

Fiducia Supplicans (imploing confidence)

Fiducia Supplicans (FS) is the title of the Church’s recently issued guidance about the blessing of people in what the Church generally calls ‘irregular’ relationships - in this case most particularly gay couples or ‘straight’ people married outside the Church.

To some people this guidance has seemed like an abandonment of Catholic doctrine and moral teaching; to others it has been received as almost an insult, so little ‘new’ does it offer to them. When there are such different responses, it is all the more important for everyone who is interested in the truth to inform ourselves of the facts.

FS itself is easy to access, and perhaps not difficult to read. Just type in the title into the search box at the Vatican website (www.vatican.va) where all such documents can be found.

When the Church talks about matters internal to our life in common - and FS is most of all a document about Catholic life - it is important that we recognise that she speaks of the life of the baptised - and our promises to live as disciples of Christ. The baptised are called to faithfulness and in baptism we vow such faithfulness. (Well, at least those baptised as adults do. Parents and godparents effectively enter into this commitment on behalf of their children. None of us should treat these - freely entered into - commitments lightly! They have consequences.)

FS does not change the Church’s understanding that the sacrament of matrimony can be received only by a man and a woman who freely commit to their intended spouse to have and to hold them “from this day forward or better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death do us part.”

- Neither does it change the Church’s understanding
- that love can flourish between all peoples of every sort and that in every situation,
 - and that sexual relationships have their proper place within the sacramental relationship established by matrimony. Outside of that relationship sex loses its full potential to unite the couple in their commitment

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Each May half Term, the Archdiocese organises a pilgrimage to Lourdes: 2024 will be the 82nd Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage. <https://bit.ly/3vIURFf>

Parish Children’s Liturgy Group

Thank you to the leaders of our children’s Liturgy Group who, twice a month and at the 9am Sunday Mass, meet with children in their first years of school (Reception, and Years 1 and 2) to celebrate with them that Sunday’s Liturgy of the Word.

Once a month the Mass is followed by Cookies and Chat in the Benedict Room for the youngsters and their parents.

ted union, and may not be open to receiving the gift of children. Outside of matrimony sex is not necessarily sinful (though it is ‘disordered’), but inevitably lacks the full virtue that is has within matrimony. And this is of consequence not only for the couple themselves but for the wider community.

The Church takes particular care over people’s readiness to commit to matrimony - not least because of her desire to promote healthy family life for the good of partners, children and society at large. She also offers all sorts of help for people who have already made that commitment, regardless of the situations they find themselves in..


Sometimes the Church has (at least been seen to) act harshly to those who have made the commitment to matrimony but whose marriage has ‘failed’; or people (straight or gay) who establish families without benefit of the sacrament of matrimony. FS makes it abundantly clear that **whatever their situation** Catholics have a right to the pastoral care and prayer of the Church and all her members to support then in their life as disciples. We are each of us called to love and care as Jesus loves and cares.

Pope Francis regularly takes care to emphasis that clergy and faithful share in the responsibility to show Christ’s love to all others. “Who are we to judge” how and why people are in whatever situation they are in? But we do have an obligation to offer help and encouragement for them to now seek and find the inner freedom to live faithful Catholic lives. FS confirms applies also with regard to those in ‘irregular’ relationships.

The Church does not see ‘living together’ or secular marriage as equivalent of the sacrament of matrimony, and cannot bless such *relationships* and run the risk of ‘muddying the waters’. But when those *individuals* who are in such relationships ask for prayer and care for themselves, to help them live as faithfully as they find they presently can, the Church and all her members can and should offer the comfort of prayer and care. It should always have been so - but sometimes we fall short in living as Christ loves.

FS offers gentle encouragement to all the baptised to seek to do the very best that each one of us can in supporting each other - whoever, however, wherever.

2024				
January	Sunday, 14	Mass 9:00		
	Sunday, 28	Mass 9:00	Cookies & Chat After Mass 9:00	
February	Sunday, 11	Mass 9:00		Half Term
	Sunday, 25	Mass 9:00	Cookies & Chat After Mass 9:00	
March	Sunday, 10	Mass 9:00		
	Sunday, 24	Mass 9:00	Cookies & Chat After Mass 9:00	
April	Sunday, 14	Mass 9:00		Half Term
	Sunday, 28	Mass 9:00	Cookies & Chat After Mass 9:00	
May	Sunday, 5	Mass 9:00		Preceding Bank Holiday
	Sunday, 19	Mass 9:00	Cookies & Chat After Mass 9:00	Pentecost
June	Sunday, 2	Mass 11:00	Corpus Christi w/Parish	
	Sunday, 23	Mass 9:00	DayTogether	



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US
Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk
E-mail: stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk **Telephone:** 0121 354 1763
Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com
Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **Deacon:** Rev John Garvey
Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

JANUARY 2024: PARISH MASSES

Sa	20	6pm	3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Luke Gill RIP (Gill)
Su	21	9am		Michael & Anne Lynam RIP (McGrath)
		11am		For the parish
M	22	10am		Janina Mikula Ints
T	23	10am		Tom Hollier - well being (H)
W	24	10am	St Francis de Sales	Charles and Agnes Sawbridge RIP
Th	25		Conv’n of St Paul	
F	26	7pm	Ss Timothy & Titus	Thanksgiving for gift of life
Sa	27	6pm	4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	For the parish
Su	28	9am		Elizabeth Middleton RIP (Harrington)
		11am		Frank and Nora Smith RIP (McGrath)

Anointing of the Sick: Next celebration is 26th January at 11am

Sacrament of Confession: Friday 18.30-18.55; 19.30 (after Mass), until 20.00; and Sat 5.30-5.45 — and by appointment

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.

