

cont'd from page 3 often Catholics from the parish and elsewhere move into care homes and we do not know. Should they wish us to know having a contact person at the home would help greatly with this. Having such people in place could make a great deal of difference to many people and be a real enrichment of our parish's witness and ministry.

Help with Safeguarding paperwork

Helping the parish keep on top of Safeguarding administration - for example for those Protection legislation is a further area help is needed with. Mary Rose currently deals with things very well, but as we need to embark on a renewal of DBSs and the challenges of changing regulation she would welcome some help! If there were one or two people who would be able to offer a couple of hours as needed things would be a lot easier to manage. If you think you might be able to help please speak with Mary Rose or Fr Allen. **Thank you.**

Birmingham's Clean Air Zone launches this Tuesday 1 June

and will operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If your car doesn't meet emissions standards, you may have to pay a daily charge. Check how the Clean Air Zone affects you by entering your vehicle registration number at the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/clean-air-zones>

The charges will be applied daily. A non-compliant vehicle driving in the Zone will pay once for the day, then may drive in the area without limit on that day. You can find out if you will be charged by inputting your vehicle registration details into the Government vehicle checker.

Locations inside the zone include St Chad's Cathedral, Bullring, Grand Central, Primark, Colmore Business District, Centenary Square, Birmingham Council House and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Financial support for the Church

You will appreciate that parish income has been cut right back over the past months, but our bills have not reduced by anything like as much! If you are in a position to help, you might like to consider the following.

- **GIFT AID** allows the Church reclaim tax paid on your offering, to raise a further 25% for the church at no further cost to you.
- **STANDING ORDERS** are a helpful way of making your offering. *Forms for GA and SO are available from Fr Allen or the parish website.*
- **GIFT AID OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** Numbered envelopes are available or those in the Gift Aid scheme who still use the envelopes.

Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage

Although the Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes cannot take place in the usual way this year, its organisers have arranged a replacement online programme of events.

The virtual pilgrimage starts today, 30 May (Trinity Sunday) at 3pm.

<https://bit.ly/3b8UsyJ>
or birminghamdiocese.org.uk



Exploring the Eucharist

Weekly mini-essays exploring the Eucharist. Origins and influences on the Mass; exploring particular prayers; and looking at how we celebrate - and how we might celebrate more fruitfully....

www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

This week we begin an extended look at the Liturgy of the Word. The series will look at all sorts of different dimensions of this Liturgy which is integral and essential to our celebration of Mass. We will look at how it structured, ministered and how we might best draw from it spiritual nourishment for our relationship with the living God and for our daily lives and service of our neighbours.

Wondering about faith?

It is hoped that very soon COVID restrictions will be relaxed sufficiently to allow for us to begin to meeting face to face again - and when we do it is a chance to revive the parish Journey in Faith group.

Journey in Faith is a place for people to explore the who and what Jesus is; and the Church; and themselves. All are welcome. **If you are interested do let Fr Allen know.** That way when a time is being arranged for some first get-together he can check what day /time will best suit you and others.

Just wondering?

Is your child preparing for First Communion or Confirmation? Want to know how best to support them?

Just wandering?

Sharing life with a person of faith - Christian or not - and have questions about your faith? Or theirs?

Never been baptised or confirmed or made First Communion? Now wondering how to go about it?

Brought up in another church but find that the Catholic Church offers something more?

Just drifted away and now find you seem to be drifting back?



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Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)
Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

God our Father,
You have given us a share
in the life that is yours
with your Son and the Holy Spirit.
Strengthen that life within your Church,
that we may know your presence,
observe your commands,
and proclaim the Gospel to every nation.

Preparing for what comes next...

Last week I listed a whole range of matters that present themselves for thought and implementation as we - please God - return to parish life less constrained by COVID.

It seems this is a good time to introduce something that was proposed at a recent parish Finance Committee: a new group to assist with leadership of the parish.

This Parish Priorities Group would help me and us to set priorities as we move forward, out of COVID and responding to the priorities of the New Evangelisation and the needs of ourselves and our neighbours.

The Group would also provide an opportunity to help develop leadership and responsibility for parish life and mission within the parish community more broadly.

An open meeting is planned for Weds 24 June at 7.30pm to discuss this and other matters, including the list of tasks from last week's newsletter (available still on the parish website). Further details of meeting will be confirmed nearer the time. **Fr Allen**

Wondering about faith?

The experience of COVID has been a challenging one for all sorts of people and in all sorts of ways. People who thought they were strong in faith may have found their certainties shaken. People who did not think about God and faith at all have found themselves newly grateful that they were able to turn to the Lord in their distress, but may be unsure what to do next.

And some might just feel they are wandering, wondering...

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Rapid Testing

To help build on the results of the vaccination programme and lockdown we are all urged to take a self-administered rapid test for the virus twice a week. The test kits are available from pharmacies and test centres, and at the entrance to the church.

One in 3 people with COVID-19 do not experience symptoms but can still spread the virus. Rapid testing detects cases quickly, meaning positive cases can isolate immediately.

Please test twice weekly to protect yourself and others, including the day before you come to Sunday Mass.

Help keep everyone safe.

