

Rosary for Vocations. The Rosary group meets in church each Monday at 3pm to pray for vocations. All welcome. *If you are unable to come to church, please join us in prayer from your home.*

Jesus and living faithfully. Tuesday evening sessions for those wishing to explore our Catholic faith - perhaps with a view to joining the Catholic Church. Next meeting Tuesday 6 August in the parish house at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Diocese

St Edmund Campion Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre:

- **Sixth Form Enrolment Day** is being held at on Thurs 22 Aug from 9.30 am. You will be very welcome to come along, tour our Sixth Form and facilities and find out what we can offer to you. Please check our school website at www.stedcamp.bham.sch.uk
- **Y6 Open Evening** on Tues 10 Sept from 6.45 - 8.30 pm. An **Open Morning** will be held on Thurs 12 Sept from 9.30 - 11.00 am.

Baptised and Sent

The Extraordinary Missionary Month seeks to encourage a genuine missionary conversion to Christ in the life of young people. On October 19th 9:30am - 6pm young adults (aged 16+) are invited to an event of encounter. An opportunity to engage in mission projects in the heart of the city of Birmingham.



Parish Trip 1pm, 13th Aug



Thank you to all those who have booked for the BBC trip. Unfortunately when we came to make the booking the BBC had cancelled the tour for the 14th, but we have now booked to go on the 13th at the same time. Apologies to those who could not make the switch.

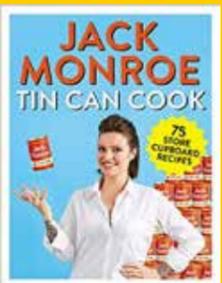
If you have not booked but would like to come, please book on-line at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/tours/birmingham>

Parish Book Club:

Stock-piling tins ready for Brexit?

Come to a book club meeting with a difference. Read the book **and bring a dish to share.**

Next meeting of the Book Club is at 8pm on Monday 29th July in the parish house.



Church with a purpose...

Over recent months a number of people in the parish have been coming together to consider what it means to be a believer in Jesus: what it means to be a disciple, and what it means to be fully a member of the Church sharing in her work.

There have been many experiences and opportunities feeding into this time of reflection - a work that Pope Francis has encouraged, most notably perhaps in his letter, *Joy of the Gospel* (Evangelii Gaudium)

One of the fruits of the reflection has been a recognition of how easy it is, and how common it is, for us to sort of dis-engage from what discipleship and apostleship is about. We can claim the titles 'Catholic' and 'Christian', and be, as it were, card-carrying members of the Church but not really feel we have or are expected to contribute to the Church. Most everything can be seen as optional or the work of others: even central things like developing our personal relationship with Jesus, of deepening our participation in his holiness in our daily lives; like bearing witness to faith to others, helping them to know and love God.

The Church has drawn on various strategies down the centuries to help combat this luke-warmness or dis-engagement: Retreats, missions, and courses; encouragement of spiritual reading; prayer groups and sodalities. Discussion on how we move forward - for to the Archbishop and to our parish group, it seems clear that move forward we must - will continue in September/October.

In the meantime you might like to spend some time reflecting on your own relationship with Jesus. How real and personal is Jesus for you? Or is he something of an enigma or 'an idea' or a symbol of good values. Make use of the question sheet in the porch - and take the opportunity to feed your views into the parish reflection. The point of this exercise is not to have the 'right answers' but especially to pool our confusions and uncertainties. Honestly faced these can be really help us see how to move forward...

And, of course - if you are that way inclined - you might like to have a read of the book *Divine Renovation* (available from Fr Allen) or Pope Francis' letter for sale in the porch or free at <https://bit.ly/1tmQF3S>

Mass Intentions

Making an offering for a Mass is one of the ways in which the faithful can associate themselves more closely with Christ's offering of himself and in so doing experience its effects more fully.

It is also a practice that helps provide for the Church's needs and especially for the support of priests.

When an offering is made for a Mass then it is usually made for a particular intention of the donor, which is then prayed for, especially by the priest, at a particular Mass.

Mass Intention envelopes are available in the church porch. Completed, they can be placed in the Sunday Offertory collection or handed direct to the priest.

Choosing a particular date

- At present, in our parish, Mass intentions for a particular month are usually fully booked some 6-8 weeks before the beginning of that month.
- If you wish to have a Mass offered on or near a particular date - for example to mark the anniversary of someone who has died - you are advised to 'book it' three months in advance. (We will book it to on the chosen date if it is available, otherwise it will be allocated to the nearest date or preferred time)
- To assist people in choosing a date, current intentions already 'booked' can now be checked on line, on the parish website. Go to www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/worship.html and use the pull-down menu following 'Celebrations of Mass'.
NB The on-line listings are updated once a week, usually on Monday. They may not be entirely up-to-date by the end of a week.

Youth Conference: 'Christ is Alive'

Following feedback given by young people during the Synod process, a Conference to look at how the Archdiocese will keep the voice of young people at the heart of its life and work. The day includes:

- *The journey so far:* a video commissioned for the Archdiocese of Birmingham
- *Christ is Alive:* David Wells on our response to the message of Pope Francis
- *The Voice of Young People:* Research into the barriers to faith, the ideals and the hope placed in moving forward with a practical response
- Music ministry with Jo Boyce
- Workshops incl. Kerri Christopher, of the *Human Institute*, on Gender and sexuality
- Hear from a panel of young people

Saturday 28th September; 10am - 5.30pm
Age 18+ Venue Alton Castle, Tickets £10pp



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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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

Parish

Teas & Coffees on Sunday mornings will resume after building work is completed.

