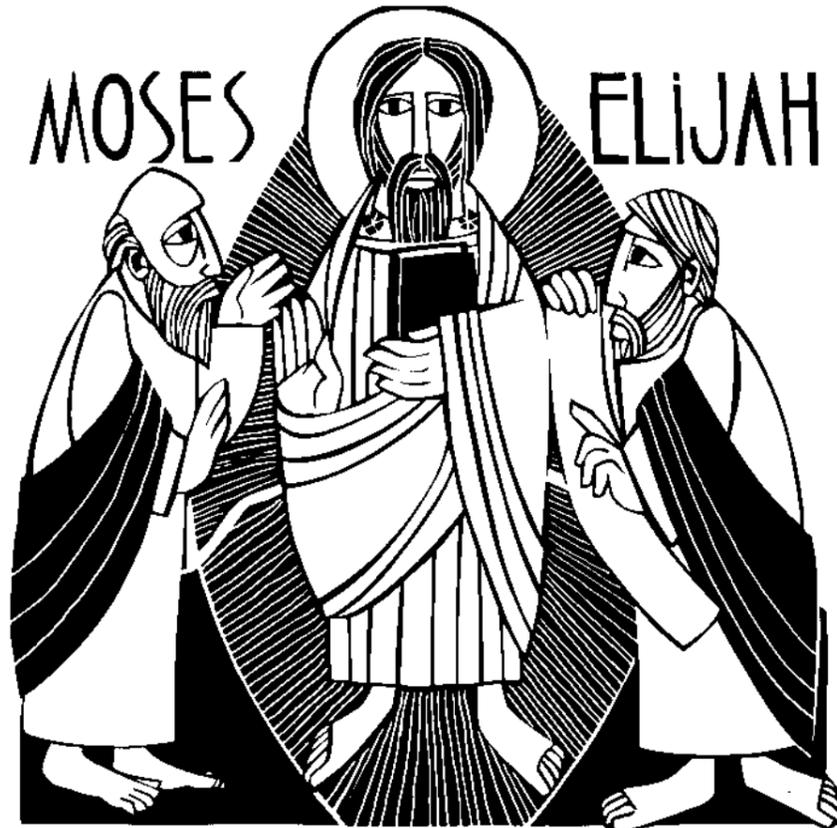
2 Timothy 1:8-10

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!*

Next Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of Lent
The readings are Exodus 17:3-7 / Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 / John 4:5-42

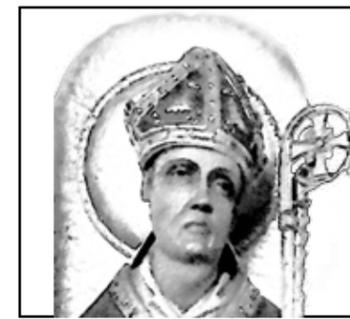


Matthew 17:1-9

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.'

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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Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

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

Birmingham Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2017



Air 27 May-2 June;
Coach 27 May - 3 June

Booking forms from 0121 236 4585
or lourdesadmin@rc-birmingham.org

Would you like to join our music groups for Holy Week and the Triduum?

Singers and instrumentalists - young and 'more mature' - are invited to join with our music groups to support our celebration of any or all of these important days. Interested? See Fr Allen.

ROSARY & BENEDICTION
PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS IN THE CHURCH
Mondays at 3pm.
St Nicholas Catholic Church

Prayer this week for mothers and wives

We do not live by bread alone... Our Eucharistic Prayers

Age counts for something in the Catholic Tradition!

There is something especially moving when we are alert to the fact that a prayer we are using dates back to the 5th C. (one of the Christmas prayers, composed probably by Pope St Leo) or that some of the melodies sung date back to the 10th Century when they were written down, but some surely back to the time of Pope Gregory, 7th C., or earlier.

