The Mass: a work for us all

How we celebrate Mass matters. We each have a responsibility to contribute to the quality of the celebration — and a right to the best celebration that, together, we can manage. The celebration of Mass is a work for all the baptised — and when we do not play our part what we do is likely to make the Mass less fruitful for all.

The celebration of Mass is by its nature has a 'communitarian' character. In particular the dialogues we have together and sung acclamations are of great significance. They are not simply outward signs, still less empty ritual gestures. Of their nature they foster, express and bring about communion between Priest and people.

Singing in general has a particular importance. Song - of its nature - gives the assembly a common voice, and again it fosters the unity of those who have gathered, and the words we sing focus attention on the time or mystery that we celebrate. St Augustine says rightly 'Singing is for one who loves and there is also an ancient proverb 'Whoever sings well prays twice over.'

The Church's teaching about our participation extends to our gestures and posture — although of course allowance is made for those prevented by ill-health or disability from joining in the gestures intended to be common to all. What sort of gestures and posture? Examples include our genuflection before the Blessed Sacrament when we enter the church (usually made as we prepare to take up our seating); and, during, Mass when we stand, sit, kneel, - and, worthy of particular attention, how we exchange the Sign of Peace.

Immediately following Covid when it was not permitted for us to come close enough to each other to exchange the Sign of Peace established by the Church, alternative were substituted. The need — and appropriateness — of such substitutes is long passed. The Sign of Peace is established by our bishops as being a handshake. This is about much more than a greeting: it is a sign that expresses peace, communion and charity. It requires the intimacy of touch. A mere wave across the aisle or benches does not pass muster: even when well meant it risks trivialising what the Sign of Peace is about. Thus the Bishops' Conference in its pastoral guidance teaches that indeed a firm handclasp may be a more authentic sign than a handshake only. If we are sitting too far from others to give this sign in the expected way, it is an indication that we have not truly gathered to do the work entrusted to us in the celebration of the Mass.

Mass is never intended to be a private devotion. Always it is our common prayer - each of us called to pray it, and hopefully devoutly, but always together, not in isolated ones or twos, but as one, called to the deepest unity in Jesus as his Church. There is much more too that we are expected to do and for which we are to gather together. More on this in weeks to come. Fr Allen

Parish repair and renewal project 2026-7 An open meeting is taking place this Sunday afternoon to discuss the plans for the refurbishing of the parish church: *4pm in the Benedict Room on 5 July. . An outline is already available on-line on hte parish website.*

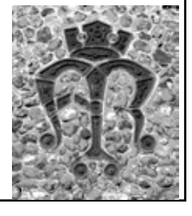
Diary Date: St Nicholas Primary School Summer Fair. Sat 11 July from 1-3pm. *Admission (for Over-4s) £3.00*

Can you help with Sunday Liturgy of the Word for Children Until recently the parish offered this liturgy for children at the 9am parish Mass. Volunteers availability dried up and it is presently on pause, It would be good to re-start from September - but to do so we need help - someone willing to lead the singing of the alleluia and simple songs; someone to help prepare the prayer area before the liturgy, and people ready to help make up our numbers to meet safeguarding requirements. Interested in learning more? Email Fr A so a meeting can be arranged for all those ready to help.

There is a **RETIRING COLLECTION FOR VENEZUELA** today. However - particularly if you gift-aid - you may find it more helpful to donate online. Donate to the CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal today: cafod.org.uk/Venezuela or call 0300 999 0030 or scan the QR code on this page. *CAFOD is already working with trusted Church partners in Venezuela who are the first responders and works closely alongside communities and Church leaders. They have allocated £100,000 from existing CAFOD funds to help provide emergency water, food and hygiene kits to people affected.*

Parish Pilgrimage: Earlier in the year feelers were put out to see who might be interested in joining a parish pilgrimage to Rome. There were only a few takers, and prices are rocketing at the moment! So plans are being changed. There is still an opportunity to come on pilgrimage - but now not to Rome but to Norfolk.

As last year, the pilgrimage is arranged place during the Autumn half term to make it possible for families with children to take part in any parts that appeal. *All elements of the pilgrimage are optional. Come along for what you want and stay away from what does not appeal. And arrange your accommodation and transport accordingly. More details on the noticeboard in the porch.*



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
Cluster blog: www.catholicsuttoncoldfield.wordpress.com
Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **Deacon:** Rev John Garvey
Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

July 2026: Parish Masses This week

Sa	**4**	6pm	**14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	Fr Joseph Narikuzhi
Su	**5**	9am		For the parish
		11am		Fr Chris Greaney
M	**6**	10am		Irene Burn (Makepeace)
T	**7**	10am		Bernadette McGough
W	**8**	10am		Chalotte Robertson
Th	**9**			
F	**10**	7pm		Emilio Grossi
S	**11**	6pm	**15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	Bridget Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su	**12**	9am		Laurence Paul Hodgson
		11am		For the parish

Anointing of the Sick: Next parish celebration is at 10am on 15th July

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

Please pray for those who are sick: Barbara Hodgetts, Stephen Gateley, Rita Rhodes, Mary Daniels, Brenda Davies, Lesley Devlin, Margaret Reeves. **Please pray** for Anne O'Briean (Deacon Gary O'Brien's mother); Elsie Wilkinson who died recently, and for Sheila Duckworth, Krkyktof Starzewski, Margaret O'Brien, Pauline Butler, Laurence Breen and all whose anniversary occurs at this time. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.***

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.

