

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Psalm 22:1-6

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: 'Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

John 9:1-41

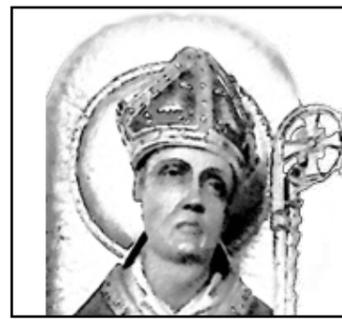
As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'



Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

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St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US
Telephone: 0121 354 1763 **Email:** stnicholasrc@btinternet.com
Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk
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

Services in Holy Week

Palm Sunday 9th April	Mass: 6pm Saturday, and 9am and 11am Sunday
Monday 10th April	Mass at 10am
Tuesday 11th April	Mass at 10am
Wednesday 12th April	• Mass at 8am • Chrism Mass at St Chad's Cathedral, 11.30am
Maundy Thursday Thursday 13th April	• 10am Morning Prayer & Office of Readings • 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper. <i>Then watching at the altar of repose until 11pm</i>
Good Friday Friday 14th April	• 3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion • 7pm Quiet prayer at the Cross, and Night Prayer
Holy Saturday Saturday 15th April	• 10am Morning Prayer and Office of Readings • 8pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday Sunday 16th April	• Mass at 9am and 11am • Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Evening Prayer 4.30pm

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

Eucharistic Prayers - those for Reconciliation. Generally not suitable for use on Sundays, they may be used during Lent.

These Prayers (there are two and today we use the 2nd) were published in 1975, the year the current Rite of Penance was published. Prayer II acknowledges the mess of the world and the opportunity it provides for God to work, changing our hearts so we might strive for peace and reconciliation. The work begins with God and continues by his grace, but we have our part to play.

The prayer asks that the Church should become a sign of unity and an instrument of peace, and looks forward to a new heaven and new earth where hatred, violence and disunity have been let go of. We ask God that this should all come about. But, of course, it comes about not only through our asking, but also because of our readiness to work for it.

One way of demonstrating our own commitment to this newness and goodness is to turn to the Lord to make confession of our own sin, determininf, with God's help, to live life, more lovingly, for the future. There are many opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance in the coming weeks - see p2!

Age 13-29? The Bishops want to hear from you. Check our parish blog for 21/3 and take part in their poll!

Masses Week of the third Sunday in Lent

S 25	1800	4th Sunday in Lent <i>Psalter Wk 4</i>	Anthony O'Donnell RIP (Gill)
Su 26	0900 1100		Paul Garvey RIP (Garvey) People of the Sudan - Ints
M 27	1000	St Joseph	The Lawlor Family (Garvey)
T 28	1000		Eileen Cummins RIP
W 29	1900		Decsd members of the Cleary family (Sterling)
Th 30			
F 31	1900		Thanksgiving to St Jude (Bune)
S 1	1800	5th Sunday in Lent <i>Psalter Wk 1</i>	James O'Reilly RD (Shiel)
Su 2	0900 1100		Margaret Fielden RD (Broom) Nation of Sudan

Morning/Evening Prayer 15 mins before weekday Mass.

Exposition & Vespers 2nd & 4th Suns, 6-7pm

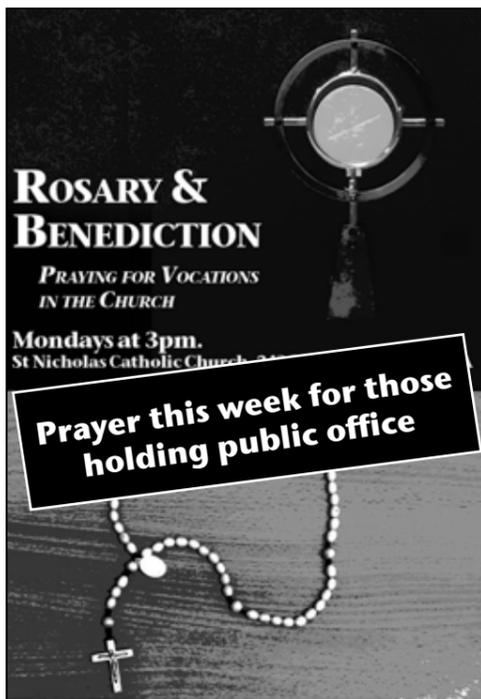
Rosary and Benediction Mondays at 3pm

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 Eileen Headley, Bernard Poller, Paddy Lynn, Richard Mooney 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.**



ROSARY & BENEDICTION

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS IN THE CHURCH

Mondays at 3pm.
St Nicholas Catholic Church

Prayer this week for those holding public office

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 meals 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

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.



Lent Services of Reconciliation
7pm, Friday 7 April: Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield
11am, Saturday 8 April: St Nicholas Boldmere
7.30pm, Tuesday 11 April: Erdington Abbey
7.30pm, Weds 12 April: Holy Cross & St Francis, Walmley

Parish Library
 A small library of books on our faith and the life of faith has been set up in the Martyrs' Chapel (by the font). If you take a book please return it when you have finished it.
 And if you have suitable books at home you would like to donate, please feel free (maybe include a note saying how you responded to the book).
 Look out after Easter for details of a parish Book and Video Club. If you have thoughts of the form it might take, please let Fr Allen know.



Would you like to join our music groups for Holy Week and the Triduum? Singers and instrumentalists - young & '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.

Parish Retiring Collection today for the Emergency Appeal for Sudan and E. Africa.
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 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.

Welcoming Team New Rota available on web and in porch.

Readers meeting on Sunday 2nd April at 4pm, followed by rehearsal at 5.30pm for those assisting with reading the Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

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

Knit and Natter 2pm on Thursday.

