

Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Psalms 129:1-8

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’ The disciples said, ‘Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?’ Jesus replied: ‘Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see



by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.’

He said that and then added, ‘Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.’ The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by ‘rest’ he meant ‘sleep’, so Jesus put it plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.’ Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, ‘Let us go too, and die with him.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’

Jesus said: ‘I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, ‘The Master is here and wants to see you.’ Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** frallenmorris@gmail.com
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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 Prayer III used at Mass today is one of those specially composed for the new edition of the Missal published in 1969. And together with EP II is probably the most frequently used today.

It is notable for having two *epicleses* - two invocations of the Holy Spirit. The first - which comes before the Supper Narrative - invites the Spirit to descend on the gifts of bread and wine that they might become the Body and Blood of Christ. The second which follows the Memorial Acclamation, asks that the Spirit might fill us too, so that we who are nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ might become one body, one spirit in Christ.

There is a rich theology of Sacrament in the Prayer - of the Sacrament of the Eucharist and of the Sacrament of the Church. The prayer makes it clear that we cannot have one without the other. The first is Christ uniting us with his Sacrifice, nourishing us with the divine food and drink that is his Body and Blood. The second is Christ living in us, in the communion of the Church - us living faithfully and lovingly in Christ, ready to cooperate with Jesus in advancing the peace and salvation of all the world.

This theology of communion and union is something precious to hold on to as we prepare for Holy Week. In that week especially we accompany Jesus as we remember and are present to his Passion and Death - even as he accompanies us in the various circumstances of our lives.

Masses Week of the fifth Sunday in Lent

S	1	1800		James O’Reilly RD (Shiel)
Su	2	0900 1100	5th Sunday in Lent <i>Psalter Wk 1</i>	Margaret Fielden RD (Broom) Nation of Sudan
M	3	1000		Catherine Devanny RIP - Anniv
T	4	1000		Richard Mooney Anniv (Mooney)
W	5	1900		Mr Ronnie Egan RIP (Perks)
Th	6	1000		Funeral Mass of Tony Lawlor
F	7	1900		Tony Lawlor RD
S	8	1800		Chris O’Connor
Su	9	0900 1100	6th Sunday in Lent <i>Psalter Wk 2</i>	Tony Lawlor RD (Redmond) Paul and Maria Nguyen RIP (Nguyen)

Morning/Evening Prayer 15 mins before weekday Mass.

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

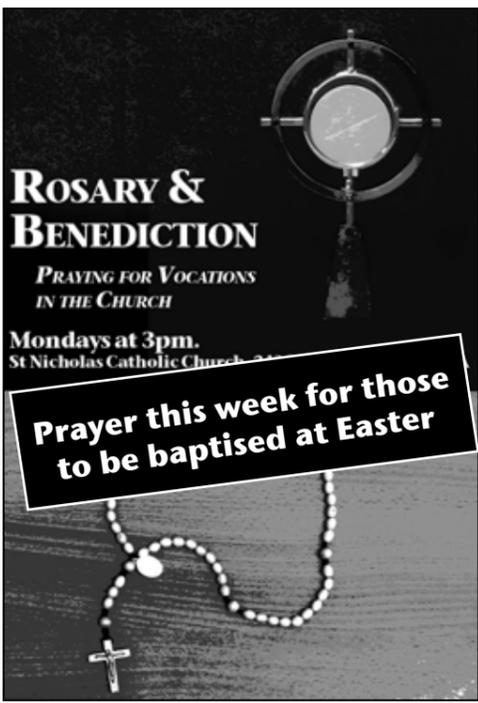
Rosary and Benediction Mondays at 3pm

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 Betty Lordan, Sara Gallagher, Ray Finn, Viv Everitt, Diane Jukes, David Freeman, Margaret Knowles, Brenda Davies; 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 Tony Lawlor who died recently and whose funeral Mass is on Thursday at 10am, and Richard Mooney, Marie Fulford, Maria Phan Thi Minh, Domenico Macerola, June Furley, Attilio Bisso, Breda Corbett 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.**



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 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.



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

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

Travelling Solo The next gathering is after tea and coffee in the Carpenters Arms after the 11am Mass this Sunday 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.

Parish Lenten Penance service. 11am Saturday 8th April. This service is for the whole parish, and there

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.



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.

will be a number of priests present to assist with confessions. It is especially suitable for children in year 4 who made their first confession last year, and for children in year 6 who are preparing for their Confirmation - together with their families. Those attending should come and take their places quietly and reverently as usual. **Sadly a number of children in year 6 last year failed to do this, so parents are asked to be in church with their children to help keep good order.** If this time does not suit then do see elsewhere on this page for details of similar services in other local parishes.

Boldmere Night Shelter Thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted with the Night Shelter this year. Thank you especially to Mary James who led the venture and coordinated all the volunteers. Sadly it seems there will continue to be need for the Shelter next year. So look out for the opportunity to volunteer to help in 2018.

The monthly collection of dried goods for **Bethany Food Bank** takes place today. Thank you for your continued support of these important local charity. The collection takes place on the first Sunday of each month, and the next will be on the weekend of 6th and 7th May.

The Archbishop's Pastoral Letter, read at all Masses this weekend, is also available to read on the Parish Blog from lunchtime on Sunday.

Ecumenical Dates for the Diary

• **Pentecost service on 4th June, 6.30pm at Chester Road Baptist Church.** It would be good to see a good number from our parish coming to this service. Often attendance at these joint services is difficult for us because they clash with our Sunday morning service. This one doesn't!

• **28th September. Day outing to Liverpool by coach** - including visit to the city's two cathedrals. £15 inclusive of coach. If you are interested in going on the trip please sign up in the porch as soon as possible as Theresa Monteiro is looking for an indication as to how many people are likely to join the trip.

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.*

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)

Welcoming Team New Rota available on web and in porch.

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.

Knit and Natter 2pm on Thursday.

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.

Diocese

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

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St Chad's Cathedral, 11.30am 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. *If you are coming do try and be there early - the Cathedral gets very full!*

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

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



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 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



Plans are well advanced for the exciting 2017 Taizé Birmingham event. Already c700 young Christians are signed up from all over Europe, and more are signing up each day.

If you would like to offer accommodation to pilgrims, and play your part in bringing 40 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!

• **If you are aged 16-35 and wish to take a full part in the weekend go to taize.fr/Birmingham to register you get access to the whole weekend. If you are from Birmingham and do not need a travel pass you get full access for a registration fee of £30**

• **People of any age are welcome to attend the principal Taizé Prayer services. These will all take place at St Martin's in the Bull Ring**

- Friday 28 April 7:30pm. **Prayer around the Cross** with a meditation by Brother Alois.
- Saturday 29 April 7:00pm. **Prayer of the Light of Christ.** *Song practice from 6:30 pm.*
- Sunday 30 April 7:30 pm **Evening Prayer** (Guest preacher: Rowan Williams). *Song practice 7:00 pm.*

Aged 13-29?

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

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 Palm Sunday

The readings are Isaiah 50:4-7 / Psalm 22:8-9, 17-24/ Philippians 2:6-11 / Matthew 26:14-27:66

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

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone.

Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Gift Aid, Standing Orders etc

Thank you very much to all those who offer financial support for the work of the parish. If you wish to enhance your donation s using the Gift Aid scheme, or help us by donating by Standing Order please collect a form from the porch, if you do not already have one - and return it to Brian Tomlinson c/o the Parish House as soon as possible.

A reminder: if you presently Gift Aid your donation but no longer paying tax you should advise the parish office so that we can make sure our records are correct!