The Eucharistic Prayer used at Mass today is probably not the earliest in the Missal - that is Eucharistic Prayer II - but for centuries it was the only Eucharistic Prayer in the Roman Rite. The origins of this prayer perhaps go as far back as the adoption of Latin as the language for Roman liturgy in the 3rd, but it was pretty much 'fixed in its present form by the 7th C. It bears very clear traces of being composed in Latin and in a formal, courtly style. Other prayers sound more contemporary, to our ears but not Eucharistic Prayer One!

But in its formality, in its naming of the saints and martyrs precious to Rome, in its reverence for God and the Sacrifice, it helps re-connect us with aspects of our Tradition that still have much to teach us.

Masses Week of the second Sunday in Lent

S 11	1800	2nd Sunday in Lent <i>Psalter Wk 2</i>	Noel Moffitt RD (Burke)
Su 12	0900 1100		Carmel Doherty RIP (O'Sullivan) Pat and Kathleen Connolly Ints (H)
M 13	1000	Lent feria	Timothy O'Leary RIP (Friends from St Niick's)
T 14	1000	Lent feria	Robert McWilliams RIP (McWilliams)
W 15	1000	Lent feria	Timothy O'Leary RIP
Th 16	0800	Lent Feria	Martin O'Donnell RIP (Egan)
F 17	1900	Lent feria	Tim O'Leary RIP (Brennan)
S 18	1800	3rd Sunday in Lent <i>Psalter Wk 3</i>	Thomas Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su 19	0900 1100		John Smyth RIP(Duggan) Bronia Schmid RIP (Anniv) (Schmid)

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: liveingeucharist.wordpress.com/

Please pray for sick parishioners including Betty Lordan, Sara Gallagher, Ray Finn, Viv Everitt, Diane Jukes, David Freeman, Peggy Gallagher, Margaret Knowles, Brenda Davies; Tony Lawlor, Leah Burke, Tess Carnero, Joan James, Sarah Johnston, Bridie Moffatt, Bernie Morton, Danuta Evans, Michael McDermott - and also for Fr Gabriel Maguire, our Dean, who is not well. **Please pray for all who have died**, including David Meade whose funeral is here at 11am on Monday 13th March at 11am, and for John Banks, Margaret Farrell, Christopher Coxall and Ronald Matthias 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.**

mary's meals

Our parish Lenten Charity this year is a Mary's Meals project to feed nearly 1500 children in six of Aleppo's schools.

You are invited to donate your Lenten aims to this good cause.

You can donate by

- by the regular Sunday collection - in an envelope marked 'Mary's Meals'
- adding it to the collection on Holy Thursday - all of which will go to 'Mary's Meals'
- directly via www.marysmeals.org.uk/donate



Mass Texts
During Lent/Easter we use the Apostles Creed at Sunday Mass - Laudate p205.
During Lent we will sing the Mass XVIII setting of the Eucharistic Acclamations, Laudate no. 505a, 506.1; 509

Parish
Tea and Coffee after 9 am and 11 am Mass on Sunday morning. *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 group of four or more people willing to do this. It would mean opening up in good time before the end of 9am Mass and then at 1pm after the 11am Mass. If you can help please let Fr Allen know.*

Welcoming Team New Rota available on web and in porch.

National Dementia Week: 12-19 March. There will be a simple service in the church at 11am on Friday 17th March for people suffering from dementia and their carers, followed by tea and biscuits. All are welcome.

Readers Please sign up as soon as possible if you are available to help

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for February is:
 That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

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

on Palm Sunday and during the Triduum, so the most helpful rota can be prepared.

Knit and Natter 2pm on Thursday.

Bigger Picture Group; Next meeting: Weds of Easter Week at 7.30pm. We have completed our 'bigger picture' overview of the Old Testament and the 'homework' for the next meeting is to read a Gospel, in the light of the vision seen in the Old Testament. There will be one more meeting after this to consider the image of the Church and faith in the Acts of the Apostles. Then the decks are clear for a new focus for a regular scripture group. Any suggestions as to what might be helpful? See Fr Allen.

Baptism Preparation. The next preparation programme begins on Sat 29th April from 11 to 12noon, in the Benedict Room. Parents are asked to complete an application form and see Fr Allen before hand.