Preparation for Baptism of Infants The next preparation programme starts on Saturday 7th Sept from 11am-12 noon in the Benedict Room. Please see Fr Allen beforehand for an application form.

Travelling Solo lunch All who 'travel solo in life' for whatever reason are warmly invited to join with others for a jolly Sunday lunch at a local pub. Next gathering is Sun 4th Aug.

Scripture group 7.30pm, Fri 6th Sept in parish house to consider Chapters 22-24 of Luke's Gospel. All welcome.

The year beginning in Advent is to be kept as a Year of the Word. How might we be helped, and how might we help one another to be more deeply nourished by the word of God? *For example the time of our monthly scripture group suits some but not others? Do you want to come but can't? What time might be best for you? Are you a reader and would you like the chance to discuss the readings you proclaim to the Church? What might be the best way of helping? Just jot down any suggestions comments and pass to Fr Allen please.*

Dad's Group. Deacon Owen Gresty, Deacon at Holy Trinity, and member of the Diocesan Vocations team will be joining us for our evening meal, and reflecting first on his experience as Deacon and Dad. Monday 9th September 8pm.

Parish Trip 7th August

One of the great - and mysterious - works of 20th C. British art is the massive carving by Jacob Epstein of Jacob's struggle with an Angel (described in the Book of Genesis).

For the next few months this carving is on display in Walsall's New Art Gallery - on loan from Tate Britain in London. And admission is free!

Meet at the gallery at 1145. (If you wish, join Fr Allen after the 10am Mass that day, and travel together on the bus...)

All are welcome - and especially members of the new parish art group benignly led and taught by Tony Sawbridge and Geraldine Foster. (If we are lucky there will be a chance to see one of Tony's paintings in the regular collection at the Gallery).

Masses Week 17 in Ordinary Time

S	27	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession William Hempenstall RIP (Hempenstall)
Su	28	Psalter Wk 1	0900 1100 1800	For the parish Special Intention (Szambir) Exposition and Evening Prayer
M	29	St Martha	1000* 1500	Daniel O'Connor RD (Lawlor) Exposition and Rosary for Vocations
T	30			
W	31			
Th	1			
F	2	Ss Joachim and Anne	1900	Tess Shortall RD (Shortall)
S	3	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Jim Mulhearn RIP (Pocock)
Su	4	Psalter Wk 2	0900 1100	For the parish Maria and Jan Szambir (Szambir)

Scripture readings for Mass next Sunday

Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23 / Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 / Col 3:1-5, 9-11 / Lk 12:13-21

Morning/Evening Prayer 20 mins before weekday Masses, as indicated above *
Exposition: & Vespers 2nd and 4th Suns of month, 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: livegeucharist.wordpress.com/

Please pray for sick parishioners including Michael O'Brien; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Peter & Olwyn Foster; Lea Burke, Margaret Stroud and Peggy Gallagher. **Please pray** for Brian Boyle, Michael Minerney, Frances Bryan and all whose anniversaries of death are at this time: **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

NB To include names on the list of sick parishioners please complete the form available in the porch and pass to Fr Allen so we meet the requirements of current Data Protection legislation.

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for August is that families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth."

To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit <https://www.popesprayer.va>



Whole Community Catechesis: 17th Sunday Year C

Step One: Listen to the Word Listen to the Gospel reading. What strikes you about this story? What touched your heart?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

- **Question for Children:** Why is God always ready to forgive our sins?
- **Question for Youth:** Why does Jesus say we should be ready to forgive other people their debts? And their sins?
- **Question for Adults:** What do you make of the experience of knocking and not being answered, of seeking and not finding?

Introductory Rites

Entrance Song

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you; allelu, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you; allelu, alleluia.

Gloria

Glory to God, (x3) in the highest, and on earth peace, peace 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.

The Liturgy of the Word

Genesis 18:20-32

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' the Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No,' he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

Psalm 137(138):1-3,6-8

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart: you have heard the words of my mouth. In the presence of the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love, which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of affliction you give me life and frustrate my foes.

You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

Colossians 2:12-14

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

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!*

Luke 11:1-13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'

He said to them, 'Say this when you pray: "Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test."' "

He also said to them: 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not

bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

The Prayer of the Faithful

We pray to the Lord. Through our lives and by our prayers, Your kingdom come.

The Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

At the following words, up to and including 'and became man', all bow. and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Song

Whatever you do to the least of my people that you do unto me.

When I was hungry you gave me to eat. When I was thirsty you gave me to drink. Now enter into the home of my Father.

When I was homeless you opened your door. When I was naked you gave me your coat. Now enter into the home of my Father.

When I was wary you helped me find rest. When I was anxious you helped calm all my fears. Now enter into the home of my Father.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Rite

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (x2) Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Communion Song

Be still for the presence of the Lord the Holy One is here.

Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear. In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground. *Be still for the presence of the Lord...*

Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light! *Be still, for the glory of the Lord...*

Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place. He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace. No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him; *Be still for the power of the Lord*

Concluding Rites

Final Song

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est (Where there is charity and love, there is God.)

What to do when 'nothing is happening:

Mostly that is time for our own personal prayer: our own time to speak with the Lord about what we want, or to reflect, with him, on what we have heard, said or sung in the Mass to that point. It is our time to offer ourselves to the Lord - our joys, sorrows, worries concerns. It is when God and we are together, alone.