Bigger Picture Group; Next meeting: Weds of Easter Week at 7.30pm (**NB final confirmation of date!**) 'Homework' for the meeting is to read a Gospel, in the light of the vision seen in the Old Testament.

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 is after tea and coffee in the Carpenters Arms after the 11am Mass on 2nd April and then at the Sutton Park Hotel on corner of Jockey Rd/Boldmere Rd. All who 'travel alone' - single, the divorced or separated, widows and widowers - are welcome.

Churches Together Thurs March 30 at Boldmere Methodist church.

Diocese Birmingham's Pilgrimage to Walsingham 13 May. Details in porch

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

Evening of Recollection for Ministers of Holy Communion Maryvale, Thurs 6th April 7-9.30pm, beginning with Mass. Cost of evening £5 - booked by phone 0121 360 8118.

Other Programme Co-ordinator Oscott College wishes to make a full-time appointment to work with the Director

Plans are 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.



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. For more details see the parish Blog for 21st March!

Deepening the participation of our young people in the Easter Mysteries as they prepare for First Communion and for Confirmation

The celebration of the Paschal Mystery in the great Three Days from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday is at the very heart of our lives as Catholics.

Every opportunity is given each year from children in Year 3 and year 6 as they prepare for first Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, to enter into these celebrations in a privileged way - helping with readings and music and the various ritual actions.

There is a meeting at 5pm on Monday 3rd April for these children (and their parents are welcome too!) to introduce the days and prepare for their part in the celebration. (The times of the liturgies themselves are given on page 1 of this newsletter)

of Studies on the coordination and development of changes in the seminary programme of studies. A candidate must have a degree or relevant equivalent professional experience of a degree programme or student administration within a Higher Education setting. Application Closing Date: 31/3; Interview Date: 11/4. Send CV including details of relevant experience to jobs@oscott.org

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. To consider the proposals regarding the carpark.

Friday 7th April at 7.30, in the Benedict Room

Noisy children are welcome at Mass! But...

They are VERY welcome, despite the distractions, so long as parents are taking proper responsibility for helping them grow into what we come to Mass for.

There is nothing like children for reminding us that we are never a static community. No sooner has one child learned how 'to behave' at Mass that along come one or two more who think they are being brought to a rather peculiar (and not very enjoyable) playground, and who squeak and squawk with gusto. Their noises can sometimes be distracting, but they are of our family and it is good to have them with us.

However, for their sake and ours, they need help to learn what sort of a place the church is and why we come and what we do here. Their learning - and so our teaching of them too - is no quick one-fix job; and the task is to help them participate in what we do not distract them from it by drawing them into other things.

- Some of their learning can be done at the earliest age - with parents or siblings making the sign of the cross over them with holy water as they come into the church. Very quickly they will want to do this for themselves.
- When slightly older they can learn to stand and sit and kneel with us (even if for a while they stand or sit on the kneeler beside us as we kneel.
- Also to make the sign of the Cross as we prepare to hear the Gospel
- Later help them join in the regular songs of the Mass - especially the Gloria (when it comes back after Easter) and the Gospel Acclamation

and the Holy, Memorial Acclamation and Great Amen. They might not get the words right, (or the tune!) but they are learning to join with us in prayer.

- Later still help them to follow the prayers of the Mass in *Laudate*, and the words of the hymns that will be less familiar.
- Once they are in Reception, the parish can help them and you by welcoming them to the Liturgy of the Word for children so they are progressively helped to engage with the Gospel and find help for their Christian living in it.
- Parents sometimes find it helpful to provide their child with a child's missal - there are picture book versions even for very young children - to help them follow the Mass. Some find it helpful to get them religious reading or colouring books to supplement the *Look* sheet available at the back of Church. But beware: distracting them from the Mass is not the best way of helping them to learn how to participate in the Mass, though it may help at a 'difficult' stage. It is for parents to discern what's best for their child.

Helping introduce their children to praying the Liturgy is a challenge for parents. But, speaking personally, I find it very encouraging and moving, seeing mums and dads trying, patiently, lovingly to share their faith with their children, week after week. Sometimes its two steps forward, and then three steps back - but that's life. Thank you to all parents who do know their responsibility and their privilege in this area and who do their best to do their best.

Fr. Allen

Pray with Pope Francis <http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>
 The Pope's prayer intention for March is that persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

Can you help with the parish gardens?

Thank you very much to the Prince's Trust, to CPSO Nat Peers who coordinated everything and the young people who did so much work, for clearing the overgrown hedging and trees on the right side of the car-park. They did a great job.

We have bought plants ready for planting in the strip on the opposite side of the car park, and they will be going in shortly after Easter.

What would be very helpful now is if people would come forward, happy to take charge of a flower bed and keep it tidy during the year - weeding, tidying up, cutting plants back after flowering,

and putting down a bit of fertiliser each year to keep the plants healthy. Taking on one bed and visiting it for a couple of hours maybe three or four times a year would not be a great deal of work - and could be fun for those who like gardening, and for a family with younger children.

It would also make a great deal of difference to the attractiveness of the space around the church. Some of the beds are easier than others to look after, and some need a bit of attention already! There is a poster showing the beds that are available and where you can sign up to volunteer. Thank you!

Fr. Allen

Next Sunday is the 5th Sunday of Lent
 The readings are Ezekiel 37:12-14 / Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 / Romans 8:8-11 / John 11:1-45

The Ordinary of the Mass is found on p200 ff of Laudate.
 Scripture readings on the next page are 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.

Conclusion of today's Gospel.
Continued from p.4

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples .too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'