Travelling Solo The next gathering of the Travelling Solo Group will take place in the Sutton Park Hotel on corner of Jockey Rd/ Boldmere Rd after tea and coffee in the Carpenters Arms after the 11am Mass on 2nd April. All who 'travel alone' - single, the divorced or separated, widows and widowers - are welcome.

Guild of St Stephen's Mass of Thanksgiving on Sat 25th March takes place at St Chad's Cathedral at 12 noon.

Churches Together Thursday March 30th at Boldmere Methodist church.

Diocese
Birmingham's Pilgrimage to Walsingham 13th May. Programme in Walsingham - led by Bishop Robert Byrne - runs from 1130 to 5pm - see details in the porch. If anyone is interested in help organise a coach from the parish please let Fr Allen know, so details can be publicised. Otherwise please contact the Diocesan organiser 0121 440 8623 - nearer the time - and he will be able to advise on what alternative arrangements are available.

A date for the diary: The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St Chad's Cathedral, 11am Weds 12 April. All are welcome to this important celebration where the oils for Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination, and the Anointing of the sick are blessed and consecrated by Archbishop Bernard for use in the coming year.

Remembering the Church in your will The Diocese has made a new leaflet available in all its 227 parishes to assist people who may

want to consider leaving a legacy to the Church. At the back of the Church you will find copies of the new leaflet. Please do take one for yourself and consider whether you, or someone you know, may wish to support the Church in this way.

Cathedral Flower Festival, 9-11 June It would be nice to have a parish display at the Cathedral this year. Would you be interested in joining a group to prepare something? The themes are Blessed Dominic Barberi and Blessed John Henry Newman. If you are interested please let Fr Allen know as soon as possible so we can register...

Prayer Ministry Workshop on prayer and prayer ministry. With inspirational speakers Canon John Udris and Deacon David Palmer. We shall also have some testimonies on prayer and the opportunity for prayer ministry. Saturday 18th March 3pm-5pm at Oscott College. To register an interest and book a place please contact Natalie Orefice on 0121 3608118 or email parishevangel@maryvale.ac.uk

Diocesan Pilgrimage To The Holy Land, 11-19 September 2017. This year the pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Kenney and will include visits to all the major Holy Places and Mass every day in one of the Shrines. It is all-inclusive so although it seems expensive it contains no hidden extras. Five nights in Bethlehem and 3 nights in Galilee. Flights from Heathrow. Full price: £1740.00 per person. For booking forms and more details please contact Gill at Tangney Tours - tel: 01732 886666: email: Gill@tangney-tours.com.

Bright Lights: Catholic Festival for Young Adults. 23-25 June Alton Castle. www.brightlights.org.uk

SVP Mass and Gathering, 23 September 2017. Bishop Robert Byrne will celebrate the annual SVP Mass for SVP members, their spouses, family members




Plans are now well advanced for the exciting 2017 Taizé Birmingham event. Already 100s of young Christians are signed up, and over the coming weeks that will surely become 1000s.

Are you able to offer accommodation to a young pilgrim or two, aged 18-35. They will arrive in Boldmere on Friday evening shortly after 10pm, hot-foot from a prayer service at St Martins in the Bull Ring. Hosts are asked to provide a bed - or floor space - and a simple breakfast. Pilgrims will be with their hosts until 9am on Saturday and Sunday when they leave for the day's events (they return c10pm), and on 9am on Monday when they will leave for the day's events in central Birmingham, from which they make their way home.

On Saturday everyone is welcome to join the young people in a pilgrimage around local churches in Boldmere and at an evening service in Birmingham

If you would like to join, and play your part in bring maybe a hundred young Christians to Boldmere for the weekend of 28th April to 1st May please collect a form from the porch and return it to Fr Allen as soon as possible.

Thank you to all who donated to the Bethany Food Bank last week.

Your contribution really does make a difference to some of the most needy in our area.

