

### A meditation from Anthony de Mello

In Belfast, a Catholic priest, a Protestant minister and a Jewish rabbi were engaged in a heated theological discussion. Suddenly an Angel appeared in their midst and said to them, 'God sends you his blessings. Make one wish for Peace, and your wish will be fulfilled by the Almighty.'

The minister said, 'Let every Catholic disappear from our lovely island. The peace will reign supreme.'

The priest said, 'Let there be not a single Protestant left on our sacred Irish soil. That will bring peace to this island.'

'And what about you, Rabbi?' said the Angel. 'Do you have no wish of your own?'

'No,' said the rabbi. 'Just attend to the wishes of these two gentlemen and I shall be well pleased.'

*Little boy: 'Are you a Presbyterian?'*  
*Little girl: 'No. We belong to a different abomination.'*

### Receive the word, the seed for Christian Life.

Often one is distracted by too many interests, by too many enticements, and it is difficult to distinguish, among the many voices and many words, that of the Lord, the only one that makes us free. This is why it is important to accustom oneself to listening to the Word of God, to reading it. And I return once more to that advice: always keep with you a handy copy of the Gospel, a pocket edition of the Gospel, in your pocket, in your purse... and so, every day, read a short passage, so that you become used to reading the Word of God, understanding well the seed that God offers you, and thinking about the earth that receives it.

May the Virgin Mary, perfect model of good and fertile soil, help us, with her prayer, to become willing soil without thorns or rocks, so that we may bear good fruit for ourselves and for our brothers and sisters.

**Pope Francis.**

*Two convenient ways of having the scriptures with you always, for those who use Smart phones, is to use Universalis app (universalis.com)- and read the Gospel of the Day or the ESV Bible App (ESV.org) which gives you the whole bible.*

### First Holy Communion and Confirmation

It is still very unclear when we will be able to celebrate the First Holy Communions scheduled for May 2020, or what is going to be practical with regard to the celebration of Confirmation in the coming months.

So far as First Communions are concerned one challenge is the limited capacity of the church with social distancing, and another is how best to complete/conclude the preparation of the children concerned.

No firm plans will be made until schools return in the autumn, but in the meantime parents are welcome to speak with Fr Allen after Sunday Mass.



Preparation for First Holy Communions in 2021 will begin in the autumn and families whose children will be in year 3 in September are invited to register as soon as possible. The form is available on the website, or in paper copy directly from Fr Allen after Sunday Mass.

Issues of capacity and preparation provide a change for next year's Confirmation programme also - only there is the additional issue of the impact of social distancing on the number of Masses that will face the bishop-elect, Rt Rev David Evans. So even more uncertainty here - but again, families whose children will be in Year 6 in September are invited to register now: the form is available on the website, or in paper copy directly from Fr Allen after Sunday Mass.

### Pope Francis and three important words

In order to have a healthy family, three words need to be used. 'Please; Thank you; Sorry'. Three essential words!

We say 'Please' so as not to be forceful in family life: 'May I please do this? Would you be happy if I did this?' We do this with a language that seeks agreement.

We say 'Thank you', thank you for love! Be honest with me, how many times do you say thank you to your wife, and you to your husband? How many days go by without uttering this word?

And the last word: 'Sorry'. We all make mistakes, and on occasion someone gets offended in the marriage, in the family and harsh words are spoken. But please listen to my advice: don't ever let the sun set without reconciling.

**Peace is made each day in the family.**

### Pray with Pope Francis

**The Pope's prayer intention for July is that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.**

More information at [www.popesprayer.va](http://www.popesprayer.va)



### St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

### Mass of 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### The Introductory Rites

*The Introductory Rites help the faithful to come together as one, establish communion and prepare themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.*

#### The Penitential Act

#### The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

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.

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.

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. Amen.

#### The Collect

#### The Liturgy of the Word

*By hearing the word proclaimed in worship, the faithful again enter into the unending dialogue between God and the people of the covenant shared in Christ, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. The proclamation of the word is essential to the Mass*

*A brief time of quiet after the readings allows those present to take the word of God to heart and begin to prepare a prayerful response to what we have heard.*

#### Wisdom 12:13,16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly; Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who

### Baptism's Back (and more!)

The gradual relaxation of lockdown continues.

Infant baptism is once more permitted in church, and so are marriages and funerals (although in each case the numbers who can attend are limited to 30 people.)

