

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

Psalms 31:1-2,5,11

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile.

But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin.

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart.



8th C. Ivory Carving. Victoria & Albert Museum.

Next Week: Sunday of 6th Week in Ordinary Time
Scripture readings: Leviticus 13:1 - 2, 44 - 46 / Psalm 32:1 - 2, 5, 11 / 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1 / Mark 1:40 - 45

Stepping forward in Faith

- Where do you need healing from the Lord?
- Where do you need forgiveness from the Lord?
- How will you reach out for it in Lent?

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. *Alleluia!*

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.'

The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

Additional Services for Lent

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Each Friday in Lent, from 6-7pm, with opportunity for Sacrament of Confession (until 6.40)

Praying with the Parables: Sundays 25 Feb; 4, 11 and 18 March from 5-5.30pm, followed by refreshments, and chance to share thoughts..



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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Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

God's heart has a special place for the poor, so much so that he himself "became poor" (2 Cor 8:9). The entire history of our redemption is marked by the presence of the poor. Salvation came to us from the "yes" uttered by a lowly maiden from a small town on the fringes of a great empire. The Saviour was born in a manger, in the midst of animals, like children of poor families; he was presented at the Temple along with two turtledoves, the offering made by those who could not afford a lamb (cf. Lk 2:24; Lev 5:7); he was raised in a home of ordinary workers and worked with his own hands to earn his bread. When he began to preach the Kingdom, crowds of the dispossessed followed him, illustrating his words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor" (Lk 4:18). He assured those burdened by sorrow and crushed by poverty that God has a special place for them in his heart: "Blessed are you poor, yours is the kingdom of God" (Lk 6:20); he made himself one of them: "I was hungry and you gave me food to eat", and he taught them that mercy towards all of these is the key to heaven (cf. Mt 25:5ff.).

I want a Church which is poor and for the poor. They have much to teach us. Not only do they share in the sense of faith, but in their difficulties they know the suffering Christ. We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them. The new evangelization is an invitation to acknowledge the saving power at work in their lives and to put them at the centre of the Church's pilgrim way. We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them.

Pope Francis



I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin.

Psalm 31

Liturgy and Prayer

S	10	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	1700 1800	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> Luke Gill RIP (Gill)
Su	11	<i>Psalter Wk 2</i>	0900 1100 1800	Rita Maxwell RIP Velia Iafrate RD <i>Exposition and Evening Prayer</i>
M	12		1000 * 1500	Bernie Irving RD (Morris) <i>Benediction and Rosary</i>
T	13		1000 * 1430 1700	Kevin Shankey RIP (Leese) For the parish Burning of Palms
W	14	Ash Wednesday	07.30 1000 * 1900*	Liturgy of the Word and ashes Sandy Hamilton RIP Fred Higgins RIP
Th	15		1000 *	Frank Lavin RIP (Burke)
F	16		1800 1900 *	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i> Barry Cummings RD
S	17	1st Sunday of Lent	1700 1800	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> Anna Warnock RIP (O'Gorman)
Su	18	<i>Psalter Wk 1</i>	0900 1100 1800	Nazir Rehman and Ron Shephard RIP May Kerins Int (Brennan) <i>Exposition and Evening Prayer</i>

Morning/Evening Prayer 20 mins before weekday Masses as indicated above*
Exposition & Vespers 2nd & 4th Suns, 6-7pm (resumes 14th January)
Rosary and Benediction Mondays at 3pm (except 1st January)

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 Philip Redmond, Jude Turner, Margaret O'Gorman, Peter and Olwen Foster, Mary Gavin, Frank Kemp, Josie Newman, Brenda Davies; Leah Burke, Tess Carnero, Joan James, Sarah Johnston, Bridie Moffatt, Bernie Morton, Danuta Evans, Michael McDermott - and Fr Gabriel Maguire, our Dean. **Please pray for all who have died** including Linda Bradley, Paddy Bryan, Elizabeth Durack, Michael Durrack, Noel Moffitt and Timothy O'Leary. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Stepping Out...

Following our parish meetings on how we witness to the Gospel and invite those who those who live around us know the grace of God. **Hopefully you too will be ready to play your part. If so please sign up this week for the one you would like to contribute to so we can plan for the events together, and you can be clear what you are doing and when/how to do it...**

Three initiatives for Lent 2018

More help is needed to help us make best use of these initiatives for sharing the Gospel with others. Every one can help by passing on details - by putting up a poster on a notice board or passing a leaflet to a friend. Others can help on the day or in preparing - see the notice board in the porch to sign up to help.

