



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

Welcome back - for hopefully you are reading this in our re-opened parish church. If you are reading it elsewhere, then you are missed and I look forward to you being able to return in the near future.

At present the church is only able to open for private prayer, and only able to do this because of the volunteers who help with stewwrding and cleaning. I am most grateful to them, but we are still short on numbers and other volunteers are needed for us us to continue to open. If you can assist, please ask one of the stewards for a volunteer form. Volunteers are asked to cover a period of an hour - and it would be good not to have to ask the same people to help every week.

We live in unusual times - hard times for most of us, and especially hard times for some of us. Thank you to everyone who has been reaching out to help friends and neighbours. And thank you to those who have asked for help: sometimes we hesitate to ask, but almost always people are ready and grateful to be able to help.

We lost the opportunity to celebrate Easter in our parish church this year. Yet in our daily struggles and acts of love there have been countless opportunities to share in the dying and the rising of Christ. He has never been far from us and always has been working to bring us closer yet to him. Today we give thanks.

Candles

To help us with social distance and safety in the church

- Please only light candles when you are ready to leave the church.
- Please do not light more than one candle at either stand.
- When you have lit a candle please simply make a sign of the cross and move promptly away from the stand.



A prayer for before lighting a candle

Lord Jesus, look kindly on me
Land those I carry in my heart.

Help each of us in our difficulties and decisions.

May the candle I light
be a light for you to enlighten us.

May it be a fire for you to burn out of us
all pride, selfishness and impurity.

May it be a flame for you to bring warmth into our hearts;
love for family, neighbours and all whom we meet.

Readings for Mass of **12th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me,
“Terror from every side!”

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!

All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,

‘Perhaps he will be seduced into error.

Then we will master him
and take our revenge!’

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;

everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.

But you, O Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,

let me see the vengeance you will take on them,
for I have committed my cause to you.

Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.

Psalms 68(69):8-10,14,17,33-35

In your great love, answer me, O Lord.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother’s sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me.

This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.

In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:

Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me.

The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their chains.

Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures.

Romans 5:12-15

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us: to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. *Alleluia!*

Matthew 10:26-33

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows:

'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

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Supporting the Church financially

You will appreciate that the Church's income over recent weeks has been greatly reduced - but most of its expenses have remained the same - both in our parish and in the Archdiocese. Like many families, the Church faces the very real challenge about how to cope with this.

If you are in a position to help, you might like to consider the following.

- **DONATIONS AND OFFERTORY.** These can be made in the collection basket at the entrance to the church, or put through the door of the parish house.
- **GIFT AID.** If you are able to gift aid your donations and offering, the Church is able to reclaim tax paid, raising a further 25% for the church and at no further cost to you.
- **STANDING ORDERS** It is a great help to the parish if you are in a position to make your offering by standing order. Forms are available from Fr Allen or the parish website.
- **OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** Numbered envelopes are available for collection for those in the Gift Aid scheme who still use the envelopes, please speak to a steward. Offertory. Planned giving envelopes, too, are available for other parishioners who wish for them.

Please come to church by foot – if you can. But if you need to come by car please use the school car-park if you can, and leave the church car-park free for those not able to walk so far.

Please note that there can be NO double-parking in the church car-park when the church is open. *This is because vehicles will leave the car-parks at different times during Saturday evening and Sunday morning.*

Enriching your time of prayer

Simply gathering in silent prayer may be difficult for some so

- When the church is open, there will be simple Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. We gather in the presence of the Lord who is truly there, present to us.
- On Sunday mornings our parish organist will play a quiet reflective piece every fifteen minutes or so.

MASS DURING THE HEALTH CRISIS

Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the church each day usually at 0830.

Each morning a brief reflection on one of the day's readings is posted on our parish blog. One way to join with the daily parish Mass is to: make a penitential act (e.g., the I Confess or the Lord /Christ have mercy); read the scripture reading and reflection, and make a spiritual communion

Sa	20	Immaculate Heart of Mary	Mass Int: : Tommy Quinlisk (Gill)
Su	21	12TH SUNDAY Psalter Week 4	Mass Int: Vincent Byrne RIP (Byrne)
M	22	Ss Jn Fisher & Thos More	Mass Int: For the parish
T	23		Mass int: Jeffrey Harris RIP (Ord)
W	24	NATIVITY of JOHN the BAPTIST	Mass Int: Teresa Riley RIP (Steele)
Th	25		
F	26		Mass Int: : John McCorry RD (Collins)
Sa	27		Mass Int: : Mary Carew RD (Burke)
Su	28	SS PETER & PAUL Psalter Week 1	Mass Int: Anthony Flynn RD (Drozd)

Please pray for sick parishioners including Jenifer Cummings, Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke, Peggy Gallagher and all who are self-isolating at this time. **Please pray for those in the health and care services. Please pray also for all those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries of death are at this time, including Brigid Pryor, Sheila Duckworth. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**