Here are details of what happened there in February

- Number of people provided for through the voucher system = 214
- Food provided in bulk to -
- The needy in Handsworth = 114
- The needy in the Lyndhurst = 160
- The needy helped by the police = 0
- Heart for Homeless = 100
- YMCA = 32

Therefore for the month of February the Food Bank was able to help a total of over 620 people.

The food parcel equivalent figure and the food provided under the voucher scheme both rose slightly from last month.

The next collection is on the weekend of 1st and 2nd April

and friends on Saturday 23 September this year. The Mass will begin at 12 noon in St Chad's Cathedral. Following the Mass, a light buffet lunch will be served in the Grimshaw Room, followed by the main speaker, the Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe. The gathering will conclude at around 3pm.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford Sunday 2 July More details to follow.

Diocesan conference for young men, 5 April 2017 This conference provides young men aged 14 upwards with an opportunity to explore what it means to respond to the Call of Christ in their lives. There will also be a special focus on the vocation to the priesthood and what it means to be a leader of faith. The conference, which is free to attend, is on Weds 5 April from 10am to 5.30pm at the National Motorcycle Museum. The day will include talks, prayer, praise and worship, drama and fellowship, led by inspiring and experienced priests and other leaders of faith. *The Archbishop is keen that as many young men aged 14 with an interest in exploring Christ's call to them should attend this meeting. Details may not have reached students in non-Catholic schools, so please - parents, grandparents, friends, do draw this opportunity to their attention. And if they are interested please contact Fr Allen who will help them with the arrangements to attend. For further support and information, please contact Chris Smith at the Vocations Office on 07730 653787*

Other

St Patrick's Night At Bishop Walsh Catholic School 17th March 7PM till midnight £10 Adults £5 concessions. Live Irish Music and Irish Dancing. To raise money for the school's participation in the Birmingham Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Tickets are available from school office or j.hayes@bishopwalsh.net

40 Days for Life - Prayerful Witness Wednesday 1st March to Sunday 9th April. Marie Stopes Abortion Clinic in Arthur Road, Edgbaston from 8am to 8pm daily. People are never left praying alone. To find out more or book your slot please contact Isabel on 07773 501721 or by email izzysvs@gmail.com

A Lifeline for Marriages for marriages that are stressed, unloving, cold. Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking of doing so? Do you want to try again? The Retrouvaille programme can help! Contact Frances and Michael. Tel 0788 7296983 website: www.retrouvaille.org.uk

The Catenians is an international social organisation for Catholic men and their families. "Faith, Family, Friendship and Fun" is our motto! As well as organising social events, we meet regularly for a meal together on the first Monday of the

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



month at Lea Marston Hotel, Kingsbury. Next meeting is Monday March 6th. First visit includes free meal! For more details please contact Martin Jackson on 07778 031947 or by email: martinjackson417@gmail.com

Pilgrimage to ASSISI for the Feast of St Francis Led by Fr Allen Morris
Tues 3rd - Fri 6th Oct 2017



Assisi is situated in the heart of Italy in the province of Umbria - 'The Land of Saints' where Ss Francis and Clare were born at the end of the 12th century. Both of them were reluctant leaders but their stubborn devotion to following the gospel ideals proved to be a beacon, which attracted many people. The Franciscan and Poor Clare orders have had a profound effect on the Church. Our pilgrimage will be spent in Assisi and its surrounds seeing the places where the saints lived out their mission, whilst also being able to appreciate as Francis did the glory of the natural world in this special place.

- Highlights:
- Tues 3rd - Solemn Commemoration of the death of St Francis (*Transitus di San Francesco*) in the Basilica of *Santa Maria degli Angeli*.
 - Weds 4th - celebration of Feast of St Francis
 - Thurs 5th - Walking tour of Assisi and guided tour of the Basilica of St Francis.

Full details and application forms are on the website now and will be available in the porch next week.

Open Parish Meeting

- A chance to
1. Ask any questions regarding the parish finance report
 2. Consider the proposals developed since the last meeting for
 - the development of the Benedict Room
 - upgrading the lighting in the church
 3. Also to consider the proposals regarding the carpark.
- Friday 7th April at 7.30, in the Benedict Room**