1. Parish prayer on Zoom (links on parish website homepage)
Morning Prayer: Mon to Sat at 8.30am; **Rosary** Mon at 7pm.
2. Readings of the day and much more at Universalis.com
3. Resources for the Year of Prayer: <https://bit.ly/47kMBYS>

Please pray for those who are sick including Theresa Monteiro; Craig Brooks, Paul Craig, Fr Michael Ho, Brenda Davies; Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin & Jean Lawlor. **Please pray** for Marian Long, Peter Murray, Mary Vargus, Doris Johnson, Terry Devenney, Kathleen Cecil, Lea Burke and all others whose anniversary at this time.

WEEKDAY SOCIAL. Tuesdays after 10am Mass. All are welcome.

PARISH CAR PARK Free parking for 1 hour is available for anyone at anytime in our carpark. Automatic free parking permits are issued to cover all parking on **Sat** from 5.30pm to 7.30pm; on **Sunday** from 8am to 2pm; on **Mon, Tues, Weds** from 9.30am to 11.30am and **Fri** from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. *At other times, if on site for parish meetings and the like - to park for more than 1 hour, please scan the QR poster in the church or Benedict Room to extend your ‘free’ parking time.*

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory **Safeguarding** Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Mary Rose. She can be contacted at: sg.stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk

Please note: Mass Intentions for particular dates should be booked at least two months in advance, at present.

The ‘Year of Prayer’

2023-24 has been designated the Year of Prayer by Pope Francis, with a particular emphasis on the *Our Father*. It will help us prepare for the Jubilee Year “Pilgrims of Hope”. It presents our Church with a significant opportunity to revisit the basics of prayer, and for us to become even more a people of prayer.

Each week during this year a teaching about prayer related to the readings of that Sunday is posted on our parish blog (address above) This resource has been prepared by Fr Rob Taylerson, Spiritual Director at Oscott College.

Pray24 Brum – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, this prayer initiative - now in its 10th year - will be held at St Philip’s Anglican Cathedral, Colmore Row, B3 2QB (sometimes known as Pigeon Park!). 24 hours of prayer in and for our city and world, celebrating our unity across different Christian traditions.

Each tradition will lead an hour of prayer across Friday 19th January 7.30am to 6.30pm and Saturday 20th January from 8.30am to 7pm. People are welcome to pop in and pray at any time.

Archbishop Bernard Longley will lead prayer from 1pm to 2pm on Saturday 20th. Music by Jo Boyce (CJM Music).

birminghamchurches.org.uk

St Nicholas World Development Group

AGM is to be held at 70 Station Rd: 29th Jan at 7.30 p.m. All Welcome.

Retrouvaille – Do you need help in your marriage? Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Their next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or there is a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you
and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Gloria



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.

Glory to God...

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.

Glory to God...

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.

Glory to God... Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

Jonah 3:1-5,10

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour, and God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Psalm24(25):4-6,7b-9



Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is close at hand: repent, and believe the Good News. Alleluia!

Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

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

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 4th February.

Oh the word of my Lord, deep within my being.
Oh the word of my Lord, you have filled my mind.

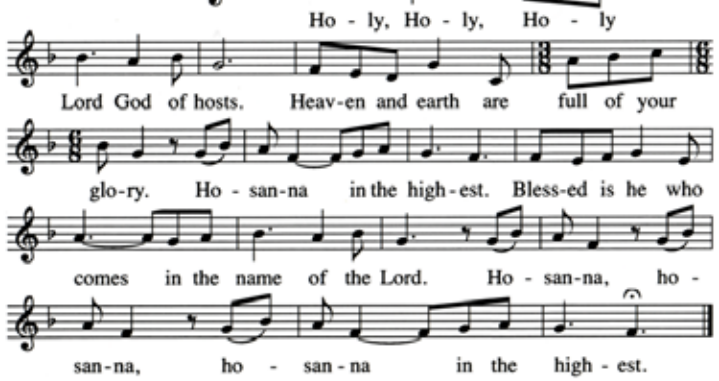
Before I formed you in the womb,
I knew you through and through.
I chose you to be mine.
Before you left your mother's side,
I called to you, my child, to be my sign.

I know that you are very young,
but I will make you strong -
I will fill you with my word,
and you will travel through the land

And everywhere you are to go,
my hand will follow you
you will not be alone,
in all the danger that you fear
you'll find me very near, your words my own.

With all my strength you will be filled
you will destroy and build, f
or that is my design.
You will create and overthrow,
reap harvests I will sow - your word is mine.

Sanctus



The mystery of faith



The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

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Called to Serve

Altar Servers Retreat: 8 - 10 March.

Kennelm Youth Team and the Diocesan Vocations Office are offering a weekend retreat especially for altar servers at Alton Castle. 'Called to Serve' is for those in school years 5-13. During the retreat, there will be reflection, fellowship, fun and outdoor activities. His Grace, the Archbishop will be celebrating mass. We are also looking forward to a special candlelight procession.

Contact Deacon Owen to find out more or
book a place: deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk

SUNDAY FRIENDS Our parish 'Sunday Friends' group welcomes all to join in activities to mark the beginning of Lent on Sunday 18th February from 2-4pm in the Newman Centre. At the heart of the group are people with learning disabilities and autistic people of all ages, faiths or none and their families/carers - but all are welcome. And it's free!

When you leave church today please take with you a copy of the letter from the Clergy of Catholic Sutton Coldfield.

It is about an important cluster meeting to begin a conversation about the future of the parishes of Sutton Coldfield.

The meeting is at Sacred Heart parish, at 3pm on Sunday 11th February.