

Amos 7:12-15

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer,' get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,' Amos replied to Amaziah 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."'

Psalms 84(85):9-14

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.

Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved, in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight. He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth. And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning, under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will; chosen to

Next Week: Sunday of Week 16 in Ordinary Time

Scripture readings: Jeremiah 23:1 - 6 / Psalm 23:1 - 3, 3 - 4, 5, 6 / Ephesians 2:13 - 18 / Mark 6:30 - 34

If I can give you any advice, I beg you to get closer to the Eucharist and to Jesus... we must pray to Jesus to give us the tenderness of the Eucharist.

St Teresa of Calcutta.

Exposition and Benediction at St Nicholas

- Sunday 1800—1900** Exposition and Evening Prayer 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month
- Monday 1500—1600** Exposition and Rosary
- Friday 1100—1130** Exposition and Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday of the month
- Friday 1930—2000** Exposition and prayer for priests
- Saturday 1700—1740** Exposition and Sacrament of Confession



be, for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came.

Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it; and you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life. *Alleluia!*

Mark 6:7-13

Jesus made a tour round the villages, teaching. Then he summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff - no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS AND EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION

Do take home a copy of the card of prayer for priests. Also why not arrange a regular time each week to come to church for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament?

Year for Priests 2018 - 2019

ADOREMUS

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The Ordinary of the Mass is found on p200 ff of Laudate.

The settings of Gloria, Holy, Memorial Acclamation and Lamb of God for Ordinary Time are 1013 ff in Laudate.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US
Telephone: 0121 354 1763 **Email:** stnicholasrc@btinternet.com
Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk
Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** frallenmorris@gmail.com
Parish Safeguarding: Ann Foulds (0121 355 7892) and Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)
 Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216



Pope Francis on the Commandments

Last week we began a new series of catecheses on the Commandments. We saw that the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfil it. But we need to understand this perspective better.

In the Bible the Commandments do not exist for themselves, but are part of a rapport, a relationship. The Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfil it. And there is that relationship, the Covenant [1] between God and his People. At the beginning of chapter 20 of the Book of Exodus we read — and this is important—: 'God spoke all these words' (v. 1).

It seems to be an introduction like any other, but nothing in the Bible is banal. The text does not say: 'God spoke these commandments', but 'these words'. Jewish tradition will always call the Decalogue 'the Ten Words'. And this is exactly what the term 'decalogue' means.[2] Yet they have the form of laws; they are objectively commandments. Why, then, does the sacred Author use, precisely here, the term 'ten words'? Why? Why does he not say 'ten commandments'?

Is there a difference between a command and a word? A command is a communication that does not require dialogue. A word is the essential medium of relationship as a dialogue. God the Father creates by means of his Word, and his Son is the Word made flesh. Love is nourished by words, and likewise education or cooperation. Two people who do not love each other are unable to communicate. When someone speaks to our heart, our loneliness is over. It receives a word; there is communication, and the commandments are God's words: God communicates

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Would you like to help with the parish Confirmation and First Communion programmes?

It is a privileged opportunity to support children and families and take part in something very enjoyable. Please see Fr Allen for more information.



Make a difference living faith

Are you aged between 18-35? Have you ever wanted to spend a year making a real difference in the community? Have you thought about trying to live out Gospel values in a faith-filled community?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then become a Vincentian Volunteer - living in community, serving the needy in our society and living out your faith practically. Spend a year that will change your life.

www.vincentianvolunteers.org.uk



Masses Week 15 in Ordinary Time

Su	14	Sunday of 15th Week in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Wk 3</i>	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Bridget Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su	15		0900 1100	For the parish Tom Kelly RIP
M	16		1000 * 1500	John Hanbury RIP (Brennan) Expositon of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary
T	17		1000 * 1400	Aldo Mastroianni RIP (Mastroianni) Mass with St Nicholas School. All welcome.
W	18		1000	Pauline Thomas RIP (O'Gorman)
Th	19	No Masses		
F	20		1900 * 1930	Mary Mooney RD (Collins) Exposition and Prayer for Priests (30 mins)
S	21	Sunday of 16th Week in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Wk 4</i>	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Freda Gately RIP (Ord)
Su	22		0900 1100 1800	For the parish Brigid Barron RIP (Barron) Exposition and Evening Prayer (4th Sunday)

The church is open daily (except Thursdays) from 8am to 6pm

Morning/Evening Prayer 20 mins before weekday Masses, as indicated above *.
Exposition: & Vespers 2nd & 4th Suns, 6-7pm; **& Rosary** Mon at 3pm.