- **Know that the Lord is good:** Sundays 25 February; 4, 11 and 18 March 5-5.30pm, followed by refreshments. Times of prayer to which we can welcome the local community. Each will focus on one of the parables and the direct guide to faith that Jesus provides there. *Particular opportunities to help include welcoming those coming; assisting with readings or music; serving refreshments.*
- **Church Open Day: Sat 17th March, 11am-3pm** *Particular opportunities to help include cleaning and preparing the church for the event; handing out invitations on Boldmere Road; welcoming visitors to the church; serving refreshments.*
- **Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 11am.** A service for families with younger children, and for all. Help with music, readings, and refreshments.

Two longer term things

- **Flower Festival.** As a way of engaging talent, new and old, and as a way to encourage people through the doors of the church, what about a flower festival of our own. Interested? Come and have a chat in the Benedict Room over a cup of tea after the 6pm or 9am Masses on Sat 3rd/Sun 4th of March.
- **Helping people to come to Mass - on Sundays or during the week.** At Sunday's meeting it was suggested that there may be parishioners who need help to come to Mass, and other parishioners who would be willing to help. Of course this is something that already happens informally with friends and neighbours helping out, and with others helping from the SVP. But if you would like to help or would like to help, either contact the SVP or Fr Allen so that we can keep a record of those offering help and those who would appreciate it.

Building up community

Thank you to all who came to the recent meeting to discuss how we can develop a social programme for the parish, A number of dates have been put to the Carpenters Arms last week. We wait to see if they are free.

But in the meantime keep your diary free for Saturday evening 17th March, when the 6pm Mass will be followed by a St Patrick's Night party, to be held in the Carpenters Arms. Details are still being worked out but the evening will give us a chance to enjoy one another's company and celebrate St Patrick and the contribution of the Irish community to the Catholic Church in England.



Know that the Lord is good

30 minutes quiet prayer with a parable
— one of the stories told by Jesus.

Then coffee, cake and chat.

All are welcome...

Sundays 5-5.30pm

25 February	The Lost Sheep
4 March	The Rich Fool
11 March	The Two Brothers
18 March	The Honest Sinner

St Nicholas Catholic Church,
243 Jockey Road, Boldmere, B73 5US

and the **kingdom of God** is very near

**Free Coffee!
...and
cake!**

Served for the love of God!!
And of you!!!

Parish

Refreshments in Benedict Room after 9 and 10am Masses on Sundays. All welcome.

Roddy Devlin (RIP) His family has arranged a requiem mass in celebration of his life at St Chad's Cathedral on Thursday 22nd February at 11 a.m. All welcome.

Parish Scripture Study Group. The next meeting is on Weds 21 Feb at 7pm to conclude our reading of St Mark's Gospel. During Eastertide we will resume meeting and begin a reading of the Book of the Psalms.

Parish Book Club. The book for the next meeting is Annie Dillard's *Teaching A Stone To Talk*. Mon 19th March at 8pm in the parish house.

Travelling Solo Next meeting this Sunday after 11am Mass. All who 'travel alone' - single, the divorced or separated, widows and widowers - are welcome.

World Meeting of Families

Dublin, Ireland, has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018, guided by the theme *The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World*.

Held every three years, this international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church.

Birmingham Archdiocese is anxious to make full use of this event to help us reflect on family in the life of the Church., and the Church's place in the life of families. It includes the situation of particular families, and how they live and share and foster faith in themselves, and share in the life of faith in the Church. But it also is concerned about how all of us together relate in the Church, and as Church in the world. So the focus is both narrow and very broad - and is something which it is hoped that all of us will engage in and contribute to.

You can learn more at www.worldmeeting2018.ie

To help our parish engage I am looking for four people to come with me to a meeting being laid on for our Deanery, and with a view to leading a series of 6 parish meetings during Eastertide. It is proposed that one of these will be on Wednesday