1. ***Parish Morning Prayer***: Mon-Sat, at 8.30am (Zoom link on website)
2. ***Readings of the day*** and much more at Universalis.com
3. ***The Sunday Scriptures*** are a richer resource for spiritual growth when we read and pray with them before the Sunday (and again after the Sunday). Next Sunday's readings are Isaiah 55:10–11 / Psalm 65:10, 11, 12–13, 14 / Romans 8:18–23 / Mathew 13:1–23

WEEKDAY SOCIAL. Tuesdays after 10am Mass.

PARISH CAR PARK 1 hour's free parking is available for anyone at anytime in our carpark. Automatic free parking is available too on **Sat** 5.30pm to 7.30pm; **Sunday** 8am to 2pm; **Mon, Tues, Weds** 9.30am to 11.30am; and **Fri** 6.30pm to 8.30pm. *At other times, please - if in church or here for meetings - please use the QR code 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

Our parish is part of Catholic Sutton Coldfield.
This cluster of Parishes is made up of the parishes of Holy Cross & St Francis, Walmley; Sacred Heart, Four Oaks; Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield; and St Nicholas , Boldmere.

NEXT WEEKEND:

Enrolment for children in the parish courses to prepare to celebration in 2027 of Sacraments of Confession, Communion & Confirmation.
Parents: If you have not already done so, please complete the relevant application form and give to Fr Allen by 8th July at the latest:
www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/2026-27.html

A few of reminders

Hospital Care: For some while there has been no priest chaplain appointed to Good Hope Hospital - though priests are on rota to provide emergency cover. To arrange for a religious sister to bring Holy Communion, or to arrange for an emergency visit by a priest please speak with the ward nurse who will make arrangements for a priest to be called in.

Anointing of the Sick: This Sacrament is intended for the seriously ill. It is not reserved for those at death's door. It is a sacrament to help us live faithfully and receive the Lord's care and the Church's care during our time of sickness. As soon as it is needed, please come to one of our monthly parish celebrations, or ask Fr Allen to visit.

Communion for the housebound If you would like a minister to bring Holy Communion to yourself or a family member who is housebound, please let Fr Allen know.

Under 30? Fancy a monthly parish get together to chat 'n' chill? See Fr Allen and let's see what can be arranged?

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

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

Zechariah 9:9-10

Thus says the Lord: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Ps 145(144):1-2. 8-9. 10-11. 13c-14

I will extol you, my God and king,
and bless your name for ever and ever.
I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.

The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

All your works shall thank you, O LORD,
and all your faithful ones bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign,
and declare your mighty deeds.

The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and holy in all his deeds.
The LORD supports all who fall,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

Romans 8:9, 11-13

Brothers and Sisters: You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. **I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.** ***Alleluia.***

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus declared, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

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

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

The mystery of faith

The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

Blessing and Dismissal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ***Scripture readings: The English Standard Version of the Bible, Catholic Edition****, copyright 2017 by Crossway.* **The Psalms:** *Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018 USCCB.* **Excerpts from the English translation of** *The Roman Missal © 2010, ICEL.* ***Songs****:* Gloria, (Storrington Mass) *Marty Haugen, Tune: © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.* Sanctus and Memorial Acclamation. *(Mass of Christ the Savior) Dan Schutte, © 2007,2009, 2010 OCP;* Though the mountains may fall*; Dan Schutte © 1975,* Bless the Lord*: Text is in public domain;* Christ's is the world*: John Bell ©,1982. Texts of copyrighted songs are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-A-742254. All rights reserved.*

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We Believe Festival brings thousands together to encounter Jesus Christ in His Church. It's an unmissable opportunity to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to grow in authentic community, and to encounter the transforming love of God. Join us from 24th-27th July, 2026 at the historic and beautiful setting of St Mary's College, Oscott for a feast of the True, the Good and the Beautiful.

www.webelievefestival.com

There's now a 33% discount on day-tickets using at checkout the code 'BIRMINGHAM-DISCOUNT'

Sunday Friends

The next gathering is on Sunday 12th July at 1:30 pm in The Newman Centre in Boldmere. The theme is Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Autistic people and people with learning disabilities are at the heart of the group, along with their friends and families; all ages, faiths or none, are very welcome. Anyone is very welcome to join us!

Help needed

Might you be able to help by joining our teams of ministers who read at Mass, or minister Holy Communion, particularly by taking communion to the housebound, or assist with music and song; help to clean the church; or provide cover in case of first aid need at Sunday Mass. Ministers would generally be on a rota to help once or twice a month. If you can help — and hopefully you can! — please email Fr Allen to let him know. Thank you.