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 Bernadette Evans, Josphine Garvey, Margaret Stroud, Gino Mastroianni, Philip Redmond, Jude Turner, Margaret O'Gorman, Peter & Olwyn Foster, Mary Gavin, Frank Kemp, 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** Sheila Duckworth whose funeral Mass is on 23 July at 1130, and for Michael McInnery and Ruth Loughran-Smith and all whose anniversaries are at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Parish

Thank you for last week's collection which raised £388.97 for the *Apostleship of the Sea*.

Dads' Get Together Following Monday's meeting a series of meetings for the first Mondays of October, November and December are being planned. Each will be based around ten minute talk and then supper and a chance to chat/discuss. Talks will be given by local leaders in school, police etc and will all be of particular interest to Dads.

The Bell New issue on sale today: £1.00

Confirmation Bishop Robert has written to give the date of Confirmation as Thursday 13 Dec at 7pm. Details of whole-parish programme, including rehearsal, have been updated on website.

Preparation for Baptism of Infants. The next preparation programme begins Sat 28 July from 11-12noon, in the Benedict Room. Pl see Fr Allen before

hand and complete an application form.

Rosary for Vocations. The Rosary group meets in church on Mondays at 3pm to pray for vocations. All welcome.

Refreshments in Benedict Room after Sunday 9 and 10am Masses (and 10am Mass on Tuesdays). All welcome.

Book Club Next meeting is at 8pm on Monday 17 September and the book *The Diaries of Etty Hillesum 1941-3*, "A story of spiritual growth such as I have seldom seen anywhere... Etty's diaries complete Anne Frank's... a marvellous gift."

Scripture group 7pm on 25th July. We are beginning to read the Gospel of Luke - the Gospel that we will hear on Sundays and Feast days beginning in Advent this year. Those coming to the meeting are asked to read Chapters 1 and 2 of the Gospel in preparation for the meeting - and *if they can* to bring along a piece of music or art associated with the chapters...

Journey of Faith Monday July 16th at 7pm. A meeting to introduce the Journey of Faith group to those considering whether they would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith, and perhaps in time to be received into the Catholic Church or to complete their sacramental initiation (if for example they have been baptised but not received communion or been confirmed.)

Diocese

St Joseph's Home, Coleshill, offers residential care to older people and those living with dementia in a Catholic setting. There are vacancies at present. Ring 01675 434500 for a chat or to arrange a visit.

Other

Adoremus, the Eucharistic Congress. Takes place in Liverpool from 7-9 Sept, tickets for Sat 8 remain, at £40. Speakers including Bishop Robert Barron and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. To find out more and to book a place visit www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/adoremus.

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! More information from 0788 729 6983 or www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Part time carer needed. Details in porch.

Take your part in Mass when on holiday

It has never been easier to find out the times of masses and the locations of churches. Your reliable friend is Google! Just type in Catholic churches in X, (ie the place you are visiting.) You will probably get a list of churches and a map. If you are lucky the website of each church will come up too, and that is where you will be able to check Mass times quickly and easily.

Many churches will provide you with the Sunday readings in English, but if they don't then why not get the Universalis App. for your phone. It gives you the readings of the Mass for each day in English, and also the Order of Mass in English and in the major European languages as well as in some African and Indian languages. It is also a helpful spiritual resource for all year round.



First Communion and Confirmation 2018-19

Application forms and first details of next year's parish programmes are available in the porch. Details of the catechesis for children, for those at a Catholic school and those who are not, will be available at a later date.

For the sick and those who care for them

A simple and brief monthly service of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayer for the sick and for carers, and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Followed by light lunch.

11am on First Fridays. Next service is August 3rd

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for July is for priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work. May they find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and friendship with their brother priests.



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

POPPING INTO THE CHURCH TO PRAY BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT?

A parish booklet, costing £1 is on sale in the Repository.

A free 1-sheet aid is available at the back of the church.

Bethany Food Bank helped 1054 people in June.

Collection each weekend, but BIG COLLECTION on 1st weekend of the month.