Keeping Safe at Mass

Face coverings: Regulations require members of the congregation, aged 5 and over, to wear face-coverings over their nose and mouth when in church. **Social distancing:** Please keep a social distance of 1m from anyone not of your household.

Please do not stay in benches for conversation after Mass has ended. Instead leave the church promptly and keep 'safe distance'.

Thank you for your cooperation.

PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Day	Time	Special Occasion	Remarks
Sa 29	4pm	TRINITY SUNDAY	For the parish
	6pm		Devlin family intentions
Su 30	9am	TRINITY SUNDAY	Fr Joyce (Byrne)
	11am		Tony Lawlor RIP (Lawlor)
M 31	10am	Visitation of the BVM	Mary Bonner Ints (Payne)
T 1	10am	St Justin Martyr	Fr Joyce (Byrne)
W 2	10am		Catherine Mulhern RIP (Green)
Th 3		St Charles Lwanga	
F 4	7pm		John Brennan RIP (Green)
Sa 5	4pm	MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST	For the parish
	6pm		Moss Davies RIP (Szambir)
Su 6	9am	MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST	Jessie Mary Redmond RIP (R)
	11am		For the parish

Please pray for sick parishioners including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for GJames Dougherty, Sharon Timperley, James O'Riordan and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

The Introductory Rites *help us come together as one, establish communion and prepare ourselves to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.*

The Penitential Act

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word: *The word of God invites us into the unending dialogue between God and his people, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. This hearing and responding is essential to the Mass. A brief time of quiet after the readings helps us to take the word of God to heart and begin a prayerful response to what we have heard.*

Deuteronomy 4:32-34,39-40

Moses said to the people: 'Put this question to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time God created man on earth: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? Has any god ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors – all this that the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt?

'Understand this today, therefore, and take it to heart: the Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments as I give them to you today, so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that the Lord your God gives you for ever.'

Psalms 32(33):4-6,9,18-20,22

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.

By his word the heavens were made,
by the breath of his mouth all the stars.
He spoke; and it came to be.
He commanded; it sprang into being.

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.

Romans 8:14-17

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; the God who is, who was, and who is to come. *Alleluia!*

Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Apostles' Creed

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

*At the words that follow,
up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.*

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.

The Prayer of the Faithful

The Liturgy of the Eucharist *is the re-presentation of the Sacrifice of Christ to the Father, and his gift of life renewed to the Church, for the service of his mission.*

The Offertory: *There is no collection during Mass. Instead, please put your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.*

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer, the centre and summit of the entire celebration is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father

The Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Offering spiritual support to the housebound and those in care homes

One of the things that we have learnt during lockdown is just how isolated and vulnerable some people are because of the disabilities and constraints that commonly come with old age and infirmity. Even now social distancing guidance and the like present challenges to how to offer support.

Many in the parish have been generous with their time and energies, keeping in contact by phone and helping in whatever ways they can. Some of those who have been isolated for a longer time have found that the opportunities provided by the Internet and Zoom during lockdown have actually improved their situation. So it is not all bad news.

But this is a time for taking stock on how as a parish we respond to the needs of people who are not in a position to regularly come to Church and the things we do in our meeting rooms etc. This is one of the things that will be considered at the forthcoming parish meeting on 24 June.

Ministers of Holy Communion

However already there has been opportunity to discuss this matter with the parish's Ministers of Holy Communion. A number of these ministers have been generous with their time and energy in visiting the sick and housebound - when circumstances permit. But – even leaving COVID aside – this is not quite the easy matter that it maybe used to be.

The need to strengthen the safeguarding of the vulnerable in the community means that it now required that ministers of Holy Communion should visit people in their homes in twos. This has been the

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

The Communion Rite: *The Lord offers reconciliation in and with the invitation to share in the food and drink that is his Body and Blood. Love and mercy are the condition and the fruit of communion in the Lord.*

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Please observe the regulations on social distancing when processing to receive Holy Communion.

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites *sends us out live in our daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ we have celebrated. Our mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.*

Blessing and Dismissal

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practice of the Society of St Vincent de Paul for some time now and brings with it evident safeguards for those being visited who sadly sometimes are taken advantage of, even by ministers of the Church. It has not been a problem for us, thank God, but we need to do all we can to ensure the worst cannot happen.

The new requirement works for the safeguarding of ministers too. Sometimes, sadly but understandably, those who are visited can become confused and misplace something or forget what has happened to something and can - not meaning to do harm - accuse all sorts of people of having taken it. Having two people present helps avoid putting our volunteer ministers in risk of that difficult and painful thing happening to them.

All this means that we need to do some serious recruiting of people to serve as ministers and/or to be willing to accompany other ministers. The commitment is likely to be to be part of a team maybe visiting one or two people once or twice a month at times suitable to them and the ministers.

Masses in Care Homes

In addition to working to restore this support it is hoped to begin having monthly Masses in Care Homes and the like where this permitted and where there are two or more Catholic residents. To help begin this and to sustain this programme it will be a great help to have one or two parishioners linked to each such home who can help with the practical arrangements (Nothing complicated, just confirming dates and times; attending the Mass; and that sort of thing). In addition, quite *cont'd from page 1*