**To arrange the baptism of children please contact Fr Allen as soon as possible.**

Quite probably the next stage will be the relaxation of rules regarding meeting inside homes, and this is likely to allow us to return to bring holy communion once more to those who are sick and housebound. Fr Allen and ministers look forward to again being able to visit those they visited previously. If you are in need of this ministry because you are confined to home, please contact Fr Allen as soon as possible.

know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

#### Psalm 85(86):5-6,9-10,15-16

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of love to all who call.  
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer  
and attend to the sound of my voice.

All the nations shall come to adore you  
and glorify your name, O Lord:  
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,  
you who alone are God.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,  
slow to anger, O Lord,  
abounding in love and truth,  
turn and take pity on me.

#### Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

### 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!*

### Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: 'I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.'

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'



### Homily

**Prayer of the Faithful** (omitted at the Bishop's request)

### Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.*

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.

### The Liturgy of the Eucharist

*For Catholics, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.*

*There is no offertory collection at this time. Instead, you are invited to place your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.*

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*The Eucharistic Prayer, the centre and summit of the entire celebration is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father*

### The Preface Dialogue

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

### Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

### The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

### THE COMMUNION RITE

*The eating and drinking together of the Lord's Body and Blood in a Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are the mutual love and reconciliation that are both the condition and the fruit of worthy communion and the unity of the many in the One.*

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Invitation to Communion

*After the prayer and its response "Behold the Lamb of God...Lord I am not worthy," the priest holds up the Host to the Congregation and says **The Body of Christ** to which the people respond **Amen**.*

*In the same way, he elevates the chalice and says, **The Blood of Christ** and again the people respond **Amen**.*

*For the distribution of Holy Communion to the Faithful a small table has been placed before the Sanctuary to socially distance the priest distributing Holy Communion and communicants.*

*Please wait in your pew until instructed by the Stewards to move forward to the priest for Holy Communion, always aware of the regulations on social distancing in the orderly queue.*

*When you approach the priest, please do so with arms at "full stretch" so that there is a good distance between you and the priest.*

*Communion will be given silently, and in the hand only. (Your hands, palms upwards, one of top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible.)*

*Having received Holy Communion, please return to directly to your place.*

### Prayer after Communion

### The Concluding Rites

*The brief Concluding Rite sends the people forth to put into effect in their daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. Their mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.*

### Blessing

### Dismissal

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### HELP NEEDED !!!

The church is only able to be open for Mass when we have volunteers to help with cleaning and stewarding.

If you can offer half an hour to do either 'job' or both, please collect, complete and return to Fr Allen as soon as possible.

The August rota will be prepared by the end of next week - and there are a number of gaps still to fill.

### On-line Support for Prayer

Over recent weeks there have been parish Zoom prayer meetings - on Sunday afternoons at 4pm for *Lectio Divina* and on Mondays at 7pm for Rosary.

These will continue until we are able to use the church and its meeting rooms more freely.

The Zoom links are posted on the parish Blog on the day

### Financial support of the Church at this time

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

- **DONATIONS AND OFFERTORY** can be made in the collection basket in church, or put through the door of the parish house.
- **GIFT AID** allows the Church reclaim tax paid on your offering, to raise a further 25% for the church at no further cost to you. **STANDING ORDERS** are a very helpful way of making your offering. *Forms for GA and SO are available from Fr Allen or the parish website.*
- **GIFT AID OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** Numbered envelopes are available from the Stewards for those in the Gift Aid scheme who still use the envelopes.
- **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES**, too, are available for other parishioners - who are not in the gift aid scheme. Again, please speak to a steward.

### MASS DURING THE HEALTH CRISIS

*On days when there is no public Mass (because no volunteers for stewarding/cleaning) Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the church usually at 0830.*

Sa	18	6pm		
Su	19	9am 11am	16TH SUNDAY	<i>Psalter Week 4</i> Private intention (Byrne) Mass Int: For the parish
M	20	10am		Tony Finnegan (health)
T	21	10am		Private Intention - for health
W	22		St Mary Magdalene	
Th	23		St Bridget	
F	24	7pm		Helen Wynne RD
Sa	25	6pm		
Su	26	9am 11am	17TH SUNDAY	<i>Psalter Week 1</i> Ints of Dorothy Baker (Drozd) For the parish

**Please pray for sick parishioners** including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke, Peggy Gallagher and all who are self-isolating at this time. Please pray for **Kris Stazewska** and for all those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries of death are at this time, including Austin McTaff, David Finnegan, Tony Prescott, Teresa Astley **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**