	2016	2017	2018
January	350	561	938
February	280	620	971
March	400	697	1130
April	468	687	989
May	429	632	1101
June	390	613	1054
July	373	664	
August	370	825	
September	550	735	
October	445	805	
November	455	823	
December	539	3842	
	5049	11504	6183

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A dialogue is much more than the communication of a truth. I may say to you: 'Today is the last day of Spring, warm Spring, but today is the last day'. This is a truth; it is not a dialogue. But if I ask you: 'What do you think about this Spring?', a dialogue begins. The Commandments are a dialogue. Communication 'arises from the enjoyment of speaking and it enriches those who express their love for one another through the medium of words. This is an enrichment which does not consist in objects but in persons who share themselves in dialogue' (Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 142).

But this difference is not something artificial. We see what happened in the beginning. The Tempter, the devil, wants to deceive man and woman on this point: he wants to convince them that God has forbidden them to eat the fruit of the tree of [the knowledge of] good and evil in order to keep them submissive. This is precisely the challenge: is the first rule that God

gave to man a despot's imposition which forbids and compels, or is it the care of a father who is looking after his little ones and protecting them from self-destruction? Is it a word or a command? The most tragic among the various lies that the serpent tells Eve is the insinuation of an envious divinity — 'But no, God envies you' — of a possessive divinity — 'God does not want you to be free'. The facts show dramatically that the serpent has lied (cf. Gen 2:16-17; 3:4-5); he made believe that a loving word was a command.

Man is at this crossroads: does God impose things on me or does he take care of me? Are his commandments merely a law or do they contain a word, to nurture me? Is God master or Father? God is Father: never forget this. Even in the worst situations, remember that we have a Father who loves us all. Are we subjects or children? This battle, inside and outside of us, is constantly present: 1,000 times we have to choose between a slavish mentality and a mentality of children. A commandment is from the master; a word is from the Father.

The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of children; he is the Spirit of Jesus. A spirit of slaves cannot but view the Law as oppressive, and this can produce two conflicting results: either a life made up of duties and obligations, or a violent reaction of rejection. The whole of Christianity is the passage from the letter of the Law to the life-giving Spirit (cf. 2 Cor 3:6-17). Jesus is the Word of the Father; he is not the condemnation of the Father. Jesus came to save, with his Word, not to condemn us.

One sees whether a man or a woman has lived this transition or not. People realize

whether a Christian reasons as a Christian or as a slave. And we ourselves remember if our teachers took care of us like fathers and mothers, or if they only imposed rules. The Commandments are the journey toward freedom. They set us free because they are the Word of the Father on this journey.

The world needs not legalism but care. It needs Christians with the heart of children.[3] It needs Christians with the heart of children: do not forget this.

Pope Francis.
Catechesis at General Audience.
20 June 2018

[1] Chapter 20 of *Exodus* is preceded by the offer of the Covenant in chapter 19, in which the pronouncement is central: 'Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine, and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation' (Ex 19:5-6). This terminology is emblematically summarized in Lev 26:12: 'I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you shall be my people', and continues up to the announcement of the name of the Messiah, foretold in Isaiah 7:14, that is, Emmanuel, which appears in Matthew: 'Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel (which means, God with us)' (Mt 1:23). All this indicates the essentially relational nature of the Jewish faith and, to the greatest degree, the Christian faith.

[2] Cf. also Ex 24:28b: 'He wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments'.

[3] Cf. John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Veritatis Splendor*, n. 12: 'The gift of the Decalogue was a promise and sign of the New Covenant, in which the law would be written in a new and definitive way upon the human heart (cf. Jer 31:31-34), replacing the law of sin which had disfigured that heart (cf. Jer 17:1). In those days, 'a new heart' would be given, for in it would dwell 'a new spirit', the Spirit of God (cf. Ez 36:24-28)'.

Living Theology Revelation

This two day course will interest anyone who would like to learn about theology and Christian life, or who enjoys thinking about their faith.

There is one course of three talks which everyone attends, and then each person has a choice from each of two groups of topics.

All can attend ▼

► The Parables of Jesus James Crampsey SJ

and choose one of ▼

► B1 Religion and Peacebuilding Theodora Hawksley CJ

► B2 Practical Theology Michael Smith SJ

and choose one of ▼

► C1 Introduction to the Psalms James Crampsey SJ

► C2 Teilhard de Chardin: his life and work. Michael Smith SJ

■ The course takes place on Saturday July 21st and Sunday July 22nd 2018, starting at 10.15am and ending by 4.30pm each day.

■ It will be held at St Paul's Convent, 94 Selly Park Road, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7LL.

■ There is a suggested donation of £40 if you can manage it for the two days, including refreshments and a light lunch each day.

■ Full details are available at www.living-theology.uk

■ Please book at secretary@living-theology.uk stating your choices for courses B and C