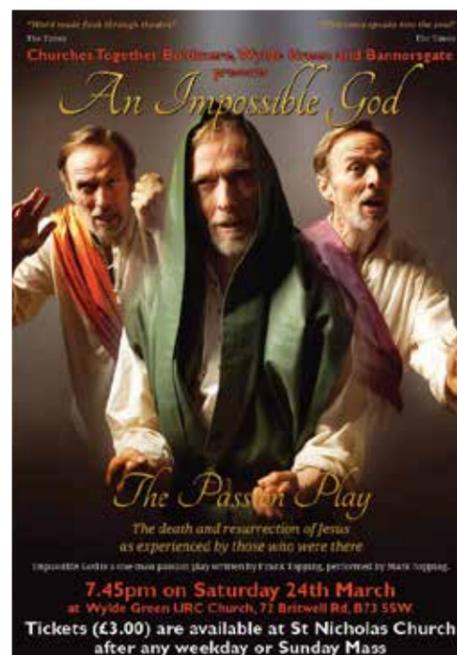
Women's World Day of Prayer is 2nd March. Service at 10.30 at All Saints Church, Belwell Lane, B74 4TR. The theme is 'All God's Creation is Very Good' as prepared by the women of Suriname.

Preparation for Baptism of Infants. The next preparation programme begins Saturday 24th Feb from 11-12noon, in the Benedict Room. Pl see Fr Allen before hand and complete an application form.

Diocese

Serving the local community Local schools, including Catholic schools, are regularly in need of new governors. The role of Governor has changed significantly over recent years. What is especially

Bethany Food Bank
The next 'big' parish collection is Sunday, 4th March.



mornings at 9am, to be accessible for parents bringing children to school at St Nicholas, and another, perhaps on Wednesday evenings, so those at work also have a chance to take part.

Interested? The meeting is at 7pm Thurs, 8 March at St Peter and Paul Parish Centre, 552 Kingsbury Rd, Erdington. Still interested? Please see me. Thank you.

Fr. Allen

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for February is that those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

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

needed is people with knowledge and experience in business, finance, HR or with a legal background. But if you don't have any of these specific skills, you may have other qualities that would be beneficial to a school. Training is provided to help individuals carry out the role. More detail at www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/governors

Pilgrimage to Lourdes with Archbishop Bernard. 26 May to 1 June Poster and application forms in porch and on website.

Other

Leonard Cheshire Disability are looking for individual who can drive and are happy to learn to drive a Minibus to help a disabled person socialise, go shopping and pursue their interests. Notice in porch. Ring Cassie on 01213547753 for more information.

Leadership roles for women in the Church- is anything changing? A talk by Dr Oonagh O'Brien, Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge. Sun, February 25th, 1.30, St Mary's Parish Centre, Harborne B17 0DN. An ACTA event. Info from mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk

A Lifeline for Marriages Is your marriage 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 may be just what you need! Next programme begins 16th - 18th March 2018 in Welwyn

Update on repair and maintenance of St Nicholas church

Thank you to Ian Pocock and Paul Green who are now working with me on this project.

Under advice from the Archdiocese I have appointed Chartered Architects to prepare invitations to tender for the work which will be issued to a number of companies. We are asked to obtain at least three tenders for evaluation and approval by the Archdiocese.

The Architects will also draw up plans for the (relatively minor) modifications to the Benedict Room and porch to the McEvilly Room. These will be shared with the parish before we go out to tender. They will also need to be submitted to the Archdiocesan Art and Architecture Committee for approval.

Fr Allen

The St Nicholas 'out and about' group visit to Birmingham's Coffin Works. The Coffin Works is a new heritage attraction on the edge of the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham. (10 mins walk from New Street station). The grade II* listed factory and its contents tells the story of Newman Brothers, Birmingham's last coffin-furniture factory who operated from Fleet Street premises for over 100 years until 1998 when workers laid down their equipment, and walked out of the building for the very last time, leaving everything, including personal belongings behind. Explore this unique piece of history on a guided tour: step back in time and experience Birmingham's industrial legacy.

If you would like to come please sign up in the porch. (Places need to be reserved in advance for a tour)

2pm, Weds, 21 February.

Admission: Adult £6.00, Over 60s £5.50, Child (5-16) £4.00, Family (2 adults + up to 3 children) £16.00.

Garden City, Herts. More info from 0788 729 6983 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

50 Days for Life kick-off event Noel tells his story - from UK abortion worker to pro-life activist' and Clare McCullogh, founder of Good Council Network. Sun 11Feb, 2pm Upper Cloister Room, Birmingham Oratory, B16 8UE. All welcome. More info Isabel 07773 501721.

Helping with the Finances

Two simple ways of helping us be ready for this work.

1. If you are eligible for Gift Aid on your weekly offertory donations then please sign up to the parish gift aid scheme. Forms are available in the porch.
2. It helps our parish with budgeting when parishioners pay their Offertory Donations by Standing Order. Again if this is something you can help with, forms are in the porch.

Thank you.

